

In another column will be found a communication from "A. T." which is calculated to be a reply to the short reference which we made a short time since to the necessity of a law limiting interest to six per cent. We are pleased to give it a place, and although our views of the subject may compel us to handle it "without writers," we shall do so in a spirit of earnestness and candor, for we are honestly and thoroughly convinced of the justice of our position.

Our friends, "A. T.," has based his position, like all other advocates of usurious practices, upon a false basis, and uses the argument of every moneyed Shylock, that money should be put in market the same as food and clothing, and its price should not be fixed by law, any more than the price of these articles. One moment's reflection will show conclusively the fallacy of this position, upon which it is based. Money has no real or intrinsic value, but is merely a representative medium of exchange, and only has an arbitrary value based upon the products of the country, brought out by labor. The difference between the value of productions and money is as wide as the difference between a loaf of bread and a stone. The true object of money is for this purpose. People who own articles like land or other valuable productions that are not so easily moved, who live in localities distant from each other, can exchange places or commodities with each other through the operations of this representative medium, and this is or should be the only use of money and its only value. We believe that any per cent. upon money is usurious, and the reason why we say limit it to six per cent., is that of two evils choose the least.

We are told by "A. T.," that if money is limited to six per cent it will not pay for the shysters to loan it and they will once invest it in real estate and farming property, and by this means laboring men will be reduced to a state of slavery. How silly a beggar this statement is! Is there an able bodied man who lives in Susquehanna county, who does not know that at the present price of land that he cannot purchase a farm in this county and apply his labor in the most diligent way upon it, early and late and pay for it off from the farm and keep up the taxes, and pay even six per cent on the purchase money? Now suppose he takes the place of the soft handed capitalist, and purchases the same farm, lives in idleness, and hires his labor performed subject to the same taxes, etc., can he realize six per cent. even for his investment? We are not frightened by any threat that these idle drones will take any such course, for it would place them just where the Almighty intended they should be placed, to earn their bread by the sweat of their brows, and assist in adding wealth to the country, instead of living in a state of extravagance and idleness by tyrannically tything the labor of the workingman in usurious interest. The worst feature which this current traffic assumes is, that a certain set of beings who must be without conscience or even scale except upon their boots, watch their victims as the spider watches the fly, and entangle them in their poisonous clutches, as acutely by fixing their nets, expressly for them, and it is more for these harpies that the law and its penalties to which we referred should be enacted, than for the men who leave it optional for a man to take their money at a usurious price. These men watch the docket in the Prothonotary's office, and when they find a judgment against some one whom they know they can push to the wall, they purchase it of the plaintiff, issue execution and drive the defendant, who if allowed, could and would pay all his indebtedness, to the creditor, that he must have his property sold under the Sheriff's hammer, or get a "stay" by according to the usurious demands, which would almost have made Shylock himself blushed, of twenty-five or thirty per cent, which no man can pay, and the party demanding it knows it and considers his prey fully within his grasp. This is what is ruining our county and the country, and enervating the workingman and destroying its true wealth. It enables the most God-forsaken villain to accumulate an arbitrary power given to money by the most infamous laws to sit in the highest places of the nation, to legislate in corruption, pervert justice in our courts, and prostitute every principle of Christianity, and a right administration of a republican form of government. The nearer we come to forcing all men to earn their bread by honest toil, by directing money of its accumulative power, the nearer will we approach that state of perfection and national happiness which the pure principles of freedom and equal rights intended for us.

The last Kansas scandal is the charge that 19 members of the Legislature were paid from \$1,000 to \$3,000 each to elect Alexander Caldwell to the United States Senate. The Lawrence Standard, which makes these charges, says: "It is charged that the Doniphan county election was sold in this way for \$25,000 or \$30,000, and the parties receiving the money failed to divide, and so agreed. This dark picture has its light side. Geo. W. Wood, of Cherokee, an incorruptible Democrat, was offered money but refused it. T. L. Bond, of Montgomery county, was offered \$3,000 for his vote by the Caldwell's agents, but did not sell it. The expense has been

Editor from Columbia County.

Editor Democrat.—As I am writing to you in regard to the "Democrat," allow me to add a few lines by way of P. S. in regard to Catawissa and vicinity, its character, characteristics, etc. Some of my old friends of Susquehanna county, remember the town of Catawissa, of the good old times when they ran (?) the river with their rafts, as being a quiet old place, noted for good fare, and some fighting whiskey. The town of which Catawissa has the same situation as the old town, being on the east bank of the Susquehanna, and on the north side of the Catawissa creek, at its confluence with the river. An Academy, Graded School building, several churches, Catawissa Railroad, Savings Bank, Masonic Hall, the usual number of stores, two hotels, and a very hospitable population, are the main attractions of the town.

