The Somerset Herald.

GEORGE R. SCULL, Editor.

WEDNESDAY ..... June 25, 1890.

LIST OF REPUBLICAN COUNTY COMMITTEEMEN.

The following named gentlemen compose the Republican County Committee for the ensuing year:

Addison—Charles Ridenbaugh.
Allegheny No. 1—S. G. Boner.
" 2—Wm. E. Boyts.
Black—G. L. Miller.
Berlin Borough—W. S. Matthews.
Brothersvalley—S. S. Forney.
Conemaugh—A. F. Swank.
Confluence Borough—V. M. Black.
Elklick No. 1—Lloyd Beachy.
" 2—Christian Folk.
Greenville—Joel M. Yutzy.
Jefferson—Fred Shaulis.
Jenner—John Bisecker.
Somerstown Borough—D. L. Wiand.
Larimer—Peter Shoemaker.
Lower Turkeyfoot—W. J. Eash.
Meyersdale Borough—E. M. Lichty.
Middlecreek—Jesse Whipkey.
Milford—E. H. Dull.
Northampton—S. P. Poorbaugh.
New Centreville Borough—Peter Pile.
New Baltimore Borough—Jos. Hankinson.
Ogle—E. J. Sease.
Paint—J. E. Faust.
Quemahoning—John Hamer.
Rockwood Borough—M. H. Hartzell.
Salisbury Borough—S. S. Koontz.
Shade—M. D. Reel.
Somerset Borough—Dr. J. E. Bisecker.
Somerset No. 1—S. U. Shober.
" 2—J. J. Pile.
Southampton—J. B. Baker.
Stonycreek—Wm. H. Miller.
Stoystown Borough—Aaron Shafer.
Summit—M. R. Walker.
Upper Turkeyfoot—F. Yomkin.
Ursina Borough—E. D. Yutzy.
Wellersburg Borough—G. L. Long.

Gen. R. SCULL, CHAS. C SHAFER,
Secretary. Chairman.

Pillsbury's Flour at Keller's.

Tonglet's is headquarters for groceries.

Perfume cases at Bisecker & Snyder's.

All kinds of trusses at Bisecker & Snyder's.

Eye glasses and spectacles at Bisecker & Snyder's.

Alabastine in all colors at Bisecker & Snyders.

Pillsbury's Best XXXX Flour for sale at Josiah Keller's.

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

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

Try a sack of Pillsbury's Flour and you will never use any other brand.

Why pay ten cents for Wall Paper, when you can buy it at Heffley's for 5 cents.

The oldest millinery house in Somerset County. M. M. TANEWELL & Co.

A new lot of clothing at J. B. Snyder's, some job lots cheap. Call and get a bargain.

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

When you go to town next week, don't forget to call and see J. B. Holderbaum's new store-room.

The only place in Somerset where you can buy flour made at the celebrated Pillsbury mills is at Keller's grocery.

Headquarters for hats, clothing and carpets at

J. B. SNYDER'S.

There never has been as fine line of clothing in Somerset, all new as you will find a

J. B. SNYDER'S.

Ice-cold soda water at Bisecker & Snyder's Drug Store. The only place in town where you can get this delicious and cooling drink

You want a new suit of clothes when you come to court. Call at J. B. Snyder's, he has a bargain for you that will pay the expenses of the week.

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.

HOLDERBAUM BROS. & PARSON.

Mr. Chas. H. Fisher has bought of the publishers of the HERALD all back numbers from March 12th to present date, and can supply copies of all and any date at 5 cts per copy. Mail orders promptly filled. Send postage stamps to Fisher's Book Store for HERALD back numbers.

Five Brothers.

Fred, John, Ben, Ruby, and Nick, now on trial at the store of

Ed. B. COFFROTH.

Down to Bed Rock.

Drop in and see how cheap you can buy a Hanging Lamp. Lamps of all kinds. Globes of all description,—very cheap. Glass Ware at a sacrifice, at the store of

E. B. COFFROTH,
Somerset, Pa.

Wanted!

Hides and Furs. I will pay the highest cash price for all kinds of hides, pelts and furs. I also want 500 cords of Rock Oak and Spruce Bark. 100 cords wanted at once. Call on me at my residence, immediately west of the S. & C. Station.

H. G. CUNNINGHAM.

How Can They Beat Us?

They can't do it! Not so long as we keep the freshest, choicest and cheapest groceries in Somerset. We don't want 50 per cent. on every sale, but are willing to share profit with our patrons. That's the why and wherefore of our success, and the reason our store is always crowded with customers.

C. B. VOUGHT.

A Card.

To the Republican Voters of the County of Somerset:

The recent floods which produced the awful calamity at Johnstown, Pa., swept away the entire property of my son, John A. Zimmerman, at that city, and I have been compelled to be at Johnstown aiding and assisting him in re-establishing his home. I have thus been prevented from making as thorough a canvass of the county as I otherwise would have done. Many persons have not been seen, and at this late day possibly will not be seen. To such I can only say I am sorry for the facts above set forth, but my excuse is in the horrible catastrophe that has been heralded around the entire world. Asking your indulgence in view of the facts, I am, respectfully,

JOHN H. ZIMMERMAN.

