



H. B. MASSER, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OFFICE, MARKET STREET, OPPOSITE THE POST OFFICE.

A Family Newspaper—Devoted to Politics, Literature, Morality, Foreign and Domestic News, Science and the Arts, Agriculture, Markets, Amusements, &c

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TERMS OF THE AMERICAN.

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H. B. MASSER, ATTORNEY AT LAW.

Business attended to in the Counties of Northumberland, Union, Lycoming and Columbia.

H. J. WOLVERTON, ATTORNEY AT LAW.

Office in Market street, Sunbury, adjoining the Office of the "American" and opposite the Post Office.

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WM. M. ROCKEFELLER, ATTORNEY AT LAW.

Dec. 13, 1851.—14.

M. L. SHINDEL, ATTORNEY AT LAW.

December 4, 1852.—14.

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WM. MCARTY, BOOKSELLER.

JUST received and for sale, a fresh supply of FANCY BALLET MUSIC.

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OSTERS!

THE undersigned is thankful for past favors and hopes to continue in the confidence of his old customers and friends...

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DR. J. B. MASSER is the local agent for the above Insurance Company, in Northumberland county, and is at all times ready to effect Insurances against fire on real or personal property, or renewing policies for the same.

SELECT POETRY.

THE CASE DECIDED.

BY MURPHY, THE MELODIST.

These beautiful youth—Rory Murdoch, the weaver, Pat Brannon the blacksmith and Shady O'Keefe...

"A twig of the loveliest plant in creation Let each fetch to-morrow; this task, as it will prove Who has the most skill in acute observation...

"Very well," said the maid, "and good luck to you! Now Pat, his own turn."—"Yes, my honey," says he...

"Good again!" said the maid, "that's a bit of a stump! But Shady, don't give up your soul to despair!"—"Is it me?" answered Shady, "you'll just let me a bumper..."

Miscellaneous Matter.

INTERESTING MEMOIR OF GENERAL WASHINGTON.

We give below says the Savannah Courier, some interesting facts in regard to the life and habits of Gen. Washington, which have never before appeared in print.

It was during the first year of my residence in Alexandria, that I first saw and obtained an introduction to Gen. Washington. I preceded him but a few days on my journey to Alexandria. The whole country was upon tiptoe. A thousand questions were addressed to me; "Where is he? Did you see him? When will he be here?"

DANIEL WEBSTER'S WILL. The Boston Courier publishes Mr. Webster's Will entire. The will opens with the following explanations:—"I, Daniel Webster, of Marshfield, in the county of Plymouth, and commonwealth of Massachusetts, Esquire, being now confined to my house with a serious illness, which considering my time of life, is undoubtedly critical, but being nevertheless in the full possession of all my mental faculties, do make and publish this my last Will and Testament."

I wish to be buried without the least show or ostentation, but in a manner respectful to my neighbors, whose kindness has contributed so much to the happiness of me and mine, and for whose prosperity I offer sincere prayers to God.

KEEP YOUR HENS OUT OF MY GARDEN. Col. R. and Gen. M. were formerly neighbors and had gardens adjoining each other.

THE YELLOW FEVER AT ST. THOMAS.—A letter from Walter A. C. Bigbam, of Worcester, a passenger in ship Palmyra, at St. Thomas, dated Dec. 18, states that the yellow fever was raging to a terrible extent.

GEN. FILLON WAS AT MEMPHIS, TENN., ON THE 21st ult. The General sloped. He had shot and given to Col. R. nine of his best layers.—Carpet Bag.

I commit my soul into the hands of my Heavenly Father, trusting in His infinite goodness and mercy. I direct that my mortal remains be buried in the family vault at Marshfield, where monuments are already erected to my deceased children and their mother.

Concerning my worldly estate, my Will must be anomalous and out of the common form, on account of the state of my affairs.—I have ten large real estates. By marriage settlements, Mrs. Webster is entitled to a life estate in each, and after her death they revert to my heirs.

I give and bequeath to my said wife all my furniture which she brought with her on her marriage, and the silver plate purchased of Mr. Rush, for her own use.

I give and bequeath to my grand-daughter Caroline Le Roy Appleton, the portrait by Healy, which now hangs in the southeast parlor at Marshfield, for her own use.

I give and bequeath to my grand-son, Samuel A. Appleton, my gold snuff-box with the head of General Washington, all my fishing tackle and my Selden and Wilnot guns, for his own use.

I give and bequeath to my grand-daughter, Julia Webster Appleton, the clock presented to her grandmother, by the late Hon. George Blake.

