The Somerset Herald.

GEORGE R. SCULL, Editor.

WEDNESDAY March 15, 1899.

Perfume cases at Biesecker & Snyder's.

All kinds of trusses at Biesecker & Snyder's.

Tobacco and Cigars a specialty at Schrock's Grocery.

Eye glasses and spectacles at Biesecker & Snyder's.

All the different odors of extracts at Biesecker & Snyder's.

Old shell corn at bottom prices, at M. Schrock's feed store.

Fifty kinds of gent's and boys' pants can be seen at J. B. Snyder's.

Removed, and don't forget—J. B. Holderbaum's Hardware Store.

For choice sweet potatoes and cranberries, go to Schrock, the Grocer.

For a new stylish hat, the best place to get it is at J. B. Snyder's.

Arbutus Flower is sold by M. Schrock only. It is warranted the best.

S. J. McMillan, Dentist, one square South of Diamond. Gas administered.

We want everybody to come in and see us next week. J. B. HOLDERBAUM.

M. Schrock is a leader of low prices in everything in the Grocery, Flour and Feed line.

Bethel Water, bottled, recommended by all physicians, to be had only at Biesecker & Snyder's.

Save money and buy your canned goods from M. Schrock. They are always nice and fresh.

When you go to town next week, don' forget to call and see J. B. Holderbaum's new store-room.

Hagerstown Almanacs, English and German, Wholesale and Retail, for sale at Fisher's Book Store all the year round.

Carpets! Carpets!! Carpets!!! One hundred pieces to select from, at

J. B. SNYDER'S.

A nice new line of shirtings, ginghams, medins, and a general line of dry goods, just received at J. B. SNYDER'S.

Every attention given to dental operations in operative and mechanical branches, at McMillan's Dental Rooms, over Treibwell's Store.

Chase & Sanbourn's Java and Mocha Coffee is sold by M. Schrock only. It is guaranteed the best. Try it, and you will use no other.

Something Somerset can boast of—the finest carpet room in the county, at

J. B. SNYDER'S.

Call at the economy shoe store, and be convinced that cash will do wonders in the way of buying boots, shoes, etc.

SCHELL & SHIVLER.

There has in the past been some fine stocks of clothing kept in Somerset, but never has there been such a splendid line in the town as you will find now at

J. B. SNYDER'S

We have on hand a large number of good brick which we will sell in quantities to suit the purchaser. Prices very reasonable. Yard opposite the planing mill.

HOLBROOK BROS. & PARSON.

Ladies, you can find all colors of ready-mixed paint, and in any quantity you want, put up in any sized tin cans; also, all kind of wood stains, tube colors, paint brushes, scrub and dusting brushes, at J. B. Holderbaum's Hardware Store, Somerset, Pa.

Do you want to see the best line of gents' fine pants ever shown in Somerset? Call at

J. B. SNYDER'S.

I can sell you carpet at any of the following prices: 15c, 16c, 18c, 20c, 23c, 25c, 30c, 32½c, 35c, 37½c, 40c, 45c, 50c, up to $1.00 per yard. All carpets cut to fit room, without extra charge, at

J. B. SNYDER'S.

One Moment, Please.

We wish to thank the public for their generous patronage in the past year. Our trade has increased steadily for which we are thankful. This year we propose to do business on the cash basis, which will enable us to sell boots, shoes, etc., much lower than the credit firms. Why? For many reasons. Chief among them, because we do not have to add larger profits to make up for bad accounts lost. Kindly give us a trial and we will demonstrate the fact that *cash will buy big bargains.*

SCHELL & SHIVLER.

What is Going on in Somerset?

The latest we know of in the last thirty days, is the removal of J. B. Holderbaum's Hardware Store to the new room one door North of Cook & Beeits's Grocery, where they have the largest and best finished room in Western Pennsylvania. Owing to our large and increasing trade we were obliged to leave the old stand, where we had been for many years, and find more room. We are now prepared to furnish the best Hardware and Implements at the lowest possible prices. Please call and see us when in Somerset, whether you want goods or not. We want you to see our room and goods, and learn our prices.

J. B. HOLDERBAUM.

Headquarters

For Prime Western Clover Seed.
" " " Timothy Seed.
For best Mackerel Fish on the market.
For lowest figures on Lake Fish.
For Ear and Shelled Corn.
For Chop Bran and Middlings.
For Wheat, Oats and Potatoes.
For Oranges, Lemons, and Peanuts.
For Molasses, Syrups, and Sugars.
For Coffees, Teas, and Spices.
For Crackers, Cheese, and Bolognas.
For Flour, Corn-meal and Bacon.
For Beans, Oat-meal and Rice.
For Canned Goods and Dried Fruits.
For Butter, Lard and Dried Beef.
For Salt, Lime and Cement.
For Carbon Oil by the gallon and barrel.
For Brooms, Buckets and Tubs,
For everything in our line.
For everybody at our store.