SOMERSET, PA., June 19, 1890.

The June Century has a phototype in green tint for frontispiece, representing a water beauty of the eighteenth century, entitled "Dagrin d'Amour," from the painting by Jacquet. Henry Havard's instructive article on "Transformations of the Tuileries," with numerous illustrations of handsome studies, is concluded. "The Technical Art of Japan" is an interesting survey of a subject of growing importance here. An article on American silverware by E. Narrdo is in the style of Mr. R. Riordan, of whose name we notice Narrdo is an anagram. Eugene van Jagow, one of the most entertaining of Paris literateurs, contributes lively gossip concerning Paris Theaters and the Hotel de Ville. The contents of this number are on a very high plane indeed. *Bailey, Banks & Biddle*, Twelfth and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia. 50 cents a year. The Century is the best and cheapest magazine of its kind published.

For Sale or Trade.

A country store, in a good location, and doing a good business. Satisfactory reasons given for selling. Address

SAMUEL RHODES,
Gibbons Glade, Fayette County, Pa.

Mrs. A. J. Hileman is visiting friends in Confluence.

Miss Kate Jenner, of Listonburg, is spending the week with Somerset friends.

No matter how the spring election goes, everything has gone wet hereabouts this spring.

Mr. Clark H. Bonford, the druggist, died at his home on Turkeyfoot street, at an early hour Saturday evening.

Bank members of the Dance Hall can have been eagerly sought after. Only a few copies remain at Fisher's Book Store.

The season has opened at the Bedford Springs by the arrival of several guests. More are expected the latter part of this week.

Quite a number of Johnstown people spent Sunday in town. A breath of mountain air and a well-cooked meal was relished by all of them.

Mr. Abner McKinley, wife and daughter, arrived in town Friday, from New York. They will spend the summer at the residence of Mrs. McKinley's father, Dr. A. J. Endsley.

Mrs. Henry F. Schell, who had been at Dr. Pierce's sanitarium, Buffalo, N. Y., for several weeks, was brought to her home in Somerset during the week. She is still in a very critical condition.

"Uncle John" Robinson's clown varnasically remarked that "if he owned five hundred circuses, he would bring one to Somerset every day." It would seem that Somerset county people have recovered from the circus fever.

It will be gratifying to the friends of Col. Thomas J. Grimeson to learn that he has been appointed as special agent in the Internal Revenue Department. The Col. held this position for some years and resigned it shortly after Cleveland's inauguration.

Some of the ladies of town are anxious to know if certain places of business have the exclusive right to the pavement in front of their places, so that men and boys may obstruct the pavement by sitting on chairs belonging to these establishments to the annoyance of all passers-by. Referred to the police.

The General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church met at Allegheny City in Trinity Lutheran Church, Rev. J. G. Gottman, D. D., Pastor, on June 12th, and will continue in session for about two weeks. The delegates from this county are Rev. M. L. Young, of Meyersdale, Rev. Graber, of Berlin, Mr. Philson, of Meyersdale, and H. H. Flick, of Lavansville. Quite a number of visitors have gone from this county.

With the conviction of the Nicely boys for murder and the McClellandtown gang for robbery, violators of the law, who have been terrorizing Somerset county for some months, will begin to seek less dangerous localities in which to operate. The officials and detectives of Somerset county who have so speedily brought these criminals to justice are worthy of the fullest praise and emulation.—*Bedford Inquirer.*

We are in receipt of an invitation to be present at the annual reunion of the graduates and teachers of the Uniontown Soldiers' Orphan School, which will be held at Jonesville on Tuesday and Wednesday, July 22d and 24th, 1890. The reception of visitors will take place Tuesday evening. The reunion exercises will be held Wednesday, at 11 o'clock a. m., and the social reunion on Wednesday evening.

Elsewhere in these columns will be found a series of amendments to the rules governing the holding of Republican primary elections in this county, which were passed upon by the county committee at their meeting last June, and which will be submitted to the Republican voters of the county for adoption or rejection, at their primary, Saturday. The proposed changes are necessary ones and we hope to see them accepted.

These two items from the Bedford Gazette: Every cloud has a silver lining. Somerset county has been sorely afflicted with burglars and murders, but she has shown to the world that she visits swift punishment upon her criminals.

If Bedford county lawyers can't convict criminals in our own courts they can go over to Somerset county and meet with better success. Perhaps it would be a good idea to turn loose a Somerset lawyer on a Bedford jury.

