TERMS OF THE "AMERICAN."

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SUNBURY AMERICAN.

VIRTUE LIBERTY & INDEPENDENCE

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING, BY H. B. MASSER, SUNBURY, NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.

NEW SERIES, VOL. 16, NO. 42. SATURDAY MORNING, JANUARY 9, 1864. OLD SERIES, VOL. 24, NO. 16.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING.

One square of 12 lines, 3 times,	$1 00
Every subsequent insertion,	25
One square, 3 months,	3 00
Six months,	5 00
One year,	8 00
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☞ Larger Advertisements as per agreement.

JOB PRINTING.

We have connected with our establishment a well selected *JOB OFFICE*, which will enable us to execute, in the neatest style, every variety of Printing.

Wyoming Insurance Company,
WILKESBARRE, PA.

Capital and Surplus, $118,000.

DIRECTORS:

G. M. Hollenback, L. D. Shoemaker, John Reichard, D. G. Driesbach, Samuel Wadhams, R. C. Smith, R. D. Lacoe, Chas. Dorrance, Charles A. Miner, Wm. S. Ross, W. W. Ketcham, G. M. Harding.

G. M. HOLLENBACK, President.
L. D. SHOEMAKER, Vice President.

R. C. SMITH, Secretary.
W. G. STERLING, Treasurer.

This Company Insures three-fourth of the Cash valuation, takes no Premium Notes, make no Assessments, Policy acknowledges all moneys paid during the term of your Insurance.

A. CRAWFORD, Agent.

May 30, 1863.—1y

G. W. HAUPT,
Attorney and Counsellor at Law,

Office on south side of Market street, four doors west of E. Y. Bright & Son's Store,

SUNBURY, PA.

Will attend promptly to all professional business entrusted to his care, the collection of claims in Northumberland and the adjoining counties.

Sunbury, May 23, 1863.—1y

J. E. HELLER,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,

Office, on south side of Market Square, near the Court House,

SUNBURY, PENN'A.

Will attend promptly to all professional business entrusted to his care, the collection of claims in Northumberland and the adjoining counties.

Sunbury, May 23, 1863.—1y

GRANT & DIETZ!
LOWER WHARF, SUNBURY, PA.
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN
WHITE ASH COAL,
in every variety.

Orders solicited and filled with promptness and despatch.

Sunbury, May 16, 1863.—1y

SOLOMON MALICK,
Attorney at Law, Sunbury, Northumberland county, Pennsylvania.

(Formerly Freeburg, Snyder county.)

OFFICE, Market street, one door east of Friling Grant's Store, and nearly opposite the Court House.

All professional business, collections, &c., will receive prompt attention.

April 12, 1862.

SIMON P. WOLVERTON,
Attorney and Counselor at Law.

Office, Market street, 2 doors west of Depot,

SUNBURY, PA.

WILL attend promptley to the collection of claims and all other professional business intrusted to his care in Northumberland and adjoining counties.

Sunbury, May 3, 1862.—

NEW CLOTHING & FURNISHING STORE.

THE subscriber respectfully informs the people of Sunbury and vicinity, that he has opened an entire new stock of clothing and Furnishing goods, at his new store in the building of Charles Pleasants, Esq., in Market square. His stock consists in part of

MENS CLOTHING.
BOYS' CLOTHING.

Such as Coats, Over Coats, pants, vests, shirts, undershirts, drawers, stockings, neckties, handkerchiefs, gloves, &c. Also, Hats and Caps of all kinds.

BOOTS AND SHOES,

of all kinds. TRUNKS, and Valises, umbrellas, and notions of all kinds, besides numerous other articles. The public are requested to give him a call and examine his stock.

LEVI HECHT.

Sunbury, Oct. 10, 1863.

M. C. GEARHART'S
Confectionery, Toy and FRUIT STORE,
Market Street, Sunbury, Pa.

CONFECTIONERY OF ALL KINDS, TOYS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION, FRUIT, &c., &c.,

CONSTANTLY on hand and for sale at the above establishment at wholesale and retail, at reasonable prices.

He is manufacturing all kinds of Confectionaries to keep up a full assortment which are sold at low rates.

Tobacco, Segars, Stationery, Nuts of all kinds, and a variety of other articles, all of which are offered wholesale and retail.

☞ Remember the name and place.☜

M. C. GEARHART.

Market street, 5 doors west of E. Y. Bright & Son's store.

Sunbury, Sept. 19, 1863.—tf

ISAAC K. STAUFFER,
Watch Maker and Jeweler,

MANUFACTURER OF

SILVER WARE & Importer of WATCHES
No. 148 North Second St., Corner Quarry, PHILADELPHIA.