Respectfully,

COOK & BEEITS.

Here We Are Again!

"Hello, Fisk, shake!"

"How are you, Mike! How are all the family?"

"They are all right, Fisk; oh, by the way, Fisk, have you brought your spring clothing yet?"

"No, Mike, I have not, but I was in Somerset yesterday, and saw box after box of clothing unloaded at Snyder's store. Ge-mane rivers! but don't J. B. sell lots of clothing! One thing is certain, Mike; when you go to Snyder's you can always find something new; you need not be afraid of getting old clothing, with new tags put on them to make them look new. Then, too, J. B. has such a beautiful room now; plenty of light, so you can see what you buy."

"Well, Fisk, my opinion is if anybody wants clothing or carpet—and did you see Snyder's carpet room?—well, any person who can't get what they want out of that lot of carpet, and the low prices, too, must be hard to please. By-by, Fisk, we'll meet again.

Nothing in the Wide World so Good.

I was afflicted with Kidney disease. Dr. Kennedy's Favorite Remedy, of Rondout, N. Y.,—I say it with a perfect recollection of all that was done for me besides, is the only thing that gave me permanent relief. I have recommended this medicine to many people for Kidney disease and they all agree in saying that it has not its equal in the wide world for this complaint.—Lyman Crawford, Druggist, Springfield, Mass.

Wanted!

Hides, and Furs. I will pay the highest cash price for all kinds of hides, pelts and furs. Call on me at my residence, immediately west of the S. & C. Station.

H. G. CUNNINGHAM.

Copies of this paper can be had at C. H. Fisher's Book Store.

Prof. H. B. Sanner will open his normal school at Confluence on April 23d. The indications for a large school are very promising as a number of students have already been enrolled.

Mrs. J. S. Larman died at the family residence near Griffin, on March 5th, and was buried on the 7th. Mrs. Larman was in her 56th year. Her husband and two grown children survive her.

Hon. Ed. Scull arrived home Saturday evening and since that time has been confined to his home with a severe cold and neuralgia contracted during the inclement weather attending the inauguration festivities.

The Greensburg *Press* says: Jacob Perch, tax collector of Mt. Pleasant township, was seized with a violent fit of sneezing on Tuesday, which resulted in the breaking of several ribs, from which he is suffering greatly. This is the most violent sneezing on record.

It is common for children to get beans, grains of corn, and other foreign substances up their noses. This simply remedy is worth remembering: Get the child to open its mouth, apply your mouth over it, and blow hard. The offending substance will be expelled.

During the two weeks of court just closed sixty-five deeds were left with Register and Recorder Swank to be recorded. Mr. Swank and his deputy have been keeping their noses pretty close to the deed dockets for the past few days and by the middle of the week will have all deeds left at their office on record.

The young boy Hoover, who was sentenced to the Huntingdon Reformatory at last week's court, was brought back to Somerset by Sheriff McMillen Tuesday morning. The Huntingdon authorities declined to receive him on the grounds that a culprit under the age of fifteen could not be sentenced to that institution.

Five masked robbers entered the residence of Calvin Core, a substantial farmer living in Franklin township, Fayette county, Monday night about 10 o'clock and after binding him hand and foot proceeded to ransack the house. They found about $300 and made their escape. There is no clue to lead to their capture.

The attention of our readers is directed to the change of Foster and Quinn's advertisement in this week's issue. A large number of Somerset county people do their shopping in Johnstown and they can rest assured there is no better place to buy a dollar's worth for a dollar in that busy town than at Foster & Quinn's!

Mrs. Alexander Hanna, of Apollo, celebrated the anniversay of her birthday and wedding day, which both fell on Saturday, by visiting Mrs. John Townsend, near Townsend station, Westmoreland. As she stood on a track waiting for the train to take her home on Saturday, the Eastern Express came up and struck her, throwing her from the track and killing her. She was thus killed on the anniversary of her birth and marriage.

We learn that the insurance companies have finally agreed to pay Mr. W. J. Higinbotham the sum of $10,700 for the loss of his hotel property, the "Glade House," which was consumed by fire in May last. Mr. Higinbotham had six policies in as many different companies, representing a risk of $17,000, at the time of the fire, but the insurance covered the stable, outbuildings and more or less personal property. The total loss as footed up by the adjusters sent here by the companies a few days subsequent to the fire was $12,000, and after a dispute lingering from the time of their visit until last week a compromise was finally agreed to with the amount as stated above.

The Chambersburg *Spirit* says: The body of the great-grandfather of Gen. Benjamin Harrison rests in the quiet graveyard of the town of Ligonier, in Westmoreland county. The President's grandfather, Major James Ramsey, was a native of Glasgow, Scotland, who located where Mercersburg now is while Pennsylvania was yet a colony. He built a mill, for some years carried on quite an extensive business, manufacturing flour and keeping a country store. But being overtaken by financial reverses, he removed west of the mountains to Ligonier, a town laid out by his son, Col. John Ramsey, afterward a prominent citizen of Pittsburgh. His daughter Sarah married Rev. William Speer pastor of a church at Chambersburg, in 1794. She accompanied him to Chillicothe, Ohio, then back to Greensburg, where she was killed by a stroke of lightning in 1804.