The County Commissioners have concluded to act upon the recommendation of the several grand juries, and erect a new county prison. It is not their intention, we are informed, to tear away the present odoriferous jail building, but to build a prison addition to the residence portion of it. Several contractors have been in town during the past three days to submit plans of prison structures, but none has yet been adopted. The Commissioners, accompanied by Judge Baer, will visit Indiana, Pa., next week, for the purpose of inspecting the county jail at that place, which is said to be one of the safest and best planned prisons in the State. It is to be hoped that this matter will not be permitted to lie dormant any longer, but that steps will be taken for its immediate erection.

The three distillers, Jesse Bamphman, Simon P. Sweitzer and Abraham Shultz, who were convicted at February sessions of selling liquor without license and were sentenced Monday of last week by Judge Baer, to pay a fine of $300.00 each, the costs of prosecution and to undergo imprisonment in the County jail for a period of ninety days were taken into custody by Sheriff McMillen Monday evening and on Wednesday evening were released from prison on an order of Judge Clark of the Supreme Court

Should Judge Baer's rulings be sustained by the Supreme Court the defendants will have to comply with the sentence imposed. Should he be overruled a new trial will be given the defendants. The present order simply suspends sentence until the Court above has passed upon the questions raised by counsel for the defendants.

Capt. H. H. Kuhn, of Johnstown, spent Sunday with his wife who has been in Somerset for the past week. The Captain was in the "Club House" during the flood. The water came into the suite of rooms occupied by himself and wife on the third floor of that building. He says that the one fact that impressed him more than all others during the dreary hours of that terrible night was the heroism of the women. There were a dozen ladies in the building with the Captain, which was in the very centre of the section where the greatest loss of life and property occurred. From the left of the "Club House" they saw hundreds of men and women swept by and were unable to offer the slightest assistance in response to their piteous appeals for help. When the dense darkness of the night set in they could not distinguish objects before their eyes. The roar of the building in which they were sheltered had been cured in and all were momentarily expecting the entire structure to be carried away by the waters. Additional terror was furnished by the great mass of debris piled two stories high in the street when the water subsided and the debris began to settle. A number of dead bodies were carried from the wreckage into the house and several injured were brought in to die during the night. The air filled with the agonizing shrieks of the miserable people who had been carried with the wreckage at the railroad bridge below, and were there held prisoners until the cruel flames, raging at that point, consumed their bodies. "Through all these harrowing scenes" said the Captain, "not one of these brave women uttered a cry or exhibited the slightest evidence of fear. Their heroism was never surpassed on battle field."

The Captain counted up 32 of his acquaintances who had been lost within a stone's throw of his hotel.

THE NICELY "BOYS"

WANT A NEW TRIAL.

THEIR COUNSEL FILE ADDITIONAL REASONS IN SUPPORT OF THEIR MOTION.

The Prisoners Guarded by a Special Watchman.

The Father of the Doomed Men Pays them a Visit.

THE DAY FOR THE ARGUMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN FIXED.

IF THE MOTION IS REFUSED AN APPEAL WILL BE TAKEN TO THE SUPREME COURT.

In our last issue we stated that a motion for a new trial had been made in the case of the Commonwealth vs. Joseph Nicely and David Nicely, convicted of the murder of Herman Umberger, and published the seven reasons filed by the defendants' counsel in support of their motion. Monday evening the following additional reasons were filed by counsel.

Commonwealth vs. Joseph Nicely and David Nicely.	In the Court of Oyer and Terminer of Somerset County No. 2, May T. 1890.

And now 17 day of June, A. D. 1890 the counsel for the defendants file the following additional reasons for a new trial—seven reasons having been assigned in the motion for new trial, filed 8 June 1890:

8. The jury were spoken to as they passed along the street going from the Court House to their boarding house. One person remarked in their hearing: "There goes the jury in the Nicely case; I wish I could give them some poisoners, which would soon settle the case."

9. The jury were coerced into rendering their verdict by public sentiment, which was adverse to the defendants. During the discussion in the jury room, one of the jurors remarked, "that if they found a verdict of not guilty, they would be mobbed." That "there was no use to consider the evidence of the defendants' witnesses, for they would not believe them anyhow."

10. The Court erred in charging the jury a second time, and sending them back to their room, as the verdict had been returned by the jury and taken by the clerk, who said: "Gentlemen of the jury, hearken to your verdict as the court records it," and then repeated to the jury their finding, which was as follows: "We find the defendants, Joseph Nicely and David Nicely guilty in the manner and form as they stand inflicted."

This verdict was received by the Court and there was error therein, in that it did not find the degree of murder, whether of the first or second degree.

11. After the jury was sent back to their room to fix the degree of murder, they did not stop to deliberate upon the question as to whether they would return a verdict of guilty in the first or second degree, but one of their number lastly wrote the finding of "guilty of murder in the first degree" on a piece of paper and then called to the jurors to come on, when they at once proceeded to return their second verdict.

12. The Court should grant a new trial because the counsel for the Commonwealth, in discussing the case, used language which was not warranted by the evidence, and which improperly influenced the jury. Some of said expressions are as follows:

1. "Where is Barron? Why is he not here? He is the only witness that has not been corrupted," meaning that the witnesses for the defendants had been guilty of perjury, although their credibility had not been assailed.