The scenery for miles around is varied and unequalled. I think by any, at least in Pennsylvania, Catawissa is derived from an Indian word, meaning pure water. The creek has its rise about thirty miles from the town, near the head waters of the Little Schuylkill, whose rise is marked by a bit of rude masonry, telling from whence come the young waters, babbling on their way to swell the great tide of the Delaware. The artist Moran, of Philadelphia, has produced a work of great merit, taken from the scenery along these "pure and young waters." To a lover of nature, this section of our State, presents a variety of objects for observation and study. About five miles below Catawissa, near the mouth of the "Three pipes" creek, you find the "Three pipes," two of which, stand about twelve feet apart, and are united some ten feet from the ground, by a trunk about a foot in diameter. The trees are some two and a half feet in diameter. Catawissa, and this region, is now, as of the good old times, reached by river rafts, and more recently by the "raging canal," that work and wonder of thirty years ago, and more recently cobbled up by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. It is also reached by rail, or as Pat says, by working your passage on foot. The Railroad routes are by the Catawissa, L. & B. R. R., and the Sunbury, Hazleton and Wilkesbarre. A new road is chartered from Wilkesbarre to Williamsport, via of Bloomsburg, with a branch from Bloomsburg to Catawissa, only four miles to intersect the S. H. and Wilkesbarre, R. R. This vicinity has some characters as well as characteristics. George Scott, one of the best canal commissioners, and recently one member of Assembly, resides at C., now engaged in the Catawissa Railroad extension, and contractor in the Jefferson Railroad. By the way, Mr. Scott, is one of the few men, who opposed the sale of the public works, and I am informed, on good authority, refused to accept any "pool m'ny," his share being over five thousand dollars. Supt. Bucklew, and Captain Brockway, our present members of the Legislature, reside at Bloomsburg; though, properly speaking, Mr. Bucklew resides on a small farm near B., principally devoted to horticulture. Mr. Bucklew's acre of trees, vines, etc., give a picturesque appearance to the high grounds above the town of Bloomsburg.

The principal productions of this country, are Democrats, grain, lime, coal and iron. Coal to warm the people, lime to fertilize the soil, increasing the yield of grain, and Democrats to assist next November, in the election of some no "New Departure" man to the Presidency, Iron to bind the union in one net work of nail and wire. I understand the cast iron work on the Jefferson Railroad, is mainly of Columbia county iron, manufactured at Catawissa, by Geo. Hughes & son.

Our common schools are of the high order, a fresh impetus has been given them by the State Normal School at Bloomsburg. The time was when students from this, and other counties sought instruction in Susquehanna county, Mr. Bucklew, being one of the number, having for his chum, Mr. Grow. Then both were Democrats, Mr. B., has adhered to this early love, steadily but surely, marching on in the way of a statesman, regardless of office or office-seekers. Mr. G., has vacillated, and now where is he? Echo answers, where? After running over the Republican course, has lost his identity in the State politics, and as a broken down "nag," has gone to Texas. But I am wandering—and so I must, if I trace the career of the Republicans. Put Columbia county down for two thousand majority for Hancock. (If our dear President grant his seat,) Pseudotown or Hoffman. Democrats of Susquehanna county, stand by your time honored principles, you yet shall see the country reneched from the grasp of the present Radical misrule, all hail the glad day!

Yours Truly,  
E. Marvin Jewksbury.  
Catawissa, Columbia Co., Pa. Jan. 25, 1872.

Terrible Railroad Accident.  
February 2, 1872.—Yesterday morning at about 9:45, as the morning passenger express on the L. V. R. R. that leaves Pittston at 7:30 a. m., was about half way between Rockport and Mud Run it ran into a broken rail. The locomotive, baggage car, and one passenger car, passed over safely, but the third and fourth cars tipped over the right hand side of the track, down some seventy-five feet, breaking in and crushing the cars and throwing in and the passengers several feet up upon the ice bound river. The scene immediately after the accident was one of intense interest. Those who were fortunate enough to be in the cars still upon the track, were pulled bound with astonishment at the sudden and ghastly sight. But soon a number of track layers came upon the scene, and with their aid the

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