HE has constantly on hand an assortment of Gold and Silver Patent Lever, Lepine and Plain Watches; Fine Gold Chains, Seals and Keys, Breast Pins, Ear Rings, Finger Rings, Bracelets, Miniature Cases, Medallions, Lockets, Pencils, Thimbles, Spectacles, Silver Table, Desert, Tea, Salt and Mustard Spoons; Sugar Spoons, Cups, Napkin Rings, Fruit and Butter Knives, Shields, Combs, Diamond Pointed Pens, etc.,—all of which will be sold low for Cash!

M. I. TOBIAS & CO'S best quality full jeweled Patent Lever Movements constantly on hand; also other Makers of superior quality.

N. B.—Old Gold and Silver bought for cash.

Sept 5, 1863.—1y w

PRIVATE ACADEMY,
NORTHUMBERLAND.

THE REV. JAMES DICKSON, will re-open his Academy on Monday, the 17th day of August, 1863.

The following branches will be taught:

Latin, Greek, Mathematics, Philosophy, Rhetoric, Logic, Book Keeping, Vocal Music in theory and practice. Also Geography, Grammar, History, Composition Writing.

TERMS:

Per Quarter of 11 weeks,	$6 to 8
In the above branches without the languages	$6 00
Latin and above branches,	$7 00
Greek and above branches,	$8 00

See Circular.

For further particulars apply to

REV. JAMES DICKSON, Teacher.

Northumberland, August 1st, 1863.—1y

TRUSSES, SHOULDER BRACES,
ELASTIC STOCKINGS FOR ENLARGED VEINS OF THE LEG, &C.;
Instruments for all deformities.
DR. GLOVER'S
New Lever Truss

has taken the place of other Trusses for the retention and cure of Hernia or Rupture. Acting upon the principle of a lever, it never loses its strength. It is coated to prevent rust. It has no pad on the back, which is so liable to injure the spine and annoy and chafe the wearer. It is sure to retain the Rupture, giving ease and comfort, and effecting radical cures. It is warranted to give satisfaction.

The improved Shoulder-Brace expands the chest and prevents the wearer from becoming round shouldered.

Ladies' Belts and Abdominal Supporters, Bandages, and Belts of all kinds, and instruments for all Deformities of the Body.

DR. GLOVER'S Office is No. 4 Ann Street, two doors from Broadway, New York.

Strangers should particularly note the name and No.

April 11, 1863.—

ARRIVAL OF FALL & WINTER
BOOTS AND SHOES,

JUST received from New York and Philadelphia, a fresh supply of the latest styles and of the best quality, which he has had made up to order, and warranted to give good satisfaction. He has made arrangements in the city to have his best work made to order, which can be had at all times, if not on hand they will be procured at reasonable notice.

Manufacturing of BOOTS and SHOES of all kinds as usual.

I will also wholesale Boots and Shoes by the box.

Call and examine before purchasing elsewhere and satisfy yourselves.

Thankful for patronage heretofore bestowed, he respectfully solicits a continuance of the same.

Shop and Store room, three doors west of the Rail Road in Market Square.

WM. H. MILLER.

Sunbury, Sept. 19, 1863.

WANTED immediately, a Jour Shoemaker, on Mens' Work. Good wages paid.

1863. 1863.

FRILING & GRANT

AT THE

MAMMOTH STORE,

WOULD respectfully announce that they have just received and opened a very large and well selected Stock of

GOODS OF ALL KINDS,

which they are willing to dispose of at a VERY SMALL ADVANCE ON

First Cost.

—0—

OUR STOCK IS COMPLETE

AND EMBRACES EVERYTHING

GIVE US A CALL.

Thankful for past favors we hope to meet a continuance of the same by still selling Goods as cheap if not **CHEAPER** than can be purchased elsewhere.

FRILING & GRANT.

Sunbury, May 23, 1863.

SCHENCK'S PULMONIC SYRUP
Will Cure
CONSUMPTION.
Schenck's Pulmonic Syrup
Will Cure
CONSUMPTION.
Schenck's Pulmonic Syrup
Will Cure
CONSUMPTION.
Schenck's Pulmonic Syrup
Will Cure
CONSUMPTION.
Schenck's Pulmonic Syrup
Will Cure
CONSUMPTION.
Schenck's Sea Weed Tonic
Will Cure
DYSPEPSIA.
Schenck's Sea Weed Tonic
Will Cure
DYSPEPSIA.
Schenck's Sea Weed Tonic
Will Cure
DYSPEPSIA.
Schenck's Sea Weed Tonic
Will Cure
DYSPEPSIA.
Schenck's Mandrake Pills
Will Cure
LIVER COMPLAINTS.
Schenck's Mandrake Pills
Will Cure
LIVER COMPLAINTS.
Schenck's Mandrake Pills
Will Cure
LIVER COMPLAINTS.
Schenck's Mandrake Pills
Will Cure
LIVER COMPLAINTS

DR. J. H. SCHENK has a Large Suit of Rooms at No. 32 Bond Street, New York, where he can be found every Tuesday, from 9 A. M., and at No. 39 North Sixth Street, Philadelphia, Pa., every Saturday.

