The Somerset Herald.

GEORGE R. SCULL, Editor.

WEDNESDAY.....December 9, 1891.

Silk Mittens at M. M. Tredwell & Co's.

For holiday toys and candies go to Mahlon Lenck's.

Ham baked in cider is a new gastronomical feature.

Eyeglasses for old and young at Snyder's drug store.

Tools, Tools, Tools! at M. M. Tredwell & Co's.

Sunday schools are preparing their Christmas programs.

Corn oats and barly chop at Mahlon Lenck's feed store.

The operation of ironing black stockings makes them fade rapidly.

Mahlon Lenck's is headquarter for choice family groceries, tobacco and fine cigars.

It has been settled that the national cake is the buckwheat cake.

A full line of Umbrellas at Mrs. K. B. Coffroth's from 50 cts to $5.00.

Within sixty-two years Mexico has had forty-four Presidents, one Regency and one Emperor.

For a good stove, and warranted, go to J. S. Holderbaum's Hardware Store, Somerset, Pa.

Don't forget the Baby at Xmas! Baby Carriages, Baby Hoods etc. M. M. Tredwell & Co.

"What shall I give her?" is a question vexing the impecunious young man, as Christmas draws near.

Grand Army veterans are agitating the purchase of the Mount MacGregor house, where Grant died.

Go to Mrs. A. E. Uhl's special Handkerchief sale on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week.

The fourth-class postmasters of Franklin county will hold a convention in Chambersburg December 15th.

Go to Mrs. A. E. Uhl's special Handkerchief sale on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week.

The surviving turkey should not inflate with pride nor arrogantly. A few more weeks, and it may have its leg pulled, too.

Ear and shelled corn and clean white winter oats always on hand a Mahlon Lenck's Grocery, Flour, Feed and Grain store.

Time tries three for Xmas! Outlined Art Work in all the go. Art Silks for Sofa Cushions, Pillows, Table Covers, Baby Afghans and Embroidery Silks to do the work.

M. M. Tredwell & Co.

Believing in faith cure only, a rich Lancaster county farmer called no physician for his child which recently died, and refuses, it is said, to summon medical aid for another child now ill of diphtheria.

The correctness of the maxim "nothing succeeds like success" is well exemplified in Ayer's Sarsaparilla. The most successful combination of alteratives and tonics, it always succeeds in curing diseases of the blood, and hence its wonderful popularity.

Mrs. Ogden, mother of Donna C. Ogden, Esq., of Greensburg, came very near being burned to death on Wednesday, her clothing having caught fire from an open grate near which she was working.

If you are suffering from weak eyes or defective vision, call at J. N. Snyder's drug store and be fitted with glasses to suit your eyes. You cannot afford to neglect your sight.

Charles Cunningham, the twenty-year-old son of a Baptist minister, was placed under $[illegible] bail at Uniontown Thursday for robbing the store of R. S. McCrum, Justice of the Peace, of Ohio Pyle, and stealing $45 from W. J. Jackson, of the same place. He claims the suits are brought for spite.

No better preparation for the hair has ever been invented than Ayer's Hair Vigor. It restores the original color to faded and gray hair, and imparts that natural gloss and freshness, everyone so much admires. Its reputation is world-wide.

The Pennsylvania commissioners of fish culture are prepared to distribute carp fry. Applications can be made to H. C. Ford, No. 1821 Vine street, Philadelphia; H. C. Smith, Lancaster; W. L. Powell, Harrisburg; S. B. Stilwell, Scranton; Louis Snyder, Erie; G. H. Weishons, Pittsburg.

Mrs. K. B. Coffroth has received and is now getty ready to display her Xmas goods, among them, dolls of all sizes and description, fancy goods, pin cushions, cologne, furs, muffs, boods, jewelry, etc. Call and see, you are always welcome.