The horrible murder of old Mr. Umberger is still agitating the public, and this puts us in mind that Justices of the Peace should be well supplied with Warrants and Commitments, in these wicked times, you can always get them at Fisher's Book Store, as well as Deeds, Leases, Summons, Subpoenas and other Legal Blanks. And as the 1st, of April and Spring sales are close at hand you'll also want Judgment Notes and Receipts. And newly elected Justices and Constables will want Binn's Justice and a Constable's Guide; and Township Supervisors will do well to supply themselves with a Supervisor's Guide. And Country Merchants will want Blank Books, Legal Cap, Fools Cap, Letter Paper and Envelopes, and the place to get all these things is at Fisher's Wholesale and Retail Book Store.

Never since the establishment of this journal were copies of it in so great demand as last week. The regular edition was exhausted shortly after it came from the press, and our town subscribers invaded the editorial sanctum by the score and growled because the cupidity of the carrier boy overcame his scruples, and he sold the papers intended for them to the eager purchasers among the large crowd of people on the streets who were in attendance at court. They were only pacified by receiving the first copies of the large extra edition which was shortly "run off" and speedily disposed of. The extra edition was entirely closed out by Friday morning, and orders received by mail every day since, some of them for as high as twenty-five copies, could not be filled. The "run" was something unprecedented in the history of Somerset county journalism. It was a big "scoop," and was appreciated far beyond our expectations. We have added more new names to our mailing list this week than during any week of our past experience, and the HERALD is fifty-two years of age. We have booked a large number of orders for this week's paper, but we are prepared to supply all demands. Copies can be had at C. H. Fisher's Book Store, or at this office, at five cents each.

The County Commissioners have already commenced to carry into effect the recommendation of the several grand juries in regard to improvements to the Court House and jail. Workmen have been engaged for several days in repairing the court room and we understand will continue steadily at work until all the contemplated improvements to that building have been finished. The sum recommended to be expended for these improvements is entirely insufficient, since the only place to begin improvements on the jail is at the foundation. The Somerset county prison is a disgrace to any civilized community—all who have visited it in recent years will bear us out in this assertion—and it is almost inhuman to confine men and women behind its bars, who may have violated the laws, but who still have souls and hope for the future. If the intelligent and humane gentlemen who cry out against a new jail every time the project is mentioned in their presence, would take occasion to poke their noses inside of the foul-smelling corridor of our county prison we venture to predict that they would change their minds quicker than the most agile ram can shake his tail. The only improvement necessary is to build an entire new prison. We do not advocate the destruction of the present jail building, but a new prison is necessary in the name of humanity and it can't come too soon.

The Umberger Tragedy!

Further Particulars of the Double Crime.

THE "LITTLE MAN" AND THE "RED FACED MAN" STILL IN JAIL.

Believed to be the Guilty Parties Although They Claim They can Prove an Alibi.

INTERVIEWS WITH THE ACCUSED.

A Change of Venue Talked Of.—Writs of Habeas Corpus Issued.

The first principle of all law presumes every man charged with a crime to be innocent until his guilt has been established. While the chain of circumstantial evidence, as given in our last issue, was sufficiently strong to warrant the Justice in directing that Joseph and David Nicely, the men charged with the foul murder of Herman Umberger, be surrendered to the Sheriff of the county, and while it is believed that the Court will remand them back to prison, after hearing such evidence as the Commonwealth will produce at the *habeas corpus* hearing set for the 28th inst., still it is unwise to jump at the conclusion that the men charged with this horrible crime are the guilty parties. The love of fair play always predominates among free people, and trial by jury is their safeguard. Many innocent men have been the victims of unfortunate circumstances, and only after sore trial and tribulation have they succeeded in establishing their innocence. As said before, the criminating circumstances place the Nicely brothers in a very ugly position, and it behooves them to produce evidence proving their whereabouts on the fatal night of February 28th. Bad character is given no little weight in crimes of lesser grades, but in an offense of such a grave character as this, the proof must be conclusive.

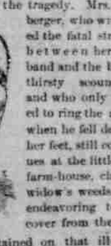
The Murdered Man

Herman Umberger.