I appoint Edward Everett, George Ticknor, Cornelius Conway Felton and Geo. Ticknor Curtis, to be my literary Executors; and I direct my son, Fletcher Webster, to seal up all my letters, manuscripts and papers, &c. at a proper time to select those relating to my personal history, and my professional and public life, which in his judgment should be placed at their disposal, and to transfer the same of them, to be used by them in such manner as they may think fit.

I have also a quantity of valuable land in Illinois, at Peru, which ought to be immediately seen after. Mr. Edward Curtis, and Mr. Blatchford, of New York, and they have undertaken to see at once whether those can be provided for, so that these purposes may probably be carried into effect.

I give and devise to James W. Paige and Franklin Haven, of Boston, and Edward Curtis of New York, all my real estate in the town of Marshfield, in the State of Massachusetts, and Franklin, in the State of New Hampshire being the two estates above mentioned, to have and to hold the same to them and their heirs and assigns forever, upon the following Trust—namely:

First.—To mortgage, sell or lease, so much thereof as may be necessary to pay to my wife, Caroline Le Roy Webster, the estimated value of her life-interest, heretofore secured to her therein by marriage settlement, as is above recited, if she shall elect to receive that valuation in place of the security with which those estates now stand charged.

Secondly.—To pay to my said wife from the rents and profits and income of the said two estates, the further sum of five hundred dollars per annum during her natural life.

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE SUNBURY AND ERIE RAILROAD. The committee, appointed by City Council to visit Erie, upon the subject of a proposed subscription by the city of Philadelphia to the Sunbury and Erie Railroad, have made a voluminous report upon the subject, ending with a recommendation that the city make a subscription to the amount desired—\$2,000,000.

The cost of the road, laid with a single track and 61 miles of sidings, will be \$9,000,000. The business of the road will soon require a double track the whole distance; this may be constructed out of the profits and the credit of the road.

I direct that my mortal remains be buried in the family vault at Marshfield, where monuments are already erected to my deceased children and their mother. Two places are marked for other monuments of exactly the same size and form. One of these, in proper time, is to be for me, and perhaps I may leave an epitaph.

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in two and a half years. The report also contains a report of the Select Committee of the Legislature, made in 1851, in relation to the Sunbury and Erie Rail Road, giving a large amount of statistics in reference to the trade of the Lakes, the increase of population and business, which, as they have already been published in the Ledger, need not here be given.

I have at times tried to imagine the feelings of a man who is about to emigrate, fully convinced that he never again will look upon his native land—to my mind it brings thoughts allied to death. I could fancy that I was going away to die—going to leave somewhere until death came—in some huge prison—with a jail-like sky above it, and an area that might stretch hundreds of miles, with a wide sea around it, on the margin of which I should wander alone, sighing away my soul to regain my native land.

For the advantages that will accrue to Philadelphia, as a depot for the trade, and business of the road, reference is made to Mr. Tucker's letter, published in the Ledger last week. Philadelphia, as shown by that letter, is nearer the lakes, by actual and equated distance, by the Erie and Sunbury route, than New York, is by the New York and Erie Rail Road, by at least 298 miles.

AMOS LAWRENCE.—The Boston papers of Friday have an extended notice of the death of Amos Lawrence, Esq., of the firm of A. & A. Lawrence, and Co., which event occurred suddenly in Boston on Tuesday night. Mr. Lawrence was brother of Abbot Lawrence, lately minister to England, and for thirty nine years has been a leading, valiant and respected member of the mercantile community.

NEW YORK CRYSTAL PALACE.—This building with the exception of the floor, will be constructed entirely of iron and glass. Ten large and eight winding staircases connect the principal floor with the gallery. The building contains, on the ground floor, 111,000 square feet of space, and in its galleries, which are 54 feet wide, 62,000 square feet more for the purpose of exhibition.

LOOK OUT FOR THE WOMAN.—Young men! keep your eyes peeled when you are after the women. If you bite at the naked hook you are green. Is a pretty dress or form so attractive? Or a pretty face even? Florence, boy, are you of no sort of consequence. A pretty face will grow old. Paint will wash off. The sweet smile of the flirt will wash away to the scowl of the termagant.

KEEP YOUR EYES PEEL'D, BOY, WHEN YOU ARE AFTER THE WOMEN. If the little dear is cross and scolds at her mother in the back room, you may be sure that you will get particular fits all around the house. If she blushes when found at the wash tub with sleeves rolled up, be sure, sir, that she is of the cod-fish aristocracy; little breeding and less sense. If you marry a gal who knows nothing but to commit woman slaughter upon the piano, you have got the poorest piece of music ever got up. Find the one whose mind is right, and then pitch in.—Don't be hanging round like a sheep thief, as though ashamed to be seen in the day time, but walk up like a chicken to the dough and ask for the article like a man.