

THE MONTROSE DEMOCRAT.

A. J. GERRITSON, Proprietor.

MONTROSE, PA., TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 1868.

VOLUME XXV, NUMBER 24.

A Fool and His Money.

John W. Steel, familiarly known as "Johnny Steel," and somewhat distinguished as an "oil prince," having for a considerable length of time enjoyed the princely income of \$3,000 per day, filed in the United States District Court, a voluntary petition in bankruptcy.

Many of our readers will remember his romantic exploits in the East, published some time ago, during which is reported to have spent several hundred thousand dollars. After having "sowed his wild oats," and losing his oil farm, he found himself in rather straitened circumstances, and was recently compelled to earn a living by driving an oil team. His indebtedness, as set forth in his petition, amounts to over \$100,000.

Steel is a Pennsylvanian by birth and is now in the neighborhood of twenty-three years of age. He has but little education, has no business qualifications or shrewdness, and especially cut out by Dame Nature to attest the truth of the proverb, that "A fool and his money are soon parted." Of his early youth we know very little; manhood and riches sprang upon him about the same time. His interest in the famous McClintock farms and oil wells, in Venango county, bequeathed him by his father, for a number of years yielded him an income of \$3,000 per day. This princely income was the means of awakening in "Johnny" an ambition to seek other fields and sources of amusement than those offered in the wilds of Venango county. We heard of him first by his lavish waste of wealth in Philadelphia. Here he made the acquaintance of Messrs. Skiff & Gaylord, of minstrel fame, and one of the first rash purchases was an entire new outfit for the minstrels, composed of velvet coats and vests, and plaid trousers. Many of our readers will remember the troupe in this uniform. To those eccentric costumes he added diamond breastpins of the first water, and a new suit of clothes for each member for the street. Several members of Carnross & Dixey's minstrels, of Philadelphia, were also favored in the same manner.

Another of Johnny's eccentric acts in Philadelphia is related as follows:

Walking down Chestnut street one day with a friend, he espied a beautiful span of horses attached to a splendid carriage, just turning down from Second. To see was to envy; so, hailing the driver, Sam M., who as it happened was also the owner, Johnny coolly asked him if he would sell his establishment. Sam looked credulously at his customer, wondering if he were drunk or crazy, when Johnny again put forward the question, "What will you take for the whole rig?" Sam, with a wink, and while knocking the ashes from his cigar, doubtless thinking to frighten his unknown customer, replied, "Well, I guess about \$7,000 will take the lot." Johnny answered by laying down seven one thousand dollar bills on the seat of the vehicle, and taking hold of the reins, he coolly said, "hop out" and "hop out." Sam did, while Johnny drove off, leaving Sam standing in amazement on the corner.

The day was spent in riding about the city, and spending money lavishly. Toward evening he employed a man to drive, and finally, while winding up the day, he reached the Girard House. Alighting on the pavement, he asked the driver as to his circumstances, and learning that he knew the "grip of poverty," Johnny made him a present of the horses and carriage, telling him not to offer thanks, but "drive off quick."

While in Philadelphia, one of the eccentricities of his morning walks on Market and Walnut streets, was to watch for a man with a shabby hat. He would then follow him until he got in front of a hat store, and then, with a swoop, he would land the offending hat in the middle of the street, at the same time apologizing to the wearer, and asking him into the store, where he would buy him the best to be had.

Johnny never carried any baggage with him while traveling, purchasing everything as he required it. Having resolved one day to stop at the Continental hotel, instead of his usual retreat—the Girard—he was driven there in company with a friend, Mr. Wm. B.—y, a noted merchant of our own city. Sauntering up to the office, he made known his desire to "stop a while." The clerk asked him as to the whereabouts of his baggage. Johnny replied that he had none. "Then," said the clerk, "you must pay in advance; that is our rule."

Johnny cast a glance at him, and wondered that he was not known. So, winking at his friend B., he asked the clerk if the proprietor was in. Receiving a reply in the affirmative, the landlord soon made his appearance, when a conversation of the following tenor ensued:

"You are the proprietor, I believe, sir—the responsible man?"

