

THE POST.

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FAIRMOUNT HOUSE, NEAR THE DEPOT, Middleburg, Pa. GEORGE GUYER, PROPRIETOR. This house is in close proximity to the depot and has lately been rebuilt and refitted.

BROWN HOUSE, FAYTOWNVILLE, (Near Station), HENRY BENFER, Proprietor. The proprietor adopts this method of informing the public that he has opened a hotel at the above named place.

WALKER HOUSE, McCreary City Pa. NICHOLAS SIMON, Proprietor. This is a new house, newly furnished and is now open to the traveling public.

DAVIS HOUSE, At the Millin, Centre, Samburg & Lewistown R. R. Depot, corner of Water and Forest Sts., Lewistown Pa., George Flory & Son, Proprietors.

BUMGARDNER HOUSE, (Opposite Reading Railroad Depot) Harrisburg, Pa., A. E. LANDIS, Proprietor. Every effort necessary to insure the comfort of guests will be made.

UNION HOUSE, Middleburg Pa. DAVID KERSTETER, Prop'r. Accommodations good and charges moderate. Special accommodations for drovers.

ALLEGHENY HOUSE, Nos. 312 & 314 Market Street, PHILADELPHIA. A. Beck, Proprietor. Terms \$2 00 Per Day.

CENTREVILLE HOTEL, (Late Mrs. Weaver's), Centreville Snyder Co., Pa. PETER HARTMAN, Proprietor. This long established and well known hotel has been purchased by the undersigned.

J. THOMPSON BAKER, Attorney-at-Law, Lewisburg, Union Co., Pa. Can be consulted in the English and German languages.

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UTICA STEAM ENGINE CO. Stationary & Portable Steam Engines. The Best & Most Complete Assortment in the Market.

These Engines have always maintained the very highest standard of excellence. We make the manufacture of Engines, Boilers and Saw Mills a specialty.

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Poetry.

UNDER THE STARS.

BY R. SHERMAN SMITH.

Let changing fortune smile or frown, Let winds blow fair or ill, The thoughtful man has some true friends.

They have no word of human speech, No voice of tender tone, Yet since Creation's morn they've had A language all their own.

The tuneful winds that rise and fall, The tides that ebb and flow, The seasons which, in varying round, Forever come and go—

These, and the tender human heart With all its hopes and fears, Move to the same great laws which rule This music of the spheres.

Age ago, to shepherd swains On lonely hills at night, Soft messages of comfort came Born on these waves of Light.

Age ago, the sorrowing man Who wept to watch and grieve, Found sympathy and solace sweet In these pale orbs of Eve.

For then, through all the fields of space, And through the boundless air, Floated that wondrous harmony Which silenced grief and care.

And still the magic music comes From its far source on high, Bringing to sad and troubled souls Sweet hopes that cannot die.

Oh, stars! so near to Heaven's bright gate In trembling joy ye gleam, Can ye not send some rays from thence To light this earthly dream?

Not for the splendor or the bliss Of Paradise we pray, But that its tender peace and love May reach us, day by day.

How I Became a Hero. It is acknowledged by all who know me that I am a hero.

While thus I sat, sick, faint and dizzy, I have a dim recollection of seeing an officer dash up to the commander of our troop.

Though partially stunned, I was not deprived of my senses, and I might easily have got up and continued the fight.

Why could we not advance? Why must we remain there, like so many statues, and let the iron hail strike us, with all our cold, shuddering reflections upon us?

The suspension was awful and every minute made it worse. Why did not one side or the other fire, and break the paralyzing dread?

Gradually the whole field began to settle down into a death-like quiet, and at last the two armies stood passively face to face.

From my position on elevated ground I could see the headquarters of the opposing army, with mounted officers prancing and curvetting around a centre.

Was he in earnest, or just? I anxiously listened for the laugh, but some came. Could it be possible that he had mistaken me for a hero—me, who had blundered through all I had done, and got out of the way at the earliest possible moment?

There was now a deep and awful silence of perhaps a minute, as if each commander dreaded to be the first to open the work of death.

then there was a single flash, a single roll of smoke, a single heavy boom, and the signal of deadly strife had been given from the cannon's mouth.

Five, ten, fifteen minutes passed, with the ground fairly trembling under the roar of cannon, and still there was nothing for me to do but sit on my horse, look down upon a cloud of smoke, listen to the sounds of strife, and calculate the chances of being suddenly hurled into eternity with every breath I drew.

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There was now a deep and awful silence of perhaps a minute, as if each commander dreaded to be the first to open the work of death.

Such, then, was my first glorious exploit, with the exact amount of credit that ought to attach to it, but which I think I will keep to myself, notwithstanding I have recorded it in my journal.

In a few minutes another order called my corps away to another charge, but I, not being mounted, could not accompany them.

Now, seriously, this is all I personally know of the battle in which I said I distinguished, if not immortalized myself by prodigies of valor.

Well, Palmer, what do you think of this? I said turning to the man on my left.

His lips opened for a reply, but none ever came. A cannon ball passed through his breast, and he fell over against me, his lifeblood staining my garments.

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Remarkable and Horrible History of a Wild Human Family.

TUNIKANOOK, PENN., Jan. 15, 1874.

—William Parks, aged about twenty-one years, has been lodged in jail at this place for reported attempts to take the life of his father, Stephen Wells Parks, of the town of Monroe, this county.

In the fall of 1871 a party from Pittston, Luzerne County, were hunting in the mountains of this county.