Rudolph Briggs, in answer to an inquiry of H. B. Patton, State Chairman of the Prohibition party, as to whether the act of June 19, 1889, popularly called the "Baker Ballot act," is constitutional, expresses the opinion that the act is in conflict with the fifth section of the "Declaration of Rights," and "is therefore nugatory and void and of no legal force or effect whatever."

Readers of the HERALD should not forget that I. N. Snyder, the druggist, can fit their eyes with glasses as well as any optician. He has had five or six years experience in handling Dr. Kings glasses.

According to a decision by Judge Krebs, of Garfield county, county commissioners must provide the funds necessary to keep public roads in good condition, when the townships are unable to collect the requisite amount of road taxes. This may lead to another step in the direction of solving the county road question.

Ladie's and Children's Undervests, Corsets, Hose, Gloves, Hand Bags, Pocketbooks, Toilet Sets, Children's Perfumery, Hand Mirrors, Combs, Pin Cushions, Booklets etc.

M. M. Tredwell & Co.

The board of public buildings and grounds last week determined to insure all the state buildings, including the executive mansion and the arsenal. These buildings have never been insured, notwithstanding the contents alone of the state library are valued at over $800,000. The total insurance will probably be about $1,300,000.

A terrible accident happened at Latrobe Thursday morning, by which Harry and Olin, children of Marshal Wainer, will in all probability lose their lives. They were playing in the kitchen when one of the legs of the stove was knocked out and the stove fell over. Two kettles of boiling water fell upon the children, and they were so severely scalded that fears are entertained that they cannot recover. The boy especially is suffering awful agony.

Jewelry, Stock Pins, Scarf Pins, Hair Pins, Cuff Buttons, Bracelets, Studs, Necklaces, Rubies Rings etc. M. M. Tredwell & Co.

Harper's Young People makes the very handsome offer of portraits of Christopher Columbus and Amerigo Vespucci—the discoverer of America and the man who gave it its name—free to all those who are on January 11, 1891, subscribers to the Young People by the year or regular purchasers of it by the week. These portraits are on paper suitable for framing, and are capital for one's room, for schools, libraries, and reading clubs, and just the thing for the Columbian year.

Sick families, poor families or any other kind of families should have a family bible. We have them in style and price to suit any kind of a family. Pritts & Kantner the low priced book sellers, Somerset, Pa.

A Father can give his young son no better pass, for than a year's reading of the Saturday Evening Herald. Its contents will lead the young mind in the path of thought, and if he treads there a while, he'll forget frivolities and be of some account, and if he has an inventive or mechanical turn of mind, this paper will afford him more entertainment, as well as useful information, than he can obtain elsewhere. Copies of this paper may be seen at this office and subscriptions received. Price, $3 a year, weekly.

Our shelves and counters are still jam full of Fresh Winter Millinery, all latest styles Hats, Bonnets, Ribbons, Jet, Feathers, Birds etc.

M. M. Tredwell & Co.

A rumor is current on the streets that one "Ben" Waterman, for a number of years a tonsorial artist in this place, died at Connellsville a few days ago.

A half-dozen Johnstown merchants were arrested Sunday while engaged in playing a game of poker. The officers of this town "don't mind such little things."

Burgess Wolfley informs us that a draft of the borough showing the proposed system of water pipes will be placed on exhibition at Snyder's drug store during the present week.

The real estate of Henry Walter, dec'd., late of Somerset township, was sold at public sale on Saturday last by Jas. L. Pugh, Esq., administrator of Louisa Walter, for $677.00.

We are requested to announce that Rev. J. D. McFaden will preach at the Trint meeting house, Sunday morning December 13th at 10 o'clock. Subject, "Is infidelity a success?"

Mrs. Harry C. Beeritz is the third good lady of this town to suffer from a broken wrist this winter. She slipped on the ice covered pavement on Turkeyfoot street, Monday evening, and in falling broke her left wrist.