He keeps a large supply of medicines at his rooms, which can be had at all times. Those wishing advice or an examination of the Lungs will do well to call on him as above. He makes no charge for advice, but for a thorough examination with the Respirometer, his price is $5.

Many persons are afraid to have their lungs examined by Dr. Schenck for fear that they will be found incurable, and by that means it is put off until it is too late. How much better it would be to know their condition at once, as by abundance of evidence, Dr. Schenk has shown sufficient certificates in this city that he has cured advanced stages of Consumption.

Dr. Schenk's Principal Office is No. 39 North Sixth street, Philadelphia, Pa., where letters for advice should always be directed.

Price of the Pulmonic Syrup and Sea Weed Tonic each $1 per bottle, or $5 the half dozen. Mandrake Pills, 25 cents per box.

For sale by all Druggists and Storekeepers

October 10, 1863.—3m

JACOB O. BECK,
MERCHANT TAILOR,
Market Street, nearly opposite the Rail Road Depot,
SUNBURY, PA.,

INFORMS the citizens of Sunbury and vicinity, that he has just returned from Philadelphia with a full assortment of

FALL AND WINTER GOODS,
OF EVERY DESCRIPTION AND QUALITY.

His stock consists of Cloths, French Cloths, Black Doe Skin and Fancy Cassimeres, Black Satin, Figured Silks, Plain and Fancy Cassimere VESTINGS, which he will make up to order in styles to suit the taste of customers, on short notice, and the most reasonable terms.

Any Goods not on hand, will be furnished from Philadelphia, by giving two days' notice.

Goods furnished by customers will be made up to order as heretofore.

As he will employ none but experienced workmen, persons may rely on getting their work well done at his shop.

Thankful for the patronage heretofore bestowed, he respectfully solicits a continuance of the same.

Sunbury, Sept. 19, 1863.

JAMES BARBER'S
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
CLOCK ESTABLISHMENT,
S. E. Corner Second and Chesnut St., Philadelphia

AGENCY for the PATENT EQUALIZING THIRTY DAY CLOCKS, a very desirable article for Churches, Hotels, Banks, Counting Houses, Parlors, &c.

Also, Manufacturer of FINE GOLD PENS.
Clocks repaired and warranted.
Clock Trimmings of every description.
Philadelphia, January 17, 1861.—1y

Issue List of Northumberland County, for January Term 1864.

J. J. Reed vs Lemuel Chamberlin.
John C. Hoffman vs. the same.
John Draher for the use, &c. vs Cleaver, Fagely & Co.
Same vs Seasholtz, Fagely & Co.
Wm. L. Dewart and E. W. Bright vs I. T. Clement.
Klaze and Buchner vs Wm. L. Dewart et al.
Same vs Same.
Wm. L. Dewart vs G. H. Clay Adm'r Hegins.
Hugh Caul vs Daniel P. Caul.
Big Mountain Imp. Co. vs Thos. Baumgardner et al.
Eli S. Trego vs J. Dieffenderfer.
Commonwealth of Penn. for Peter Kerlin vs John G. Young and bail.
Commonwealth of Penn. for the use of T. M. Pursel vs James Vandyke and bail.
Charles Koch vs Lewis H. Funk.
Adm'rs of Kimber Kleaver, dec'd vs C. P. Heffenstine.
Isaac and Mary Martz vs S. B. Boyer.
L. C Thompson vs the Susquehanna Coal and Imp. Comp.
Same vs the Green Ridge Imp. Comp.
Jonathan M. Bastian vs Sol. Brosious.
E. Y. Bright & Son vs Elizabeth Osman and R. Osman.
Andrew M. Eastwick vs D. C. Cleaver et al.
Christian Wolf vs David Waldron.
Aaron Worinser vs Joseph Moist.
J. H. Raker, Assignee vs Pat. Machen.
Cyrus Brown vs Wash Stroh.
Mary H. Greenland's heirs vs Northern Central Railroal Comp.
Maria C. Vincent vs John L. Watson.
J. A. J. Cummings vs. George Blain.
Robert Campbell vs Upper Augusta tp.
Robert Hayes et al vs A. T. Goodman et al.
Same vs same.
Samuel Autrim vs David Waldron et al.
S. Bittenbender vs C. P. Heffenstine.
A. P. Lark vs John F. Caslow.
Com. of Penn. for S. L. Finney vs P. W. Hilgert et al.
Wm. L. Dewart vs H. B. Masser.
Mich. Hahn vs Wm. Roshong's Adm'rs.
Vandyke for H. E. Robins & Co. vs the County of Northumberland.
Wm. and Ann Grange for Ann vs Mary Raker.
Oddfellows Lodge, No. 263, vs Thos. M. Pursel.
Nathan Shipe vs Joseph Conrad.
F. Kaseman vs J. Wasser and M. Gass.
Benj. S. Myers vs Josiah Henry.
John Hafer &c., vs Barbara Ann Alexander.
Bank of Northumberland, indorsee, &c., vs B. Gearhart and Co. with notice, &c.
Same vs same.
John Bowen vs Joseph Savidge.
Valentine Klaze vs S. Pensyl's Adm'rs.
Bank of Middletown vs Samuel Wiest.
Lazarus Moyer vs D. D. Conrad.
Henry Reitz's Exec'rs vs J. Conrad.
Richard McGrann et al vs Phil. and Sunbury Railroad Co.
David Waldron vs Jane Waldron.
Moses Chamberlin et al vs John Voris and Benj. Troxel.
Henry Harbaugh vs Rev. E. R. Wilson.
John Buyers vs Adam Snyder.
Wm. L. Dewart vs Thos. Baumgardner.
J. H. Ressler vs Abraham Eckman.