2. "This verdict will go very far to show whether every merchant, mechanic, and farmer in the county are to be safe from masked villains."

3. "It would have been much more convincing if they had brought the community in which they live to show their good character."

4. "We have enough evidence to hang a hundred men."

5. "Joe did all the shooting."

6. "We have Benjamin Deeds, who says John Koontz told him "that he has'nt seen Joseph Nicely on Wednesday.

The Court in answer to this said: "This was an error: there is no such testimony."

The Court should have added that Deeds testified that "Koontz told me he had seen Joe come up at 2 o'clock through the bottom on Wednesday."

7. All the other comments of counsel to which exceptions were taken, and although in some respects corrected by the Court, they could not but influence the jury improperly against the defendants.

A.

Specifications of errors in the ruling of the Court under Reason No. 3.

1. In the ruling on offer No. 6, refusing to permit the pocket-book to be submitted to Mrs. Ella Menoher, who was called as a witness for the Common wealth.

2. In refusing to permit the defendants to have Wm. Thomas and Watson Menoher, two of the Commonwealth's witnesses called for further cross-examination and to have the pocketbook exhibited to them, for identification, they having been called by the Commonwealth, to trace the pocket book from David Nicely into the possession of Ella Menoher.

3. In the ruling on offer No. 12 in which the Commonwealth was permitted to prove (a rebuttal, by Rauch and Critchfield that they had gone upon the ground pointed out by the Vanvers, and from that point they could see persons on the pike, &c.

This was part of the Commonwealth's case in chief.

4. In the ruling on offer No. 13, Rauch was asked on cross-examination if he had not taken $65 from Joseph Nicely's pass book. Joseph Nicely in contradiction swore that he had. Rauch could not be recalled to testify in chief to the same matter.

5. In admitting the pocket book in evidence. The Commonwealth did not trace the pocket book through the witnesses in whose hands it was placed.

6. In admitting the draft offered by the Commonwealth, which contained marks that were not proven.

B.

Specifications of errors in the charge of the Court under Reason No. 7.

1. In refusing the 5th point of the defendants counsel, which said point is as follows:

"That the evidence of Ella Stearn, Nancy Umberger and Nannie Horner, as to the identity of the defendants is not of such a character as would enable the jury to say that the guilt of the defendants is established beyond a reasonable doubt."

2. In not affirming the 8th point of the defendant's counsel, which said point is as follows:

"That as the theory of the Commonwealth is, that the defendants were seen going together east up the mountain in the afternoon of Wednesday, the 27th February, 1889, the testimony of all the witnesses showing that the defendants were at their homes, so far distant from the scene of the alleged murder, that they could not have committed the crime, enures to the benefit of both of the defendants in the case."

3. In refusing the 12th point of the defendant's counsel, which said point is as follows:

"If from all the evidence the jury have a reasonable doubt as to guilt of either of the defendants, then under the evidence in the case, that doubt must enure to the benefit of both the defendants."

4. In refusing the 14th point of the defendants counsel, which said point is as follows:

"If the jury believe that David Nicely could not by reason of physical disability have made the journey necessary to commit the crime within the time and at the rate of speed testified to by the Commonwealth's witnesses, or if the evidence creates a reasonable doubt in the minds of the jury, as to his connection with the crime, then as the theory of the Commonwealth is, that the defendants were both present and jointly committed the crime, the verdict must be not guilty as to both of the defendants.

5. In charging the jury after they had returned a verdict, in which the following language was used:

"We charged you, that if the jury found that the crime of murder was committed, they then must by their verdict say whether it be guilty of murder in the first degree or murder in the second degree."

6. The Court erred in charging the jury that "Hannah Caulfiel, Rufus Rauch, Rufus Shaffer and Albert Hoffman testify to tracks to and from the Underground selling, extending with some interruptions, over Laurel Hill, and down it, along the pike to or below Burnt Cabins, in the direction of Ligonier; one of the tracks having been made by a gum boot and another by a leather boot or shoe."

7. The Court erred in charging the jury that "You have also the testimony of Thomas, Metscher, Mrs. Metscher and Mrs. Nicely as to the same pocket-book being given to Rauch that had been given by Nicely to Thomas; and the testimony of Adam Friedline, Reuben Horner, William Kline, the widow, Noah Horner and Perry Umberger, that the pocket-book in evidence was that of the deceased. And the defense do not question whether the pocket-book in evidence was Umberger's, but they deny that it is the same pocket-book received by the officers from Mrs. Nicely; that tracks to and from the scene of death were traced as far as west of the county line at the Burnt Cabins, &c."

8. The jury was misled by the Court in charging the jury, "that a pistol of like calibre with the bullet found on the body of the dead man and similar cartridges found, was found in the house of one of the defendants, possibly of a different fire."

The testimony clearly showed that the pistol would not and could not fire the bullet found on the body of the dead man. The pistol in evidence was a "rim-fire" and the bullet was a "center-fire."