This will be the first term of court for many years at which the Sheriff of the county has not exposed a single tract of real estate to public sale. Several writs were placed in the Sheriff's hands but all have either been satisfied or stayed.

The citizens of Fulton county, the only county in the state without a railroad within its limits, are talking of building an electric line over the mountain into Franklin county, where a connection can be made with the Cumberland Valley R. R.

The indications are that next week's court will attract a very small crowd. District Attorney Colborn has between twenty and thirty criminal cases to lay before the grand jury, only one of which, an action for perjury, will consume more than two or three hours in being tried.

The Johnstown *Herald* is authority for the rumor that Somerset is to have telephonic communication with the Long Distance Telephone system recently introduced into that city. It is proposed to string the wires along the S. & C. R. R. poles. When the telephone comes to Somerset people here will be able to talk with persons in Philadelphia, New York, Boston and other eastern cities.

The speculators at the quiet town of Bedford have created quite a sensation by refusing to bear the losses sustained in the grain market. J. M. Campbell, a broker of Pittsburg, had a branch office there and had been doing a good business, but the deal in November corn caught them badly and they squealed. They have filed an injunction restraining Mr. Campbell from taking his money out of a Pittsburg bank, some of which they say is theirs by rights.

John R. Scott, Esq., who has been a patient in the University Hospital, at Philadelphia, undergoing treatment for a nervous disorder, has been rapidly improving, and his physician hopes to send him home permanently cured the later part of the present week. There is no truth in the rumor that Mr. Scott is afflicted with a serious chronic disease. He has simply been overworked the past two or three years and on the advice of his physician, Dr. Carothers, went to the institution where he now is for the purpose of securing expert professional attention and complete quiet and rest. The above will be welcome news to his hundreds of friends throughout the county as it has proven to be to those at home.

Mr. T. J. Picking took his departure this afternoon for Somerset. On Monday he will proceed to Terra Alta, W. Va., where, on Wednesday morning at 8 o'clock, he and Miss Laura A. Biggs, of Terre Alta, will be united in marriage, after which they will take a trip to the eastern ceties, arriving in Johnstown about December 20th. They will remain here a few days and then proceed to Terra Alta, where they will reside, and where Mr. Picking has obtained an interest in a woolen mill now owned by the bride's father. "Jeff" will be missed from Johnstown. He has been a popular resident here for several years, and he will carry with him to his new home the best wishes of all who know him.—*Johnstown Tribune.*

People living in the vicinity of Levansville, four miles west of this place, were shocked Saturday afternoon on learning that Mrs. Countryman, widow of the late Jacob Countryman, had been found dead in the yard in front of her door. Mrs. Countryman was alone in the house, and it is presumed that she felt a sickness suddenly coming upon her and went into the yard for the purpose of ringing the farm bell in order to summon her son, who was at work in a field some distance from the house. Neighbors answered the bell, arriving at the house before the son and found the unfortunate woman lying on the ground. She had expired before assistance reached her. Mrs. Countryman was about 55 years of age and was highly esteemed by all of her neighbors.

Friday night thieves entered the home of Harry Boyts, a venerable farmer, residing on the Johnstown pike two and one-half miles north of town, and stole $50.00. The house was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Boyts and a little girl, and they all think they must have been drugged or otherwise they would have heard the thieves, who first raised a rear window and removed a number of flower pots from the window sill, and then finding that they could not enter the house through the window went to the front of the building where they found it an easy matter to open the front door by one of the rascals inserting his arm through a broken window pane adjoining the door and unbolting the lock. In the morning all of the drawers and closets in the house were found open and their contents scattered promiscuously around the floor. A wallet, containing $50.00, and which had been concealed behind a looking glass, was the only thing that was missing. Both Mr. and Mrs. Boyts are well advanced in years and both are constant sufferers from rheumatism and insomnia and can't understand why they should have slept so soundly, Friday night, unless sleep was produced by the use of chloroform administered by the thieves.