"Yes, sir."

"I wanted to make a short stay with you, but that gentleman (pointing to the clerk) says I must pay in advance."

"Well, sir."

"How much do you consider your whole house worth for a day?"

"About \$3,000."

"I'll take it 24 hours, anyhow, and see how it goes."

Johnny then counted out the money,

and turning to his friend, said: "Now, Bill, jump in and play clerk." Rumor says this was B's first and only experience in hotel keeping.

There are many anecdotes related about him, but the above will suffice to show the general character of the man. When more recently, the avalanche of money had exhausted itself, we hear of Johnny acting in the capacity of door keeper for the very same band of minstrels the members of which he had given the diamond pins and costumes.

Field Battles of the Ancients.

Free from the smoke of a modern engagement, a Hellenic battle must have been a gallant sight. In purple tunic and burnished armor the men stood ten, fifteen and twenty deep, beneath a glittering forest of spear heads.

Those who were well to do had no lack of gold about their greaves and breast plates, and were dandified in plumes and sword belts; while even the poorest citizen wore a helmet fashioned by the exquisite taste of a Greek artificer. It must have been a trial for the nerves of the bravest to stand biting his moustache; humming a bar of the psalm which he was to sing within the next quarter of an hour; wondering whether his widow would marry again; hoping that the cobbler on his right might not turn tail, or the teacher of gymnastics on his left shove him out of the line; dimly conscious meanwhile that his colonel was exhorting him in a series of well turned periods to bethink himself of the tomb which covered those who died at Thermopylae, and the trophy which stood on the beach at Artemisium. And then the signal trumpet sounded, and the music struck up, and the whole army forward, steadily at first, but breaking into a run when only a few hundred yards separated the approaching lines.—And, as the distance between grew shorter, and the tramp of the enemy mingled with their own, the front rank men had just time to try and imagine that the countenances of the people opposite looked like flinching, and that the notes of their war chant had begun to falter, and the next second there would be a crash of pikes, and a grating of bucklers, and a clashing of spears; and those who would fall be home again were pushed on by the mass behind, excited at hearing others fighting, and with no steel at its own throat; and, after five minutes of thrusting, and shouting, and fierce straining of foot and knee and shoulder, the less determined or worse disciplined of the two hosts would learn, by one more cruel experience, the old lesson that life as well as honor is for those who retain their self respect and their shields.

Remarkable Cave in Pennsylvania.

A Milroy correspondent of the *Lewisburg Gazette* gives the following particulars of the discovery of a wonderful cave in Armagh township, Milroy county:

"On the 24th of April, while Charles Nagony, of Milroy, was having a site dug for a lime kiln, he was surprised by finding an opening in the side of a hill. The moment it came to view, a strong stream of air began oozing forth, like the pressing of a pair of bellows. The work was continued until the aperture opened in size large enough to allow the body to crawl in, and then it was found to be a splendid cave, with gorgeous gangways; during the week the work progressed, and a formal entrance was made.

After first entering we found ourselves enclosed in a narrow underground path for the distance of twelve feet; here the great cave came to view; the gangway about fifteen feet wide, with gigantic walls of rock, was a direct line of about fifty feet, in the centre of which we beheld the hanging or projecting rocks, in the shape of a mantel, under which were small crystallized rocks, long and hollow, appearing like icicles on a house in winter time.

Here we turned to the right, and had a full view of the platform rock, a natural platform about three feet above the level of the floor, and running together in the centre; above it was a shelf of canopy, which indeed presented a magnificent, sublime sight. Here, over 170 feet underground, and in natural formed rooms and gangways, with a splendid spring of fresh water beneath your feet, who could not realize that the hands of nature had truly been at work here.

A short distance further on we beheld the hanging lamb, and then came the subterranean chamber, situated below, where the rocks seemed to be more marbled, as they are firmer, whiter, and more solidly settled.