The first 25 causes are for the first week and the balance for the second.

J. J. REIMENSNYDER, Proth'y.

SAPONIFIER,
OR CONCENTRATED LYE
FAMILY SOAP MAKER.

WAR makes high prices; Saponifier helps to reduce them. It makes Soap for Four cents a pound by using your kitchen grease.

☞ CAUTION: As spurious Lyes are offered be careful and only buy the Patented article put up in Iron cans, all others being Counterfeits.

PENNSYLVANIA SALT MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

Philadelphia—No 127 Walnut Street,
Pittsburg—Pitt Street and Duquesne Way.

November 21, 1863.—3m

MATTHEWS & COX,

Attorneys at Law, No. 160 Cor. Fulton and Broadway, New York. Will carefully attend to collections and all other matters intrusted to their care.

Sept. 19, 1863.

ALMANAC FOR 1864.

PREPARED FOR

THE "SUNBURY AMERICAN"

SUNBURY, PA.

STAMP DUTIES

Imposed by the Act of 1863

Promissory Notes, Drafts, Inland and Foreign Bills of Exchange, Orders for Payment of Money, Letters of Credit, and Notes Payable on Demand, otherwise than on sight.

Amount of Note or Draft.	33 Days.	63 Days.	93 Days.	4 Mos.	6 Mos.	9 Mos.
From $20 to $200	01	02	03	04	06	10
" 200 " 400	02	04	06	08	12	20
" 400 " 600	03	06	09	12	18	30
" 600 " 800	04	08	12	16	24	40
" 800 " 1,000	05	10	15	20	30	50
" 1,000 " 1,200	06	12	18	24	36	60
" 1,200 " 1,400	07	14	21	28	42	70
" 1,400 " 1,600	08	16	24	32	48	80
" 1,600 " 1,800	09	18	27	36	54	90
" 1,800 " 2,000	10	20	30	40	60	100

6 mos. and 3 days 10 mos. and 3 days or less, 1 cent for each 100.

The above gives the tax up to $2,000, which is generally which the ordinary business writer.

TALES AND SKETCHES.

A TRUE DOG STORY.

BY PAUL WARD.

The Newfoundland dog's name was Tippoo. The bull-dog's was Boxer. They were neighbors of mine in early life, and I was personally acquainted with both animals, though on widely different grounds of intimacy. Tippoo was my bosom friend, and I loved him. Boxer was Tippoo's most relentless and cruel enemy, for which reason I hated him, and would have sought his blood, but that—being of tender years, and cautious temperament, conscious, moreover of presenting an appetising display of bare leg, insisted on by the sumptuary laws of the period—I thought it possible that he might take a fancy to mine; and so, as a rule, kept discreetly out of his way. For he was an ugly dog was Boxer, and a vicious; a bandy-legged, black-muzzled, truculent, nervous-eared, tight-skinned, implacable, ill-conditioned dog, very like my *beau ideal* of what the Champion of England ought to be.