9th. The Court erred in charging the jury as follows:

In cases where the Commonwealth rests upon positive and undoubted proof tending to prove the guilt, it should not be overcome by less than full, clear and satisfactory evidence tending to prove the alleged alibi.

COFFROTH & REITZ,
W. H. KOONTZ.
Attorneys for Defendants.

C.

Specification of after-discovered testimony, under Reason No. 7.

1. The defendants have since the trial of the case discovered that they can prove by R. S. McMillen, High Sheriff of Somerset county, that on Sunday after the murder of Herman Umberger, he and F. W. Biesecker, Esq., the District Attorney, went to the house of said Umberger; that there were present at said house, Noah Horner and his wife, Mrs. Herman Umbetger, Miss Ella Stearn, Nannie Horner and two or three others, who were unknown to them.

That he heard Miss Ella Stearn give a description of the men who committed this murder, in the presence of Nannie Horner and others; that Mrs. Umberger and the District Attorney were in a joining room; that she gave him a description of the parties who committed the murder.

That an account of the same was furnished to the Somerset HERALD, and published in said paper on the 6th of March A. D., 1889, and that the description of the parties therein published is the same as given to him by Ella Stearn in the presence of Nannie Horner, and which said description is as follows:

"DESCRIPTION OF THE ASSASSINS."

Mrs. Umberger and Miss Stearn and little Nannie gave the following description: "The larger of the men is about five feet ten inches tall and weighing probably 170 pounds, and wore a cap, dark overcoat, and overalls with yellow stripes. When this man came in, and all the time he remained, he kept his mouth, lips and cheeks covered with two red handkerchiefs with white dots, the one having larger dots than the other. He appeared to be about thirty-five years of age, and Mrs. Umberger distinguished him from the other as 'the red-faced man.' The other man was about five feet, seven inches tall, and wore a brown derby hat, with a hole in the crown and wore it set back on his head. He had long mixed gray whiskers and moustache, but both had the appearance of being false, also his hair, which was kind of curly and tangled, and which Miss Stearn thinks was not real. He wore a dark overcoat, dark cloth trousers and gum boots. Judging him in this guise, they think his age would be in the fifties."

2. The defendants can prove the same description given by Ella Stearn, by J. Harris and S. R. Verner, to whom she made the same statements.

Verner was subpœned and promised to be in attendance at the court, as soon as he was telegraphed to come, but the flood at Johnstown prevented his coming and until the trial was ended it was not known whether he was living or dead.

State of Pennsylvania, }
Somerset County, ss. }

Joseph Nicely and David Nicely being duly sworn according to law say that they have only learned since the trial of the case that R. S. McMillen, Esq., High Sheriff of Somerset County, was at the late residence of Herman Umberger, dec'd, on Sunday the 3d day of March, A. D. 1889, in company with the District Attorney, and that statements were then made by Mrs. Umberger, Ella Stearn and Nannie Horner in regard to the killing of Herman Umberger and description given of the persons who committed the murder. That they are informed and believe that Rush S. McMillen will swear to the facts in the foregoing motion for new trial, as set forth in paper "C." That they are informed and believe that substantially the same facts will be sworn to by J. Harris and S. R. Verner. That Verner, as they are informed, was subpœned and promised to be in attendance, but was prevented by the flood, and they did not know till after the flood whether he was living or dead. They further state that if a new trial is granted, and they be permitted to prove the facts as stated, that the testimony will be sufficient to change the verdict.

JOSEPH NICELY,
DAVID C. NICELY.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 17 June, 1890.

D. J. HOOVER,
Prothy.

It is probable that a rule will be granted within the next few days and that depositions, on both sides, will be taken. Unless an earlier date is named by Judge Baer the argument on the motion will not be heard till the next regular argument court which meets on August 27. It is not unlikely, however, that a day for the argument will be fixed early in July.

The unexpected often happens but we hazard a guess, after reading the reasons filed in support of the motion, that the next trial in which the Nicely "boys" will be the defendants, will not be held before an earthly court. In the event that the motion for a new trial is refused, counsel for the defendants will take an appeal to the Supreme Court, which meets in October.

Since their conviction the prisoners have been guarded day and night by a special watchman. This was deemed necessary owing to the insecure condition of the old jail.

Mr. A. A. Nicely, father of the convicted men and Mac Nicely, a cousin, drove over to Somerset, Wednesday and visited the prisoners in the jail.

The Receipt of Supplies Ample.

Supplies for the sufferers continue to arrive in ample quantity to satisfy all legitimate demands. Bed clothing is particularly abundant. More shoes could be used to advantage. Many of those received are not in condition for use. The generosity of the outside world seems boundless, and it is not necessary to say that the people of Johnstown are grateful beyond measure. Our only thought is, how can we ever repay the generous donors?

Johnstown Sitting On its Ruins and Mourning its Dead.

The following put into tale of the horrible calamity which befell Johnstown, from the pen of Elmer Swank, is taken from the *Tribune* of Friday, June 14.