Herman Umberger, the unfortunate victim of the Jenner tragedy, was well known throughout the county, and was intimately acquainted with many of the older people. He was fully six feet tall and of powerful physique, and many stories are told of his exhibitions of endurance and strength. During his early manhood he engaged in the droving business and success followed him in all his ventures, so that for a number of years he has been looked upon as the richest man in Jenner township, and one of the wealthiest in the county. For several years prior to his death he was almost incapacitated from labor, and the broad acres of his large farm were permitted to remain practically untilled. He was seldom seen away from his home. He had an entire lack of confidence in banking institutions and seemed to retain the skeptical ideas of such establishments that prevailed previous to the war, and for that reason generally carried large sums of money about his person. It is told of him that on different occasions when about to pay his taxes he would draw a wallet from his pocket in which were from six to eight thousand dollars in government notes. With the proverbial hospitality of Somerset county people, every person who visited his home was welcome to the best the larder contained. He never sought to invest his means in judgments and notes among his neighbors and only bought such as were secure beyond the shadow of a doubt and bore good interest. People generally regarded him as close, but many can testify that he was ever ready to do a good turn for a friend when asked. Mr. Umberger was married for the third time to Mrs. Nancy Horner—her maiden name having been Hoffman, of which family there is a large connection throughout the county.

THE UMBERGER FAMILY.

The villainous murder of farmer Umberger continues to be the sole subject of conversation wherever men do congregate throughout Somerset county. True, the excitement that followed the first announcement of the perpetration of the fiendish crime has somewhat abated, but public interest is still keen for every new particular in connection with the tragedy. Mrs. Umberger, who witnessed the fatal struggle between her husband and the bloodthirsty scoundrels, and who only turned to ring the alarm when he fell dead at her feet, still continues at the little old farm-house, clad in widow's weeds, and endeavoring to recover from the fearful shock she sustained on that ill-fated night. The strain on the poor woman is almost unbearable, as everywhere she turns she can see the awful scene re-enacted before her age-dimmed eyes. Her little granddaughter, Nannie Horner, who was present when the robbers entered the farm-house, and only retreated after three or four shots had been aimed at the defenseless old man, to alarm the neighbors is still at the home of her grandmother where she will remain until her presence is required in court.



The most damaging witness against the Nicely brothers is Miss Ella Stearn, the handsome, bright young miss who positively identified both of them as the men who entered the farmhouse and shot Mr. Umberger down in his tracks. Not only this, but she was able to pick them out from a crowd by the sound of their voices which she recognized on first hearing. The impression made on Miss Stearn's young mind by the bloody scene she witnessed will linger in her memory for all time to come.

CONSTABLE J. O. RAUCH.

Circumstances invariably produce the man for the occasion, and many a brilliant detective may yet envy the work done by Constable J. O. Rauch, who succeeded in capturing the Nicely brothers, now in the county jail, and around whom he has woven a strong chain of circumstantial evidence. Whether future developments show that Constable Rauch has captured the guilty parties or not, too great praise cannot be awarded him for the masterly manner in which he entrapped the men who are so strongly suspected. It is conceded on all sides that the wide-awake Constable knows a great deal more than he is willing to divulge before he appears in a court of justice. But when he gives in his testimony it can be relied upon that he will unravel as much of the truth in relation to the horrible crime as can be learned between now and the May term of court. John Rauch is a broad-shouldered, athletic young man of some thirty summers, an independent Democrat, and a trustworthy and enterprising arm of the law.

THE "LITTLE MAN"

JOSEPH NICELY.

In the language of an aged and highly respectable counselor at the Somerset county bar "it is hard to understand how such a respectable man can have such ornery sons." Joseph Nicely's first acquaintance in Somerset, was when he came here with several slick fingered companions, some half-dozen years or more ago, to play the seductive game of "draw poker." It is related that on this occasion, Joseph dropped twelve hundred dollars, which were gobbled up by a Somerset "sport." The story goes that Joseph and his "pals" lost at that "sitting" everything they had in their clothes, and that the lucky winner, out of compassion, gave them each twenty dollars, and admonished them never to visit Somerset again.

"Joe" Nicely, as he is called, stoutly maintains that this is the first scrape he was ever in. We will refresh his memory by recalling a little incident that occurred at Youngstown Ohio, in 1882, in which he was a principal actor. A certain Mrs. Brown was keeping a boarding house in that town of furnaces and mills at the time, and desiring to keep a public house in modern style, sold more or less whiskey on the sly. Joe Nicely happening into Youngstown, dropped onto the manner in which Mrs. Brown was conducting her house, and sizing up the situation, presented himself to the landlady, in the guise of a U. S. detective, and agreed to shield the fair offender from the stern hand of "Uncle Sam" for the sum of three hundred dollars. The "hush money" was reluctantly paid, and in the course of a few days Mrs. Brown learned that the would-be-detective was an impostor, and secured his arrest for black-mail. Joe Nicely was arrested and placed in the county jail, at Youngstown, where his father and sister found him, and secured his release—compromising the case.