Tippoo was a very different kind of quadruped. I believe him to have been the most perfect gentleman that ever stood on four legs, just as I believe Boxer to have been the most consummate ruffian that ever was lifted, by the agency of hemp-cord, from any number of those locomotive supports.—Tippoo was nearly as tall as myself. I could just look over his glossy, silken-ringleted back, when cuddling his noble neck. He wore a full suit of black and white, particularly snowy at the bosom. He was as strong as a lion, and as gentle as a lamb. Next to playing with me, (which I am proud to believe was his favorite pastime,) he delighted in nothing so much as the exercise of carrying in his mouth a favorite cat attached to the household of which he was a conspicuous member, to the bottom of a steep lawn; then releasing, and running a race with her to the top. The cat was generally the winner, and always seemed to enjoy the triumph immensely. To this day, I believe Tippoo made a point of running slowly on purpose so as gallantly to concede victory to the weaker vessel.

"Tippo belonged to a country gentleman (a sort of "half-squire," as they would say in Ireland) who resided opposite my father's house. In my opinion, and in that of the majority of my playmates, Tippoo was the most important and respectable inhabitant of the village, up to the advent of Boxer who came among us unexpectedly, on a visit to Tippoo's master, in the train of a sporting lawyer of detestable memory. As soon as that subversive brute (Boxer—not the sporting lawyer) had made his appearance, we felt much as the loyal servants of King Louis the Sixteenth must have felt on the outbreak of the great French Revolution. Monarchy was disposed in favor of blackguardism. But the blackguard was strong and merciless, with a set of terrible white teeth ever eager to bite. So that we poor little partisans of the ancient *regime* were fain to clench our impotent fists in secret.

Tippoo had no chance against Boxer.—What is the use of a well-dressed gentleman, let him be never so strong or skillful in the use of his clenched digits, descending from his cabriolet to do battle with a scavenger armed with a mud shovel; He sedulously avoided Boxer, who on his side, lost no opportunity of hunting out and persecuting Tippoo. Tippoo was losing character dreadfully. He neglected his food, kept his kennel, and was unanimously pronounced a coward of the most contemptible stamp.—His very court flatterers (we were no better than the more matured and ambitious of our species) began to blush for their sovereign's pusillanimity.

One day the masters of the two dogs stood on the lawn already alluded to, in amicable converse with a third person, no other than my own father—to whom I am indebted for the details of this instructive story. Boxer stood between his proprietor's legs, which, like his own, were bandy. I have the keenest recollection of those legs—master's and dog's—and I remember that the whole six were modeled upon the same pattern, which was one extremely distasteful to my feelings.

"Hollon!" said my father, "here comes Tip. We shall soon see him sneak away when he discovers Boxer. Dreadful coward that big dog of yours, Matthews, to be sure."

"Well, he used not to be so," said Tippoo's master reluctantly, "but I must confess that since Wilkins has been here with his bull, the overgrown cur has made me ashamed of him."

"No call for that," said the bull-dog's master, "better dogs than Tip have funked at the sight of my Boxer. By jove, though, he hasn't bolted yet. He'd or Boxer will murder him!"

Boxer certainly showed playful indications of a desire to attempt the experiment, by pricking up his ears and starting off at a brisk trot in the direction of Tippoo, who, however, to the astonishment of the spectators, made no movement toward recovering the shelter of his easily accessible kennel.—On the contrary, he seemed to wait for and encourage his aggressor's attack.

"The dog's mad, clearly," said the lawyer.

"Looks like it," Mr. Matthews assented. "He isn't acting like a dog in his senses."

"Getting very near the water, though, for a mad dog," observed my father.

And in, truth, to get near the water was the main object of Tippoo, than whom a more thoroughly sane dog did not exist at that epoch of canine history.

There was a deep dyke running at the bottom of the lawn, fed from the reservoir of a neighboring tin-mill, and which had been greatly swollen by the recent rains.—Tippoo keeping his large full eyes carefully fixed upon his approaching foe, sidled in a coquettish, serpentine manner towards the brink of this artificial stream.

There the bull-dog flew at and pinned him. Tippoo crouched on the grass prostrate, submitting to the outrage without a growl.

"Call him off Wilkins," said Tippoo's master, in excited tones. "The purest Newfoundland in the country! I wouldn't have him injured for a hundred dollars!"

"Hi! Boxer! Here boy! Good dog! Let go!" the sporting lawyer clamored, as a shower of sticks and stones were launched by the trio of spectators to enforce the command.

But Boxer would not let go, and Tippoo would not resist or run. He merely kept on slipping, sliding, and lumbering towards the brink of the water, dragging the bull-dog with him by the mere inert force of his superior weight.