After returning, with the assistance of a ladder provided by Mr. Nagony, we were enabled to take a look up stairs.—Here was another chamber with colossal walls of rock, which presented a sight never to be forgotten; the distance traversed was about 600 feet. The air within is very warm, and the floor or ground seems as if cemented, and is firm and solid. The diagram is in the shape of an H written, and very neatly laid out. The base of the springs are like small pebbles laid aside side of each other, with border composed of a large size. The cave is situated on the line of the Milroy and Centre County railroad, about three fourths of a mile below Milroy."

Radical Rascalities Exposed by a Radical.

For some reason the morning Radical organ of this city is in a bad humor at the political outlook, and, judging from one of its articles, it entertains no hope of success, in this State at least, for the Chicago nominees. Professing to be "perfectly satisfied with the candidates of Convention at Chicago," it yet candidly admits that "we believe more in measures than in men"—which means that its perfect satisfaction is of the "grin and bear it" kind. The following is the remainder of the editorial:

"The Keystone state was disgraced and humiliated in that Convention by men who, neither at home or abroad, respect the wishes and the will of the masses of the Republican party of Pennsylvania. These men made their money from the advantage they took of the patronage of our party, and to-day every embarrassment we suffer in the advocacy of our principles springs from the charges of corruption our opponents are able to fling to our teeth, by reason of the dishonesty of the men who defied the will and misrepresented the wishes of the people of Pennsylvania at Chicago. These demagogues are rich, and therefore claim they can do as they please. They are the authors of our political disgrace, and therefore act with desperate unconcern whenever the reputation of the Republican party is at stake.—But the old wheel-horse must struggle on in heavy harness, and while demagogues riot in the wealth they have already fished from our Country's necessities, or plan new schemes of plunder, the Republican masses of the Keystone State are expected to be true to principles, are looked to to win victories out of which these clique leaders may secure the means to add new acres to their already gigantic land possessions, and more dollars to their ever swollen bank accounts. The Republicans of Pennsylvania will not always submit to such wrongs and dishonor. Our load of disgrace is more than we can bear, and when reaction does come, we see but to the plunderers who now assume the tyrannical management of our political organization. In the meantime, go long wheel-horse, and do your duty!"—*Suite Guard, May 23d.*

After such clear admissions in regard to the past rascalities of the Radical leadership of Pennsylvania, can the people be made to confide in them or their candidates or put faith in the platform of principles which they have erected? We think not. Who so silly as to believe that persons branded as "plunderers" in their own party can or will practice honesty or economy in future, if brought into office.—*Harrisburg Patriot.*

"Undisguised Villainy."

The above appropriate caption the *Carbondale Advance* (Republican) gives an account of the party influences used to procure a conviction of the President.

Further commenting upon the trial it adds:

"But in the prospects of acquittal, injudicious and unprincipled partisans strip it of its respectability, of all pretense of justice, and demand a verdict of conviction of these sworn Senators as a partisan measure, upon partisan grounds, and to subvert partisan ends. We would not expect such audacious villainy from any men not fully ripe for perdition.

"Impeachment has failed! It has equally failed, whether the verdict under these indecent and abominable manifestations be conviction or acquittal. We believe acquittal would not be for less injurious to the party of the two.

"Each day seems to add to the startling shamelessness of the proceeding.—The world has seldom witnessed such an exhibition of moral and political profligacy."

In another article it says:

"From the hour that Robert C. Schenck, Chairman of the Republican Congressional Committee, sent out his manifestoes for getting up meetings, resolutions and letters, to influence Senators, and demand conviction, from that hour conviction could not fail to be a disaster to the Republican party."

Their Hurry Over.

The majority of the Senate, while the trial was in progress, were in a very great hurry to conclude it, and appeared to be very much afraid lest the President's counsel should succeed in protracting it. They refused to allow a reasonable time to prepare their case, and forced every stage of the trial through with the utmost expedition. Their hurry seems now, however, to have left them; when it would have taken but an hour or two to finally end the case, they have postponed it, first for four, and then for ten days—two weeks altogether. The public interests which they alleged demanded that the trial should be quickly concluded, seem to have given way to party interests, which in their opinion require that the Chicago Convention shall pass upon the guilt or innocence of the accused, before the High Court of Impeachment shall be able to finish the voting intelligently on the question.