Shortly after this little venture Joe Nicely returned to Ligonier where he opened up a butcher shop, and continued in that business for several months. According to his own story, he has not resided at any one place, for any length of time, but has been traveling west and east, continually for the past half dozen years, working at most everything that offered. His reputation in and about Ligonier, where he is probably best known, is not such as an honest man might envy. When Constable Rauch placed him under arrest he denied all knowledge of the Jenner tragedy—saying that he had never heard of it before—although he is known to have talked the murder and robbery over at a sale the Saturday previous, and to have let drop in conversation in relation to the Umberger tragedy, "they will talk about it for a few days like they do about the robberies over here; then it will be dropped." Joe is a very smooth talker, and if he goes on the witness stand in his own defense, the attorneys will find it hard work to pin him down to facts.

THE "RED-FACED MAN"

DAVID NICELY.

David Nicely as we saw him a few hours before going to press seated at an old wooden table and playing a friendly game of euchre with a sun-burnt son of Africa for his partner, looked a trifle more cheerful than he appeared on our last visit—possibly he held both bowers and the ace.—"Dave" was arrested some two years ago charged with robbing the home of an old farmer named Hanger, near Stahlstown, Westmoreland county. At a hearing before a justice he was discharged for want of sufficient evidence.

A large number of robberies have taken place in the Ligonier valley during the past three or four years and the names of the Nicely boys now under arrest have been connected with several of them.

From persons who have visited this office since the Umberger murder, and from letters received from Ligonier it is learned that almost the entire population of the Ligonier valley have stood in terror of these two men, and the greatest satisfaction is expressed that they have been compelled to leave that community, and many express the hope that they may never return.

It seems absurd that neither of the Nicelys should have never met Collins Hamilton until they were introduced in the Somerset jail. Hamilton is a self confessed criminal, and during all his life has been a resident of the same neighborhood as the Niceleys, excepting when he was serving time in prison. Their homes cannot be more than five miles apart. All visited the little town of Ligonier every few days. All were regarded with suspicion by the denizens of the valley and mountain side, and yet they never met until all were fellow prisoners in the Somerset county jail. They are becoming better acquainted now, in fact familiar. When our reporter paid them a Sunday call and was engaged in making a note of something that refused to find a lodging place in his noddle. Hamilton remarked with a sly wink "Hello, Joe! Is that fellow writing your will?" The general deportment and conversation of the three prisoners impressed the writer with the belief that the introduction by the Sheriff was simply a matter of form, notwith-standing they may be "strangers yet."

THE "SUSPECT"

COLLINS HAMILTON.

"Coll" Hamilton still continues to "do time" in the county jail where he was lodged some two weeks since, suspected of being connected with the Umberger murder and robbery, and many who know him still think that if he was not an active participant he at least knows who did the job. He is a jolly, reckless, devil-may-care dog, possessed of the "gift of gab" to a remarkable degree; rather fond of recounting his numerous "crooked" exploits, yet, withall, somewhat of a philosopher.

To the remark of a HERALD reporter that it was pretty hard on a man against whom there was no evidence to be confined in that wretched jail for the length of time he had been, he replied with a laugh. "Yes, its pretty tough, simply because a man has a bad character to be hounded by everybody and arrested and imprisoned every time a crime is committed in his neighborhood. This kind of thing is calculated to harden one. It don't give him much of a chance to reform. There was not the slighest ground for arresting me this time. I first heard of the murder in Ligonier, but because of my character they had to arrest me and drag me to jail, but, it all goes in a life time and a fellow might as well make the best of it as long as they don't get a rope around his neck. I really believe the crowd would have

LYNCHED ME

at the time of the hearing if Squire Rauch hadn't committed me to jail. You know how excited country people get over an affair of this kind and how they always pounce down on the first fellow arrested and pronounce him guilty whether there is any evidence against him or not. Sheriff McMillen is a gentleman, and so is his deputy and they treat their prisoners like men and not like animals as so many prison-keepers do.

I expect to get out of here Tuesday. My attorney has taken out a writ to have me brought before court and I know the judge will discharge me when he finds there is nothing against me.

THE CAVE IN THE MOUNTAINS.

"How about the cave in the mountain?" asked the reporter, as Hamilton took two or three turns up and down the jail corridor with a step and manner that showed plainly that he "done time" before. With a merry laugh the crook replied, "Oh that was so long ago you had better let it rest. No use in raking up that old story." After being assured that the reporter knew all about it he said: "Well we had things fixed up in pretty good shape. The cave you know was on the right hand side of the mountain as you go to Ligonier. It was a pretty comfortable place and we used to stow our booty there. We went through a Brethren church in the valley and got the lamps and chandeliers and from a Presbyterian church, I think, we got the carpet, chairs etc., with which we fitted up the cave. Shortly after the burglary of Silas Cover's store the thing was broken up. "Fish" Tantlinger, Harvey Epley, another fellow who was never arrested, and I won't give him away, and myself did the Cover job. A few days afterwards I was in the cave when I heard some parties coming up the side of the mountain. I seized a six-shooter and got out behind a boulder and in a few minutes I see Epley and three officers come and go into the cave. I skipped out and they took everything out of the cave: a few days afterwards I was arrested. Tantlinger and Epley and myself were tried and convicted of the Cover burglary. Tantlinger was sentenced to the "pen" for two years and a half and Epley and I were sent to the house of refuge. This was in '76. At one time Tantlinger robbed the cave and peddled the things out over the country.