In a wild, lonely spot, miles from any habitation, one of them, hearing a rustling in the leaves and bushes on one side of him, was astounded to see a young woman, perfectly nude, digging among the leaves, apparently for beech nuts.

The party walked for about a mile through the woods and came to a small clearing. In one corner of this clearing was a miserable hovel, built of logs and with a roof of straw.

They went toward it. Before they reached it the girl who had been seen by their companion came out of the door, and following after her was a boy, about entirely naked.

Coming up to the door of the hut, the hunters looked in. On a bench in the middle of the room, sat an old man reading from a large book, which rested on his knees.

The old man arose when the strangers came to the door. He was below medium height, and had a sharp, bright eye and intelligent face.

The hunters were at a loss at first to explain, but finally told the old man what they had seen in the woods and about his door, and expressed a curiosity to know who and what the strange beings were.

Those are my children, William and Melvina—brother and sister. They appear peculiar to strangers, no doubt, but I'm used to 'em.

The old man then stepped to the door and gave a peculiar shout. Very soon his children were seen to emerge from the woods and come stealthily toward the house, gesticulating and chattering a strange gibberish, and then laughing idiotically.

They came near enough to afford a sufficient scrutiny. Both were well formed with the exception of the lower limbs, which were distorted.

The girl's face, although lacking any sign of intelligence, was not unprepossessing. Their heads were small, the foreheads sloping far back.

Long, matted hair hung from their heads, and their skin was nearly black with dirt and exposure.

While the strangers were looking at them the boy with no apparent provocation, struck his sister a blow in the face, uttering a peculiar cry.

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was born two years afterward, and was treated in the same way. Parks and his wife believed that it was useless to clothe their children out in the wilderness where they lived.

Neither of the children ever spoke a word beyond their strange gibberish, which they apparently understood. They ran wild in the woods, living on roots, beech nuts, berries, and sometimes killing and eating snakes and toads.

William was quite the contrary. He was vicious and ugly from the time he could creep, and at the time the hunters discovered the family, was getting quite unmanageable.

The "farm" was used merely to raise enough potatoes and pumpkins to furnish food for the mother and father. The children seldom ate at home, and slept in the woods when the weather was not too cold—sometimes being gone for days at a time.

In 1837 the wife of Parks left him, stating as a reason that "Bill" was getting so unmanageable and ugly that she was afraid of him.

She took with her another child a baby, and had never returned. Up to the time of the visit of the hunters Parks had lived alone in the mountains with his wild, mute, idiotic children.

He had occasion to go away he always took Bill up in the house with a strong rope, for fear he might kill Melvina.

Parks said he found them a great burden, and their care interfered with his studies. Surrounded by wretchedness and filth, the father of these brutelike offsprings had learned the Bible almost by heart, being able to repeat whole chapters at will from any portion of it.

He was also versed in history and mathematics, and had invented a system of short hand writing, which he used with wonderful dexterity. He exhibited specimens of penmanship executed by himself which were really elegant.

He also recited selections from Shakespeare in a manner that astonished his hearers. He said he regretted his wife's absence very much, as it prevented him from investigating an important etymological theory of his.

The hunters left, finding it difficult to credit what they had seen and heard. When the news of the existence of the "wild family" became known the "farm" was besieged with callers, and two enterprising individuals conceived the idea of securing the family and exhibiting the "wild mutes" about the country.

Parks was willing to engage in the enterprise, and leased his unfortunate offspring for the purpose. He accompanied the exhibition, "lecturing" upon the circumstances attending the lives of his children and himself.

The "mutes" were taken about the country for a few weeks, but the speculation proved a failure, and they were returned to the wilderness. Removed from restraint, they tore to pieces the clothing that had been placed upon them as soon as they reached home.

After the first excitement created by the discovery of the family had died away they were forgotten. The arrest and incarceration of one of them has again brought them forward, and revealed a still more sickening chapter in their history.

Parks, the father, says that after their return home from the exhibition tour Bill became more and more violent in his temper.

He made several deadly assaults on both his sister and father. A few months after their return Melvina gave birth to a child. This child she and Bill killed in the woods and tore it to pieces. Not long afterward Bill attacked his sister and killed her with an old knife that Parks used to cut up pumpkins with.

Parks buried his daughter and ever since that time has lived in deadly fear of his son.

One day last week he attacked his father, knocking him down with a club. The old man got away from him, however, and came to this place for an officer to arrest him.

Two men went to Park's place, and succeeded after a struggle in capturing him. They put a suit of clothes on him and brought him to Tankanook, and lodged him in jail. As soon as he was placed in the cell he tore off his clothing, and is now perfectly naked. Hundreds have checked to the jail to see him.

Parks soon afterwards returned home, and is now living entirely alone, and probably finds ample time for his studies. The wild, mute, maniac son will doubtless be sent to the insane asylum to spend the rest of his days.

It seems incredible that in this enlightened age, within the sound, and as it were, of the church bells of a population town, such a case of utter depravity and wretchedness could exist. But the above are the facts, which can be substantiated by plenty of reliable witnesses.

Here is a Boston boy's composition on "The Horse."

"The horse is the most useful animal in the world. So is the cow. I once had thirteen ducks and two. I was drakes and a Skunk killed one; he smelt Orful. I know a boy which had 7 chickens but his father would not let him keep them and so he got mad and so he had a hole in his mother's wash tub. I wish I had a horse—a horse which I could ride."