—There are twelve Democratic and six Radical counties in this State which are free from debt.

Who is Responsible for Extravagant Expenditures?

In the string of glittering and inconsistent generalities, which was adopted by the Radicals as a platform at Chicago, a deliberate attempt is made to shoulder upon Andrew Johnson the extravagance which has prevailed in the general government during the past seven years.—Does any one suppose people of the United States are such fools as to believe an assertion of that kind. Surely there can be no man in the country who does not know that ever since Mr. Johnson became President, Congress has been entirely responsible for every dollar that has been expended, and that the President and his Cabinet have been utterly powerless to restrain the reckless extravagance that has prevailed.

The tax payers of the nation, the toiling masses, from the sweat of whose honest brows the many millions which have been uselessly squandered were wrung, are justly indignant at the extravagance which has prevailed. The tax gatherer in this country has more hands than the fabled monster, whom men called *Egeon* and the gods *Briareus*. The masses see what a heavy percentage is added to the cost of everything which they buy, by taxation. As they find themselves cramped in the necessities of life, and see luxuries which they once enjoyed put out of their reach by taxation, they begin to inquire sharply into the causes which have produced this result.

They have looked at the reckless and enormous expenditures of the general government, and have investigated the matter for themselves until they are satisfied that their burthens have been greatly increased by Congress, without the nation's receiving any compensating benefits.

The Radicals who nominated General Grant at Chicago know how general is the spirit of inquiry and dissatisfaction, which exists among the masses. They have heard the mutterings of the coming storm of popular indignation against Congress, and they attempted to shield themselves by the passage of a resolution in which they undertake to throw the responsibility for the prevalent extravagance and corruption upon President Johnson.

The people cannot be blinded by any such transparent veil of falsehood. They know full well that Mr. Johnson has been utterly powerless ever since he came into office as President. They know how completely supreme has been the rule of Congress. They know that not a dollar has been expended during all that time, except under the direct appropriation and approval of the Radical majority in Congress.

The Bank of England.

The Bank of England possesses singular experiences and traditions. We heard the other day an anecdote from an authentic source although it happened many years ago, before the lifetime of the present generation. The directors received an anonymous letter stating that he had means of access to their bullion room.—They treated the matter as a hoax, and took no notice of the letter. Another more urgent and specific letter failed to arouse them. At length the writer offered to meet them in the bullion room at any hour they pleased to name. They then communicated with the correspondent through the channel he had indicated, appointing the hour of midnight for the rendezvous.

A deputation from the Board, lantern in hand, proceeded to the bullion room, and awaited the arrival of the mysterious correspondent. At ten to the hour a noise was heard below. Some boards in the floor were without much trouble displaced, and in a few minutes the gay Guy Fawks of the bank stood in the midst of the astonished directors!

His story was very simple and straight forward. An old drain ran under the bullion room, the existence of which had become known to him, and by means of which he might have carried away enormous amounts. Inquiry was made. Nothing had been extricated, and the directors rewarded the honesty and integrity of their anonymous correspondent—a workman who had been employed in repairing the sewers—by a presentation of eight hundred pounds.

—The "Dead Duck" places the following journals on the "black list" because they did not denounce the Republican Senators who voted for acquittal: *New York Evening Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Cincinnati Commercial*, *Providence Journal*, *Springfield Republican*, *Bridgeport Standard*, *Buffalo Advertiser*, *Buffalo Express* and *Hartford Courant*. This list, it will be seen, embraces about all of the ablest and most influential Republican journals in the country.

—The military tyrants of Arkansas have arrested and imprisoned Jacob Fralich, editor of the *White County Record*, for strictures upon their conduct. This is a Republic and in time of profound peace!