THE HABEAS CORPUS.

John R. Scott Esq., attorney for Hamilton, last week presented a petition to Judge Baer for a writ of Habeas Corpus. The judge awarded the writ and it was made returnable before him at the law library, in the court house, at 10 o'clock March 15th. Mr. Scott confidently expects to have his client discharged at Friday's hearing.

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PRISONERS.

Our reporter visited the county jail during the early part of the week and after being admitted to the prison corridor by Deputy McMillen, he at once engaged the Niceley brothers in conversation. The tall man—David—continues to be reticent and was willing to talk with the reporter only after he had consulted with his brother and apparently gained his permission to open his lips. He would frequently pause in his conversation and whisper to the smaller brother and then say, "Igness I won't tell you about that." David Nicely is suffering from either a bad case of dyspepsia or an equally bad case of remorse. His countenance has a sad far away expression, while his eyes wander around with the restlessness of a wild animal, not fixed on the same object for two consecutive seconds.

The so called little man—Joseph Nicely—is of medium height, with a high, bald forehead, under which a pair of calm, grey eyes, look into yours with the confidence and candor of a child. His face is red, but it is only the ruddy complexion of health and not an unusual or distinguishing mark. He chatters away like a parrot in reply to anything that is said to him, and all the while he is talking a smile plays around the corners of the mouth in which a well oiled tongue is busily wagging. He never hesitates for a moment nor does he forget what he is talking about, neither does he allow any movement in the room to escape the calm eyes that seem to be rivited on the person to whom he is addressing himself. A merry, musical little laugh is emitted at the close of every few sentences he utters, while its owner shows no outward evidence of fear no matter how his heart may quail in secret contemplation of the horrible crime with which he is charged.

THE "LITTLE MAN" TALKS.

What evidence have they against you boys? was the first question our reporter put to Joseph Nicely. "I'll tell you," was the reply. "We are here because a fellow over in Westmoreland, thinks this is the way to get revenge. A few years ago I was in the butchering business, in Ligonier, another man came there and wanted to start an opposition shop. I rented the room he wanted to get for four months, and kept him away. I paid the rent and more for the four months and then went west. A judgment was secured against me, for the rent, for the rest of the year, but they couldn't make the money out of me, because my wife owns the property. Now, I don't want to say much but if I want revenge, I want it out of a mans hide, not by sending him to prison on a charge of this kind. Then there's another fellow over about Ligonier that I quarreled with a short time ago, and I offered him five dollars to stand up before me five minutes. This is the way he wants to take his revenge out of me. I'll give it to him when I get back there.

THE MAP OF THE MOUNTAIN.

"Now let me tell you about the map they are making so much out of. Constable Rauch found it in a pass book of mine. It has been two years in my possession. John Anderson, of Ligonier, has seen it often, and knows all about it, and what the marks on it mean. The map is on yellow paper, has different streams and timber, on the mountain, marked. At one place you will find marked on the map the word, 'silver,' at another 'lead, iron, pine,' etc. I know what those marks mean but I'm not telling; they'll be worth something to me some time.

"GREEN GOODS" CIRCULARS.

Now, about the green goods circular they found, I don't know how they got my address; it was sent from New York; it was printed, and offered, I think $1,000 of "C." money for $100 of good; I guess "C." money means counterfeit; I threw it in a pigeon hole, when I got it, and paid no more attention to it; I guess lots of people get such circulars.

On the evening this Umberger murder took place, I took supper away from home, with four other persons and returned home, between seven and eight o'clock; I won't tell who the persons are, but they will be here when the case comes up.

DIDN'T KNOW "COLL" HAMILTON.

"Heard of Hamilton's arrest for the Umberger murder, but thought nothing of it as I didn't know him. Rauch and father came to my house together; pap said this man has a warrant for you; I thought he was joking and said all right: I want to hear it read; was surprised wonderfully; went with Rauch without the least resistance; told pap to go with the men to search the house; none of the witnesses at the hearing identified me positively; they said I looked like the man; lots of people look like me; said my voice sounded like his: lots of people have voices like me; there was a man at the hearing who had a brown hat like mine with a hole in the crown; you can find lots of them through the country; the first couple of days after they brought me here I felt a little shaky; didn't know just what they could prove against me; I feel better now; I know that I will have no trouble in proving my innocence; my conscience don't lash me a bit; would like to see the guilty parties caught, for even if we do prove our innocence many people will still think there might be something in the charge against us. I never "did time" in any prison in my life, and was never arrested before this time; never saw or heard of Mr. Umberger, and have been in Jenner township a half-dozen or more times, and am well acquainted with a number of people there; I don't know that I have anything more to say, excepting that I want my hearing as soon as possible so that I can go back home and look after things there; the Judge will soon let me off when he hears the evidence they have against me; this is going to make an interesting trial, but when they get the right parties they will have a bigger time; this is going to be a great expense to us because it will make us spend our money for something we never done.