Policeman Gilbert and three or four men, whom he called to his assistance, rugged, pulled and wrestled with Alex. Roberts, of Roberts station, for more than an hour Saturday afternoon before they succeeded in landing him in the borough lockup. Roberts, who was filled up with whiskey, was engaged in picking a quarrel with a young man from town on Patriot street when the policeman appeared and placed him under arrest. Roberts resisted and a few minutes later was joined by "Buzzy" Saylor, who also attacked the officer. Roberts is a powerful young fellow and fought desperately all the while, making threats against the policeman. The policeman called for assistance and after a hard struggle both young men were placed in cells in the lockup. Later in the day the policeman went before a justice and made information against Roberts for resisting an officer and for surety of the peace. A commitment was made out and delivered to Sheriff Good who went to the lockup for his prisoner shortly after dark. Handcuffs were placed on Roberts wrists and he walked quietly at the Sheriff's side until they arrived at the jail gate; when the Sheriff stepped ahead to open the gate Roberts suddenly wheeled around and dashed down Union street. The stalwart Sheriff pursued him at full speed and when just about to lay his hand upon the fleeing prisoner, stumbled and fell; regaining his feet he continued the chase to the railroad station where he lost sight of the prisoner. Returning to the jail the Sheriff started two or three men in pursuit of Roberts, but up to this time he has not been re-captured. The Sheriff, who weighs 250 lbs., was badly shaken up by the long run and for several hours after returning to his office suffered from a very sick stomach. Saylor was released upon the payment of a fine.

An Impracticable Law—Great Complaint Against It.

The impracticable registry law passed by the last Legislature provided for two registrations each year. One of these registrations is begun in May, and completed in September. The other is begun on the first Monday in December and completed the following week. Accordingly, the Assessors of Somerset county began the week of taking a new registry of voters for the February election, on Monday. Next Monday, December 14th, the law requires the Assessors to hang one completed list of voters at the polls, and to return a duplicate list to the County Commissioners' office. The Assessor sits at the polls on the following Wednesday and Thursday, December 16th and 17th, between the hours of 10 a. m., and 8 p. m., and 6 p. m. and 9 p. m., to register those who are legally entitled to be registered. On the day following Friday, December 18th, the Assessor makes final return to the office of the County Commissioners.

Great complaint is justly made against the provisions of the new law. It is a physical impossibility for any man to do the work required in the time given in nearly all of the rural districts of Somerset county. The law is crude and impracticable, not to say absurd, and besides a heavy and useless expense. The sooner the legislature redeems itself by repealing this registry act, the better.

A Pointer

To those who are studying what to buy for Christmas gifts we would suggest a few things for your mother, wife, daughter, sister or sweet-heart, a family bible, hand bible, photograph album, some good books or set of books, toilet case, manicure set, work-box or basket. Christmas card or art novelties purse, mirror, music roll or stand, ink stand, easel or a nice steel engraving, etching, tinted water color, oil painting or chromo, as nothing makes a room look more cheerful than a nice picture. For the gentlemen a shaving set, smoking set, traveling case, cuff and collar box, pens, or a fountain pen. For the children, toy books, games, drums, trumpets, sleds, doll's doll carriages, toy dishes, magic lanterns, steam engines, guns, safes, music boxes, pianos, tool chests or something in this line. All of the above and countless other articles can be had at Pritts & Kantner's Book Store.

Weather According to Hicks.

Rev. Ira Hicks, in his paper, *Words and Works*, makes the following meteorological forecast for December:

"About the 14th the cold will relax progressively from west to east, shift at atmospheric pressure causing southerly currents and falls of rain and snow. An energetic high barometer with cold will slip in behind these disturbances, lasting up to next regular storm period, which runs from the 19th to 24th. The culmination of Winter solstice is at this exact period, about which time very hard Winter storms are almost certainties. Prepare for them and for dangerously cold days to follow. Most parts of our continent will have cold or snow—both to the northward—at Christmas. About the 28th will come a rise in temperature, the forerunner of reactionary storms about the 26th add 27th, with renewed cold following up to about the 30th. On that date will fall a second new moon for December, also the beginning of a regular storm period which runs into January. The month will go out warmer, with storms advancing from the west. Watch and see.