—The Cottage Gardener, of London, says earthing up potatoes diminishes the produce, and retards the ripening of the tubers. Long experiments in England have proved this fact—that hilling up the potato will reduce the crop one fourth.

Resignation of Stanton.

The prompt resignation of Stanton is the fit and necessary sequel of the utter collapse of impeachment. If the resolution offered in the Republican caucus of Senators to postpone the vote and keep impeachment alive had been carried out in the Court, Stanton would have held on in spite of the further injury that would have been done to the public service. One object of the postponement was doubtless to spite the President by his longer retention.

There is no result of the President's complete acquittal which will give more sincere joy to honest men than the humiliation and disgrace of this insolent miscreant. He was not only the occasion of impeachment, but its chief instigator. As soon as the President caused the notice of his removal to be served on him, he immediately volunteered to send a copy of it to the House without waiting to have it called for, as if he had made up his mind that impeachment was the necessary consequence, and he had a right to dictate it. His office has been the focus of all the impeachment intrigues. He has regarded the whole affair in the light of a personal contest between him and the President, and he expected Congress to decide that his title to power was better than that of a President elected by the people.

He was willing to disorganize the Government, to virtually destroy the War Department by severing it from all connection with the President, and to keep the military administration of the country in a state of confusion, to gratify his ignoble insolence and his sordid avarice of power. His humiliation is as signal as his character is infamous. He will sink away into obscurity despised by the very Radicals who have abetted his insolence to gratify a spirit of base revenge.

Nor is Stanton the only person who is humiliated by this extorted resignation. General Grant, who first secretly connived at this contumacy, and afterward gave it his open countenance; General Grant, who forfeited his word to restore Stanton, and who was convicted of duplicity and misstatements by the written testimony of half a dozen gentlemen of the highest standing; General Grant, who, to serve Stanton, caviled at the order of the President forbidding him to recognize the endorsed orders of Stanton, and disobeyed his commander in chief; General Grant, who permitted it to be given out in the Republican newspapers that he thought the conviction of the President to be essential to the safety of the country, shares the disgrace of the man he tried by discreditable means to uphold.—*World.*

The Telescope and Microscope.

While the telescope enables us to see a system in every star, the microscope unfolds to us a world in every atom. The one instructs us that this mighty globe, with the whole burden of its people and its countries, is but a grain of sand in the vast field of immensity—the other, that every atom may harbor the tribes and families of a vast population. The one shows us the insignificance of the world we inhabit—the other redeems it from all insignificance; for it tells us that in the leaves of every forest, in the flowers of every garden, in the waters of every rivulet, there are worlds teeming with life, and numberless as the stars of the firmament. The one suggests to us that above and beyond all that is visible to man, there may be regions of creation which sweep immeasurably along, and the impress of the Almighty's hand to the remotest scenes of the universe—the other, that within and beneath all that mingles with the aided eye of man is able to explore, there may be a world of invisible beings; and that, could we draw aside the mysterious veil which shrouds it from our senses, we might behold a theatre of as many wonders as astronomy can unfold—a universe within the compass of a point so small as to elude all the powers of the microscope, but where the Almighty Ruler of all things finds room for exercise of attributes where he can raise another mechanism of worlds, and fill and animate them all with evidences of His glory.

GEN. GRANT DEFINES HIS POSITION.—Charles E. Moss, one of the old chums of Wendell Phillips, an original member, we believe, of the "Liberty Guard," writes thus from Washington, under date of May 12th, 1868, to Rev. A. M. Powell. He says:

"Gen. Grant is working hard with his friends to secure conviction. He says his acquittal will result in bloodshed.—His opinion ought to influence Republican Senators to remove the only obstacle in the way of peace.

"By the way, Gen. Grant the past three weeks has declared himself in favor of universal suffrage, and declares that must be the ruling idea of the administration erected in 1868."

General Grant has entered upon a career of defeats and disappointments, that will lower him as much as his success in the war raised him. From the day he superseded Stanton and deceived Johnson, he has declined in popularity. His labors for impeachment are disgraceful; his threats of bloodshed, unreasonable.