SLY CONSTABLE RAUCH.

"Rauch went to Laurelville only to throw people off the track; I know where he got his information, and it's all done for revenge. I have worked at most everything. Have three sisters living in the Ligonier Valley; two are married and their husbands are comfortably fixed. One brother lives over there and another lives out in Indiana. My mother is living and all of our people are in good circumstances; my people will look after our case, and have engaged lawyers for us; I think of getting a Greensburg lawyer, who has done business for us, to help. I thought a rich county like Somerset would have a better jail than this; it isn't fit to keep a beast in.

THE "RED FACED MAN" HAS HIS SAY.

In reply to a question whether he had ever before been imprisoned, David Nicely said: "I was arrested for the robbery of Isaac Hanger, a farmer living near Stahlstown, late last fall but was acquitted by the justice, as no evidence was shown against me. Several other parties were arrested at the same time, but they were discharged too. That was the only time I was ever arrested previous to this. My arrest was brought about that time by a letter dropped in the post office directed to Hanger's son. The letter wasn't signed by anybody but it charged me with the robbery. Not a word of other evidence was produced and I was acquitted by the justice without ever going to jail. When Constable Rauch arrested me I had no idea what it was for until he told me. I took it coolly, because I knew I had done nothing to be arrested for. Never knew Hamilton before I saw him here in jail, but had heard of his arrest for the Umberger murder. I live about four miles west of Ligonier and it must be about 14 to 16 miles from our place to where I am told Umberger lived. Now that would make a walk of about 32 miles for us that afternoon and night and I can prove that I was home that afternoon and night." Afterwards he said he didn't remember where he had been Wednesday afternoon but that he had been unloading hay at a brother's on either Tuesday or Wednesday. Continuing he said "I won't tell you what I am going to prove as I don't want to give the other side anything to go on. I will have my witnesses here when the case is for trial."

The miserable looking fellow would turn his restless eyes on his brother at short intervals and whisperingly ask "shall I tell that Joe?" To which Sir Joseph would invariably answer "better not say anything about that."

OVER IN JENNER.

The feverish excitement following the Umberger tragedy has died out to a great extent over in Jenner, but continues to furnish food for conversation wherever two or more persons are gathered together. The neighbors of the unfortunate victim are satisfied that the guilty parties have been arrested, and that a strong case can be made out against them at the proper time. There is considerable travel over the mountain between Jenner and Ligonier, and from what can be learned from those who have crossed from the other side, there is a general feeling of relief throughout the Ligonier valley that Joseph and David Nicely have been removed from their old haunts and are under the strong hand of the law. About everywhere one goes over there, he hears the hope expressed, that the Somerset county jail is strong enough to hold its prisoners.

Since the fatal evening of the Umberger murder and roobery, a great many incidents relating to the peculiarities and strange characteristics of Herman Umberger, have been revived and are being told and retold among the good people of Jenner. From all accounts he was not troubled with over confidence in his fellow men, and on one occasion, when his wife asked him why he didn't put his money out at interest, he remarked that there is only one man—naming him—that I would trust with my money, and he don't want it.

On the evening of June 24th last the spring house adjoining the Umberger residence was consumed by fire. A party was in progress at the time at the home of a neighbor—Adam Friedline—when the flames were discovered by some of the young people, who ran across the field to alarm the Umberger family. Mr. Umberger declined to come out from his house, and watched the spring house burning from a window. He afterwards said that he was satisfied the spring house had been fired for the purpose of enticing himself and family out of doors, when thieves would have plundered his home. Many people think Joseph Nicely could tell something about the fire if he wanted to, as it is reported that he was seen loitering about Jenner for several weeks prior to the fire.

Another story in circulation in regard to the murder, is that Ella Stearn received an anonymous letter several days ago, advising her to keep quiet or she would follow Umberger. It is known positively that Miss Stearn received a letter about the time named, but as to what it contained no one knows positively but the young lady herself. Miss Stearn disappeared from the Umberger residence shortly after the letter was received, and her whereabouts is a mystery to all but a few of her acquaintances, who know that she is visiting among friends, and will remain with them until she is wanted by the court.

It is generally believed throughout the neighborhood, that Mr. Umberger recognized at least one of his assailants, and for that reason was shot down like a dumb brute. It seems strange that two stalwart, brawny men should be unable to overpower a decrepit old man, who was bowed with the weight of years, unless there was some such reason for dyeing their hands with his blood.

Some of the neighbors continue to suspect that there must have been a confederate in the neighborhood who was acquainted with the people and the premises, and entertain hopes that he may yet be brought to justice.

WILL ASK FOR A CHANGE OF VENUE.