Suddenly a splash was heard! and the triumph of Boxer was at an end. The combatants had rolled together into the swift, deep current of the dyke, and there they speedily changed places. I say "speedily," narrating as I do an actual fact, though I am aware that it may seem to require some explanation, inasmuch, as the grip of a bull-dog is supposed to be a final affair, lasting the life time of the pinner or the pinned. I can only suggest that my friend Tippoo was from the first so completely on the alert as to prevent his ruffianly antagonist from getting a sure firm hold. However, that may be, Tippoo, released from custody, in his turn seized his assailant by the neck; held him under the water and *drowned him!*—The brave, sagacious water-dog, wrongly imagined to be a coward, knew his power in his own element, and had watched his opportunity. Would that we were all as wise!

Ere the just execution had been thoroughly accomplished, Tippoo's glossy, patrician hide was pretty well cut to pieces by the missiles now hurled at him instead of his aggressor. But he received them all without a wince, till he felt that his enemy under the water was thoroughly dead. Then he brought the ignoble carcass out of the stream between his teeth, threw it on the grass with a jerk, and stood with his fore-paw resting on its flank with a calmly defiant expression, that might clearly be translated by the words:

"*Now*, let this dirty, ugly rascal, presume to take liberties with his betters. Make the best of him as he lies here!"

I know this story to be a true one, for my father told it to me. Moreover I remember exulting over the sight of the drowned Boxer's disfigured remains (just the least thing in the world ashamed of the feeling, perhaps, but I certainly felt it,) and doing my best to console my darling Tippoo for his unsightly wounds, by gifts of stolen refreshment—the best medicine I knew how to offer. I suppose that Tippoo, also, is dead by this time. Most of my early friends are, and it might be my turn next, as likely as not.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WHEN DID THE WAR BEGIN?

It has now become the fashion to talk about our "three years' war" for the Union. Of course this expression is used mainly for convenience sake—just as one uses round numbers—and not with any reference to precision. Some time or other, however, historians will have to settle the matter; and it is not the least of the peculiarities of this most peculiar of wars that it is "an open question," on what day did it commence? All previous wars have begun with a beginning—that is to say, with a formal declaration, or with some proclamation tantamount to it, as was the case in England on the breaking out of the Crimean war. On that occasion a notice was posted up by a government herald at the Mansion house (the official residence of the Lord Mayor), in the city of London, informing the public that hostilities were about to commence with Russia, and this was all the declaration that was made. In our case such a thing was not needed; and, indeed could not have been used without recognizing the rebels as belligerents, i. e., as parties having a right to wage war. Still the present contest must have had a beginning; and the question is when that beginning came into existence. The popular feeling is that the firing on Fort Sumter is the epoch from which to reckon. This occurred on the 12th April, 1861, though many persons confound this with the 19th of the same month, which was the day of the massacre of the Massachusetts men in the streets of Baltimore. We doubt if this epoch ought to be selected as the starting point. There are four events which may respectively claim to be considered the commencement of the civil war, viz:—1. The act of secession passed by the Legislature of South Carolina on the 20th December 1860; 2, the firing on the Star of the West in Charleston harbor on the 9th January 1861; 3, the firing on Fort Sumter, and 4, the passing of the act of the confederate Congress recognizing the existence of war between the United States and the seceding States. This act was first passed in secret session, and was made public on the 6th of May, 1861; it amounted to a formal declaration of war on the part of the south. Unquestionably this last is the *latest* date to be assigned, and it has been recognized by the Supreme Court, in an appeal case, as the *legal* commencement of the war; that is to say, as the date which the Court would judicially assume for that purpose. We have not seen the grounds of this decision, but we suppose the Court held that all doubt as to the existence of war was removed by the above mentioned official act of the southern legislature, and that previous outrages might be treated as very grave riots amounting to high treason, yet not constituting war.

There seems to us no valid reason why the firing on the Star of the West, as she attempted to carry provisions to the garrison of Fort Sumter, should not be considered as much an overt act of hostility as the firing on Fort Sumter itself. The object was substantially the same in both cases, viz., the getting possession of the fort; and this would have been accomplished (and very nearly was) by starving Major Anderson and his gallant band into surrender. And it was further intended to hold this same fort, thus violently torn from the Union, as the sole, absolute property of South Carolina forever. It should be remembered, too, that South Carolina had "deliberately and of malice aforethought" placed herself in direct antagonism to the United States by her act of secession, passed three weeks previously to the firing on the Star of the West, and that she was ambitious to distinguish her new-born nationality by some military exploit which should open the eyes of the world to the fact of her having become a nation. She therefore acted as a foreign country towards us, and wished to be treated by us with as much consideration, in a military point of view, as we should have bestowed upon France or England if either of those Powers had committed an overt act of hostility against us. If the intention be the essential part of the crime, surely this firing on the Star of the West was as significant of it as the firing on Fort Sumter; and therefore it appears to us that the 9th of January, 1861, has a better claim to be fixed as the day of the commencement of the war than the 12th of April has. Of the four assumed epochs, indeed, this same 12th of April stands on the weakest ground. It has fixed itself on the popular mind on account of the peculiar circumstances attending it—the heroism and sufferings of the little garrison—the unprecedented and unprovoked nature of the outrage—the astonishment and the incredulity of the country at large, after it had been perpetrated, and the enthusiastic reception everywhere given to Major Anderson—all combined to make a deep and lasting impression on the national heart and to drive out of sight and memory the less striking but not less significant and hostile affair of the 9th January. So that we are not surprised to find everybody dating the war from the 12th April, 1861, two years, eight months and some days back, which period, in popular parlance and to save trouble, is now spoken of as "three years." In some minds, too, the fact that the years 1861, 1862 and 1863 have been years of war, occasions the use of the same expression.