A Carpet Bagger.

The following photograph of a Southern carpet-bagger we clip from an *ex-How* well it suits one of the same species in the North, and especially those who infest our leading hotels, and are bold enough on every occasion to introduce their unasked for opinions upon still more unwilling listeners, we leave our readers to judge:

"You find them everywhere. On the cars, and in the towns, and prowling about in country places, and you can't take up a paper, hardly, or hear a man speak, but what there is something about the carpet-bagger. Few know where they come from; nobody knows how they live—perhaps nothing but an itemized account of the secret service money of the Reconstruction Committee of Congress could tell—but here they are buzzing about like gad-flies, and seeking the weak points of the country with the unerring instinct of carrion crows. Hounded out of the North for rascality—for everywhere now and then some ugly past is brought to light about them—they seek and obtain employment in the cause of Reconstruction and come South. Some sworn into the Bureau, others foist themselves on the Revenue, others again play pimp and spy and call boy for the service, and outside of these, the great bulk sustain life by taking up subscriptions for the freedmen, and levying contributions for the good of the North on enthusiastic Radicals at the North. Like Jonah's gourd, they spring up and flourish and fade in a day, descending from nowhere at daybreak and ready ere night to run for Governor.

"I know one case, where, on the approach of election, one of these gad-flies came, on the next day announced himself a candidate, and, on the third day, was 'elected,' and now sits in a sovereign convention to reconstruct a State. Still another case occurred, and it is susceptible to verification on oath, where another of these creatures, on his way to take his seat as a 'delegate,' pawned his 'carpet-bag' to pay expenses, and never coming to redeem it, had said receipts opened only to find therein some Radical documents under Congressional frank and a few little personal articles, not worth, in all, over two dollars and a half. Such is carpet-baggery, and just fancy its beauties to yourself. You are a Southern man, let us say, and sitting at night-fall in some little country village, and here, at dusk, there comes striding in a strange man with a carpet-bag. That night there is a Union League meeting, and the next day, before noon, the strange man has poked his nose into half the houses in town, knows everybody by name, and has a list of all the negro voters in all the country round about in his pocket. Pretty soon there comes an election, and the strange man, whom you now begin to recognize as a carpet-bagger, you see judge at the polls. As such he counts the votes, declares himself 'duly elected' to a convention somewhere, and as the day of assembling approaches takes up a collection among the negroes and departs—he and his carpet bag. For awhile you hear nothing of him, but pretty soon it appears that he has framed a State Constitution, and is coming back to run for Congress. And here, after a few days, he is again the people's money in his pocket, and a bran new suit of clothes, at their cost, in his carpet bag.

The Sex Vindicated.

A prominent physician in Washington has written a communication to the *Chronicle* contradicting the paragraph now going the rounds of the press, stating, among other things, that "thirteen hundred rich men's daughters had applied for admission to the Inebriate Asylum of New York.—The writer expresses the opinion that it is time that this absurd slander on our countrywomen should cease to circulate in the public prints, as it was authoritatively contradicted long since by the officers of the institution refer to, and express his surprise that a State Temperance Convention should have published a statement so damaging to our national character without a more careful examination into its truth.—He states his conviction, the result of much attention to the subject, that there is vastly less intemperance among American women (natives of the country) than those of any other country in Christendom. In an extensive medical practice of forty years he has not observed a single case of intemperance among young ladies of respectable families, either rich or poor, and hardly a dozen intemperate women in such families, embracing all ages.

—A toll gate keeper in England was brought before a magistrate for cruelty to his daughter. The little difficulty arose from a discovery made by the parant, that the girl who was frequently left in charge of the gate, used to allow her sweetheart, a young butcher, to drive his wagon through free. She never tolled her love.

—The Sergeant at arms of the Senate subpoenaed all the witnesses in the impeachment trial, by telegraph, he then charged ten cents a mile traveling expenses to and from the places of residence. His dispatch to Gen. Roseau in Oregon, put \$1,600 in his pocket. The people riot, the bill.