The flood struck Johnstown about four o'clock Friday evening, May 31. The Tribune office was entirely submerged and the building almost completely wrecked. With difficulties to overcome, which, to most men would have seemed insurmountable, the *Tribune's* dauntless editor, laying aside his own great personal grief, went bravely to work and on Friday, June 14—just two week's forced suspension—his paper was published in its usual size and form, containing a full and authentic account of the terrible disaster that had befallen the city.

The *Tribune* was gladly received by its many Somerset county readers, and on all sides were heard words of sympathy and praise for its energetic editor.

"Well, the reservoir came, and Johnstown went visiting. Some of us on very long visits, indeed—never to come back.

All that is left to most of us is the ground the town was built on, and even that is not the same.

It is now two weeks since the flood, and yet to-day we go upon the wreck-strewn streets—the streets which were—and here and there we meet a friend, but the steps which bear us toward each other perhaps press upon the face or form of still other friends not yet uncovered.

All about us there is desolation—not ruin merely, but desolation complete and absolute. The sane, reasonable mind fights against fate and will not yield, but there are moments when the strongest nearly give way and break under the great load of their own and others' misery.

Our story—how shall we tell it? In a ruin we saw a copy of Webster's Unabridged, and the thought came that the book did not contain words enough wherewith to picture the ghastly horror. Never did words seem so weak and idle.

We go back to that Friday afternoon—Black Friday if there ever was one. The story of the day up to where we now begin is told in other columns. We commence where it leaves off, and if after we have done there seems something yet to be said, let the reader's imagination supply it.

At about 4 o'clock the reservoir struck the town, and in little more than ten minutes later its worst work was done. The first appearance was like that of a great fire—the dust it raised. It came like a thief, and was upon us before we were aware. Already when it reached us it had numbered its victims by the hundred. Mineral Point and East Conemaugh were gone, a passenger train was engulfed, Woodvale was swept away, Conemaugh Borough was shaved off as if by the sharp surface of an avalanche; in a moment more Johnstown was tumbling all over itself, houses at one end nodded to houses at the other and went like a swift, deceitful friend to meet, embrace, and crush them. Then on sped the wreck in a swirl, the angry water, baffled for a moment, running up hill with the town and the helpless multitude on its back, the flood shaking with rage and dropping here and there a portion of its burden—crushing, grinding, pulverizing all. Then back, with great frame buildings floating along like ocean steamers, upper decks crowded, hands clinging to every support that could be reached, and so on down to the great stone bridge, where the houses, piled mountain high, took fire and burned with all the fury of the hell you read about—cremation alive in your own home, perhaps a mile from its foundation; dear ones slowly consumed before your eyes, and the same fate your own a moment after?

But the flood had not yet done all its work. Cambria City remained to be destroyed, and the railroad towns below if it could reach them. Cambria went, like a child wipes out a pictured village on its slate, and then on the waters flew. But soon they were out of the mountain and away from home, and then, as if repenting the last blow struck, the cruel current weakened and spread and all was over.

All? To many it was but the beginning. The fierce rush was over, but the back-water remained, and thousands of people. Their refuge was the wreckage left behind and the few buildings that, sheltered in some way, survived the shock. But all around were buildings falling. Crash succeeded crash, wild shrieks for help were heard on every side, and "our turn next," was the thought in every mind.

And then there was the darkness coming on, and the rain had again set in. Wife, husband, children—whole families separated—no way to get news of one another, and the long hours of the night ahead. Nothing to do but sit and wait in dread, cheering others if you could, and being cheered by other souls in turn—helping and being helped the whole night through.

Darkness soon came, and then the fires, and the added horror that sight of a conflagration always brings. Down at the bridge—what a glow it made! People were told the wreck had been fired to clear the way—to break the jam. Well that they believed the story! St. John's Church, with a corpse in it, fired no one knows how, and then the houses on both sides of it. How like guards the people watched the flame, and questioned one another. It's going down; it's blazing up again; it's coming this way! Calls from roof to roof, "What's burning now?" and answers that in the awful stillness succeeding the first wild hours had an awful sound.

"Who are you?" "Who's with you?" and so, in the way that rumors fly, from mouth to mouth a good part of the whole day's story went, and hearts that had hoped sank in despair, while hearts that had feared and quailed for loved ones thanked God that they were saved.

All through the night house upon house that had partly held together after the first great crash and had stood the awful journey down and up and down again, went to pieces with its occupants, and then came heroic deeds of daring by which many were saved, and the most frightful experiences until other roofs were reached, only to be gone through again perhaps a moment later. But these personal experiences must be passed by here, and only the general story told.

Here a strong man, mangled in the wreck, passed away in the night; there women died from shock, or brought new men and women into the world in their hour of double anguish. Here lay the sick and the maimed, favorite doctor dead and no other to be had; there lay a corpse washed in by the flood, as cheerful as its company.