But we submit whether, after all, the true date is not the 20th December, 1860, the day on which the long devised schemes of southern traitors first received development. Was not the secession of South Carolina as decided an act of hostility to the Union as the firing on Fort Sumter? Who does not remember the insolent declaration which accompanied it, viz: that the people of that State wanted no compromise, or negotiation, or reconciliation with the north, for that their act of secession was intended to be final and irrevocable? It may be argued that there can be no war without the use of weapons; but this, we apprehend, is not so. Surely there was war between Russia and the allies when the formal notice to that effect went forth in February, 1854, although no actual hostilities took place until the 12th of April following, when the British fleet opened the ball by blockading the Gulf of Finland. We perceive that Mr. Hazewell, in his admirable article in the last number of *The Atlantic Monthly*, headed "The Beginning of the End," argues in favor of the 20th of December, 1860; and as regards the firing on the Star of the West, he says, truly enough, "because our government did not choose to accept it as the beginning of those hostilities, which had been resolved upon by the southern ultras, it does not follow that men are bound to shut their eyes to the truth. But we all took the insults that were offered to the flag in President Buchanan's time as coolly as if that was the proper course of things, while the attack on Sumter had the same effect on us that the acknowledgment of the Pretender as King of Great Britain and Ireland, by Louis XIV, had on the Eng-lish." At all events, we think that the 12th of April must be given up as the day of commencement. It remains to be settled whether the secession of South Carolina, the firing on the Star of the West, or the official southern declaration of war, is to be accepted in lieu of it.—*Philadelphia North American.*

Horrible Massacre by Indians.

[From the St. Paul Press, December 17.]

Our readers remember the horrible massacre of a mining party on the Missouri last August, not one being left to tell the mournful tale. Who they were and how the massacre occurred has remained wrapt in mystery until the present time. It was only known that their mutilated bodies lay bleaching on the banks of a distant river, and but for a chance party that followed in their wake, the particulars of the affair would have still remained unknown.

John H. Carter, John S. Briggs, R. Scholer and brother, all of Wapello county, Iowa, have just reached this city from Idaho. They have been mining at Bannock City, (there are two Bannock cities in Idaho), on the Snake river, on the west side of the Rocky Mountains, 350 miles north of Salt Lake, and the same distance southeast of Walla Walla. On the 18th of June, one week after the massacred party started, they left for home, intending to come down the Missouri. They were delayed a month upon reaching the river, by the want of a Mackinaw boat, after procuring which they proceeded to Fort Berthold. Here they first learned of the massacre which took place on the 3d of August, one hundred miles below the fort at the mouth of Heart river. They found one of the men who originally started with the unfortunate murdered miners at the fort, he having had a presentiment of danger and remained behind. From him a list of the names of the unfortunate men was obtained as follows:

H. Field, wife and three children, St. Joseph, Missouri.

R. S. Butler, Iowa City, Iowa.

Joseph Smith, Benjamin Van Winkle and ——— Perkins, of Springfield, Illinois. Mr. Smith has an uncle in Red Wing, in this State.

——— Cooper, residence unknown.

Reuben Downing, Van Buren county, Iowa.

Daniel Riggs and Joseph Shear, Gurnsey county, Ohio.

Emsley Folland, Jefferson county, Iowa.

Thomas English, residence unknown.

——— Biladoe, carpenter, Fort Randall.

John Reed, Davis county, Iowa.

There were five men whose names were unknown, the entire party consisting of eighteen men, one woman and three children.

From Indians and half-breeds our informants obtained the particulars of this horrible affair.