THE AGED FATHER OF THE ALLEGED CRIMINALS VISITS THEM IN PRISON—HE EMPLOYS EMINENT COUNSEL AND SAYS HE WILL STAND BY HIS BOYS—HE THINKS A CHANGE OF VENUE WILL BE ASKED FOR—COFFROTH & RUPPEL AND GEN. KOONTZ THE ATTORNEYS FOR THE DEFENDANTS.

Shortly before dusk Thursday evening two gentlemen, driving a pair of handsome bay horses in an easy-riding gig, pulled up at the Somerset House. After partaking of a hasty supper they asked to be directed to the county jail, to which place they were shown without delay. After leaving the jail they repaired to the well known law offices of Messrs. Coffroth & Ruppel, where they were shortly joined by General W. H. Koontz.

The two men were A. A. and George Nicely, the former the father, and the latter a cousin of the two men charged with the Umberger murder.

A HERALD reporter, who called Friday morning, found the two gentlemen sitting in the Somerset House office. In response to a question put to him by the reporter the elder gentleman replied that he was the father of Joseph and David Nicely. His age, he said, was sixty years, and that he lived on a farm in the Ligonier Valley, about three miles from Ligonier; his family consists of four sons and two daughters, and his mission to Somerset was to find out what kind of trouble the boys had gotten into and to employ lawyers to look after their interests; he had employed Messrs. Coffroth & Ruppel and Mr. Koontz, and would get a lawyer or two in Greensburg, where he was better known than here. When the old gentleman saw that the reporter was taking notes of what he was saying, he remarked that he did not wish to talk for the newspapers, and refused to be further interrogated.

In another conversation had with him he said: The constable and his deputies came to my house and inquired whether Joseph and David Nicely lived there; I replied that they did not, but I would show them where they lived; they both live on small farms adjoining mine: Joseph's house is about one-fourth of a mile distant from mine, across the fields, around by the road it is about three-fourths of a mile; David's house is distant about one mile from where I live; they started to go towards Joseph's house by the road—driving at a rapid gait—and, wandering what was wrong, I started across the fields; when I got to the house they had arrested Joseph; I asked what the meaning of this was and was told they had arrested him for the Umberger murder and robbery; I can't tell how I felt; I was almost paralyzed and could scarcely speak for several moments; at the request of the officers I assisted in searching the house; they found a pair of striped overalls; my God! there are thirty men in our neighborhood who wear striped overalls; I wear a pair of them myself when I am at work; the officers, after we had searched the house, told me they also had a warrant for David; I showed them where he lived and went with them to his house; we met him coming from the black-smith shop; I told him the men were officers and had a warrant for him and that he should go with them; they then started for Ligonier.

I claim the boys are innocent, and can prove they are, by witnesses not blood relations; as for myself, I am positive Joseph ate supper with me at my house, about candle-light, the evening of the murder, and can show that he was working at the saw mill the same day and didn't leave there till six o'clock or after; I live one mile from the saw mill; I know who is running this; he is an enemy of mine and is trying to get revenge on me.

WILL STAND BY HIS BOYS.

The boys are innocent and I am going to stand by them; I don't want to boast of my wealth, but I have as much money to spend on this as the man who is trying to throw suspicion on the boys has; we will ask for a change of venue and try and take the case to the other side of the mountains.

Mr. Nicely is a pleasant looking, quiet old gentleman, and talks in a low, pleasant tone of voice. He was neatly dressed in a well-fitting suit of dark blue clothes and black felt hat. His hair and beard are almost white and his general appearance is that of a prosperous and intelligent farmer. He is reputed to be quite wealthy and bears an unimpeachable character in the neighborhood where he lives. It scarcely seems possible that such a father could have sons capable of committing the horrible crimes laid at the door of his "boys."

WILL HAVE A HEARING.

Mr. George Nicely and a Doctor Miller, from Ligonier, drove over to Somerset Sunday evening, and were in consultation with the Nicely lawyers Monday morning. As a result of the conference a writ of *habeas corpus* was issued Monday afternoon, commanding Rush S. McMillen, High Sheriff, and keeper of the jail of Somerset County, to produce the bodies of Joseph and David Nicely, forthwith before his Honor, W. J. Baer, President Judge. Notice of the issuing of the writ was served upon District Attorney Biesecker and his associate counsel, F. J. Kooser, Esq., and Thursday, March 23th, was fixed for the day of hearing.

OTHER SOMERSET COUNTY MURDERS.

DIFFERENT MURDER CASES TRIED SINCE THE ERECTION OF THE COUNTY IN 1795—ONLY TWO HANGINGS.

Somerset county was taken from Bedford county by Act of Assembly of 6th April, 1795.

The year the new county was erected but before the Act of Assembly creating it had gone into effect, a murder was committed in the town of Berlin. A German Reformed preacher, Von Spangenberger by name, was brought before the church council on a charge of improper conduct in connection with