So the night passed. Hour by hour the water receded. Little by little the streets came into sight. Day dawned, and it was not all a dream. People were stirring. Men who were first to leave the wreck on which they had passed the weary hours were shouting everywhere. Rafts were out. Hearts beat again. Hope rose with the sun. The birds sang their most cheerful songs. A flag or two, still at half-mast, as on Memorial Day, fluttered in the breeze, and we knew the country would bear our cry.

Then came the real awakening. We must learn the truth the shortest and quickest way. We must find our friends or their bodies. We must live. So out poured the saved. But they soon realized their help lessness. People went over miles of debris, at the risk of life and limb, to find no sign of their homes. Where the houses had stood was bare ground, or perhaps the wreck of a house that the day before had stood miles away. The Cambria mills were wrecked—not hopelessly, but sadly wrecked. The Gautier and Woodvale mills were gone, and so was every business house in town—or, if the building remained, the merchant moved among us, a tramp like the rest. Freight cars, carried long distances, stood in the streets. At one place was a locomotive that had ridden on the bosom of the flood like a toy. Here was a big hotel, filled with people when the water came, nothing left of it—even the cellar to be dug over again. Strong brick blocks moved down like our colored farmer used to cut the grass in the Park. Hands of the dead stuck out of the ruins. Dead everywhere you went, their arms stretched above their heads almost without exception—the last instinct of expiring humanity grasping at a straw. Whole families swept away—here and there three generations. Whole families saved—the mockery of fate.

Where to go, what to do, no one could tell. The survivors were moving, but they knew not whither. Over and under the wrecks they went, in and out of the ruins—hoping, dreading to find a friend. The bridges were gone and the rivers divided us. In parts of the town there was still a waste of waters. Food there was none except up on the hills, and even there the prudent housewives had depended on Saturday's marketing for their supplies, and their charitable hearts were sore because they could not feed the hungry.

The Pennsylvania Railroad was blocked both ways—two weeks since the flood and still no good east of us; the B. & O. to the south was stuck, and we might as well for the first few hopeless, helpless hours have been in the Alps, with glaciers all about us, and crevasses, and death.

It was not long, however, before help came. It came first in the form of a big corps of reporters from Pittsburgh, and at sight of them we knew that we were again in touch with the great world outside. They had to surmount many obstacles; not merely houses in the streets and wastes of water everywhere, and, in a general way, take of noses with us, but there were many dreary miles between them and the nearest telegraph station. But they performed their duty nobly and we owe them much. Then in came the farmers, with their Saturday's marketing, many of them in ignorance of our plight until they struck the hills overlooking the track of the flood. There were few to sell to, bless their souls, they didn't want to sell. All they had was the suffering people's, and they were only sorry they didn't have more; and to prove their sorrow they went home and got more, and have stood by us ever since. Many of them came to town with teams and wagons and set to work as only a farmer can to clear the ground. Right there they were at home, and every stroke counted.

Saturday was a terrible day, nevertheless. Not a living man, woman, or child but was bereft of relative or dear friend. Bodies were recovered rapidly. Here a banker or merchant, by his side a laborer or perhaps a despised Hun. Here in the fifth, all that was left of a sweet, refined women; there and all about her the bodies of stranger dead. Here and there, wherever the wreckage landed, a fond mother with her dead babe tight clasped in the arms of death. The leveler's work was thorough.

So the day wore through and night came again. Headquarters for relief had been established, a general morgue opened, and at the most accessible points up and down the valley dead-houses were located. There were also hospitals, to which many sick and wounded were removed, and every moment saw stretchers moving along.

With night came total darkness. The electric light house was wrecked and the gas house demolished. Only on the hill house was there even oil, and only here and there on the hill would a faucet run water. These houses were open to all comers, friends and strangers alike, and all were crowded. But they could accommodate only a fraction of the sufferers, and many spent the night on the mountain or straggled out to peaceful and hospitable country homes, where every comfort was afforded them.

Then came the Sabbath, but it was no day of rest in Johnstown. The work was taken up where it was left off the night before. Hundreds of bodies had been found, and still others were recovered as the day passed. Interments of victims who had been identified began to be made, without preacher or priest. Friends not infrequently had to dig the graves for their lost. Many bodies were temporarily buried near where they were recovered. The "funerals" consisted of a wagon with sometimes half a dozen coffined bodies—relatives who had been found near together—and perhaps a solitary mourner walking in the mud behind. Sad sights to think about, but the merest unnoted incidents in the crowded events of day after day.

By this time things were getting into shape. The country had responded nobly and relief was here in great abundance. The town was divided into districts and thoroughly policed. Everything was well systematized. Even the oldest Johnstowner was a stranger in his own home, and stalwart bluecoats from Pittsburgh and elsewhere made us stand around. If we wanted to go anywhere we must have a pass, especially if we carried a basket or a bundle; for there had been much robbery of the dead by human vultures, and much plunder of ruined stores and houses, and there must be no more of it.