The miners, anticipating trouble, were well armed, and in addition to small arms had a small cannon. At the mouth of Heart river a party of Yanktonians Sioux came along the bank and beckoned them to come to the shore. They responded by firing the cannon three times, the Indians returning the fire vigorously. The continuous fire of the cannon caused the boat to spring a leak, and but for that unfortunate circumstance they might have escaped. The Indians were driven back from the shore, but renewed the attack, and during the second fight the boat leaked so badly that it sunk in shallow water. They were then overpowered and murdered. Mr. Field's wife was taken prisoner, but the Indians quarreling as to who should have her for his wife, the controversy was ended by shooting her. Two of the children were killed and the third was taken to the Sioux camp, where it cried itself to death.

All of the bodies were scalped, and those who had heavy whiskers were further mutilated by these being torn off. The bodies were then left lying on the sand bar, where they fell, and were still lying there when the second party left Fort Berthold. The Indians acknowledged that the miners fought desperately, and admit that they killed thirty-six and wounded thirty-five. The unfortunate victims had between eighteen and twenty thousand dollars with them in gold dust and money, which fell into the hands of the Indians, who are using it in making large purchases of ammunition.

The party which has just arrived here deemed it unsafe to pursue their course further down the Missouri, and after waiting a month at Fort Berthold joined a party of half-breed hunters who were on their way to Fort Garry, from which point they came here. While crossing the plains they passed within fifteen miles of six hundred lodges of Sioux, who were encamped near Turtle Mountain.

Increasing the Amount of Pensions.

An effort will be made the present session of Congress to increase the rate of pensions now paid to invalid and wounded soldiers and their widows and children, in case of death. The present rate is only $8 per month for privates, for the highest degree of disability, where a man has lost an arm or a leg, and unable to earn his living. This rate included the full pay of a private soldier, per month, when the law was passed, but now privates receive $13 while the pension remains the same, although the value of money has depreciated 50 per cent, since the law was passed. The same inequality exists with regard to pensions of widows of deceased officers.

The highest pension paid to a widow, of even a Major-General, is $30 per month, while widows of officers of lower rank get less. As many of our officers are not blessed with an abundance of worldly goods, and some, when dead leave very little property behind them for the support of their widows and families, it has been suggested that an increase should be made in the rate of pensions paid to privates who may be disabled or wounded in service, and widows and children of deceased officers and soldiers corresponding with the increased rates of living.

The loss of East Tennessee to the Rebels—A Southern View of the "Calamity."

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 29.

The Richmond *Enquirer*, of December 24th, has the following doleful editorial view of the loss of the Confederacy by the Yankees getting possession of East Tennessee:

"Our losses by the enemy gaining possession of East Tennessee are incalculable. We are not only deprived of the vast flour mills of that country which previously supplied the whole army, but of vast machine shops extensively organized at Knoxville.

Besides this, *we are cut off from the coal, iron and copper mines, which were worth millions to us.* The copper rolling mills at Cleveland superintended by Colonel Peet, Government agent, which were burned by the enemy, formerly turned out 6,000 pounds of copper per day. Over three millions of pounds have been delivered to the Government. This was the only copper rolling mill in the country, and which kept us supplied in copper for our caps and cannon.—This is among our losses of the battle of Chattanooga, which is spoken of as merely resulting in the loss of four thousand men and thirty-eight pieces of cannon!"

FLAX COTTON.—The Cleveland (Ohio) Herald states that B. C. Warner has built a mill at Toledo, for preparing flax cotton at the rate of two thousand pounds per day. It is prepared for an Eastern company, engaged in the manufacture of satinets.

ARKANSAS.—Since the occupation of Little Rock, Arkansas, by our forces seven thousand persons have come in from the surrounding country, five thousand of whom are now in the Federal army. A correspondent says that in less than twelve months Arkansas will have a free State Constitution, and be identified cordially with the anti-slavery cause.

THE WORK OF GENERAL THOMAS.—Gen. Thomas reports that he has furnished Gen. Banks with 17,000 well armed colored soldiers, and that he had 51,000 men, women and children under his protection, the able-bodied of whom he has hired out to planters in the vicinity of his operations. He has leased abandoned cotton and sugar plantations to farmers at the rate of four dollars per bale of cotton, one cent per pound for sugar, and five cents per bushel for corn and potatoes, which proceeds go into the Treasury of the United States, and the farmers pay a revenue tax in addition. Great success has attended this arrangement, which has proved satisfactory to all parties. Gen. Thomas returns to his field of labor immediately, thence he goes to New Orleans and Texas, arming the blacks everywhere. He has ten regiments of them ready to send to General Grant.

AGRICULTURAL.

COWS.—A correspondent of The Field, London, furnishes from Ansted and Lathams valuable work on the Channel Islands the following information respecting Alderney, Jersey and Guernsey cows:

The cows should have "a fine curved taper horn, a slender nose, a fine skin, and deerlike form. * * Of the different island breeds, the Alder