Sunday wore through, and again night came. Monday found us in still better shape. Hope for the old town's future began to mount. Those of us who were left would come out all right if only we would stick together and not lose heart. The mills were not ruined, and if they were they would be rebuilt. We had got back to earth and had the earth to walk on, and we would try to walk erect and go forward in the path of duty. We would dismiss our troubles, for were we not in a common boat, and was not each man's story the story of his neighbor? Courage! and all would yet be well.

So, with cheer and helpfulness for one another, and strengthened and consoled by the knowledge that the whole country was at our back with sympathetic hearts and willing hands, the days passed. The soldiers came, their rows of white tents standing where the Second Ward used to be, and the "boys" ready for any hardship if only they could serve, guard, and protect us. Seeing them, the mind went back to the carnage of our civil war, and we thought of great armies cutting each other to pieces, and then, when the battle was over, offering certain aid and comfort to the wounded of the vanquished enemy. How differently nature behaves when she has done her worst! Pitiless, unrelenting, she pursues and threatens with pestilence those who may survive her assaults, heaps horror on horror, and says to weak and strong alike, "Obey my laws, or pay the penalty."

Bless the soldiers, with their human hearts!

The first trains in brought many friends, for there are few communities that have sent more and better people out into the big, busy world than Johnstown. Wherever workers are, there you will find some of us. The first to come had to walk far over the mountains to get here, as trains could not reach the town from any direction. Staunch friends they were, sticking close as a brother. They found the picture had not been overdrawn. The wildest imagination had not painted the horror in too vivid colors. Stunned for a moment they were by the extent of the calamity, sick at heart over the loss of dear ones lying buried they knew not where in the heaps of debris, but they did not long remain idle. The strongest of us could do very little to help ourselves, but they could and did do much. What burdens they were able to lift from us they took upon themselves, and in their sustaining presence we found the first real comfort since the flood.

Then came great gangs of men, trained and inured to just such work as they had to do; forced to their best endeavors by hard masters who realized the supreme necessity of haste, and paid well for their labor through channels streaming with gold. Let every person who sent us a dollar know that he lifted a log from some mangled form, and helped us better than he knew.

Our personal story is done. We have attempted here only a general survey, drawing from the common stock of knowledge, saying nothing but what could perhaps be better said by any other of the saved. The story in detail we begin elsewhere, but, though it must be the theme for weeks, it can never be otherwise than most imperfectly told. The exact number of the lost will never be known. The misery is all our own, not to be shared with any, not to be dismissed until the present generation has passed away. Those who are left are brothers and sisters now, all barriers down, old enmities and grudges buried in the common wreck of hope and ambition.

So we leave it, and with eye toward the future turn to other work."

WHO CAME FIRST TO OUR RELIEF.

Statements have been made in various papers to the effect that Cumberland, Md., Pittsburgh, Braddock, and several other places were the first to send a car load of provisions after the flood, to Johnstown. Now, while all these places responded very promptly, the fact is that Somerset was the first town to send us relief. A car from that place reached here on Sunday morning, and it was received by Father Tabaney, of the relief committee. The first financial relief came from Senator Matthew Stanley Quay, in the shape of a draft.

AN APPEAL TO THE FARMERS.

It is the old Macedonian cry. "Come and help us." We sadly need your aid, friends, and the aid of your sturdy teams, in clearing up the town and removing the great masses of debris which yet remain. You can do us invaluable service, even if you can give us no more than one day's work apiece. There never can come a time when you can help us more, and you would receive the blessings of many thousands of helpless, suffering people, who, having lost their all, now stand in dread of a pestilence breeding to complete the awful work of the flood. So come in with your teams, and prove to us that we were right in feeling that we would not appeal to you in vain.

THE BANKS.

The First National Bank and the Johnstown Savings Bank are perfectly solvent and will pay every cent of their obligations. They will resume business as usual as soon as they can get their papers, books, etc., that were submerged, in shape. The following from the banking house of John Dibert & Co. explains itself:

To the Public.—It is but just to the customers and depositors of the bank of John Dibert & Co. that I should now give them some statement or expression as to the future of the bank. The head of the bank—Mr. John Dibert—being dead, and the junior partner—Mr. John H. Dibert—having died nearly a year ago, leaves me the only surviving partner. I have consulted my legal adviser, also many of the leading business men of this place, and the widow and heirs of Mr. John Dibert, and after giving the subject the full consideration which the situation of affairs demands, I have decided to go into liquidation of the affairs of the bank at once, and settle up all the bank business, and pay off all the depositors.

I wish further to say that our vault has kept all our books and papers in good condition; all are legible and well preserved. The money safe has not yet been opened; the time-lock having been stopped by the flood, leaving the safe locked. An expert is here now, and at work. It will take three or four days to drill the safe open. My purpose is, just as soon as the safe is open and a statement prepared, to make a dividend of all the cash on hand among the depositors, which will give to the depositors at once about 35 cents on the dollar, and inside of six months collections of loans can be