Do You Need a Watch or Clock?

If so call and examine our stock before making your selections, as we have them in all grades, watches from $4.00 to $75.00 and clocks from 90 cents to $12.50. We also have a full line of jewelry, such as finger rings, ear rings, watch charms and chains, cuff buttons, bracelets, etc., in fact everything usually kept in a first class jewelry store. We are headquarters for silver ware, as we carry the largest stock in town and our prices are the lowest. All articles of this kind purchased from us will be suitably engraved free of charge.

Repairing of watches, clocks and jewelry, a specialty.

Neff & Casebeer,
Jewelers and Opticians.

Pennsylvania Finances.

State-Treasurer Boyer's monthly report, shows $5,720,721.80 in the general fund, as against $5,389,117.50 last month. This is probably the greatest amount ever in the general fund of this State. The cash in the sinking fund has been reduced during the month from $2,780,537.75 to $1,259,123.75, the difference, $1,521,414, having been expended in purchasing the bonds due next February. The gross debt of the State is now about $40,000,000 the net or actual debt being $3,000,000—a decrease of $2,144,575.87 since May last.

Mrs. A. E. Uhl.

I have made special large reduction in all kinds of Dress Goods for Holiday Trade. A big cut made in prices of Ladie's and Misses Coats and Wraps and Shawls. You need not wait until after the Holidays to get bargains, you can get them now and have the pick of the stock.

A large variety of Dolls, Toys, and Fancy Articles, Gloves, Mittens, Table Linens, Towels, Fancy Tidies, Throws, Head Rests, and Silk and Chenile Table Covers, Combs, Brushes, Umbrellas, Pocketbooks, Card Cases, Down Cushions, Stick pins, Breast pins, Rings, Bracelets, Watch chains, etc.

An immense stock of Handkerchiefs and Mufflers at popular prices.

Mrs. A. E. Uhl.

The following named letters remaining in the Postoffice at Somerset will be sent to the Dead Letter Office if not called for in 10 days from this date, Dec. 9, 1891.

Bower, Stell; Bitner, Ida N.; Deals, H. L.; Eli, Joseph; Miller, Chas.; Shaffer, M. W.; Salisbury, J.; Stahl, Lillie; Walters, Lizzie; Hwedley, Mrs. W. H.

Josiah Keller, P. M.

Now For Chrismas Novelties.

M. E. Schrock opened December 7th, the most extensive line of Queensware, China, Japanese, Glassware and Silverware ever brought to Somerset. The line of novelties for holiday trade is large and unique. Call early and make your selections. Goods can be selected and laid away until wanted. Don't buy elsewhere until you see our line.

In a country town in northern Pennsylvania there lives a little old man who sells milk, carrying it from house to house morning and evening in a small handcart. There is nothing strange about that, but his companion on these daily trips is the very strangest you ever heard of—an old gray goose, who follows him about in the most dignified manner, and stands watch over the cart, letting no one go near it in his master's absence. His name is Major, and his master says that he is just as useful as a dog would be.

Water Works for Somerset.

A list of the voters of Somerset, who have expressed themselves on the water works question, is posted in Fisher's Book Store. This list shows 166 for water works and 66 against. This is a clear majority of 100 provided the list is reliable and no one weakens. But whether the list is reliable or not, one thing is certain, and that is that the handsomest and largest line of holiday goods to be found in the county can be seen at

Fisher's Book Store.

Books in sets, single volumes, toy books, books for presents, books for sunday school prizes, nice books for the teachers, handsome bibles and hymnals, albums, toilet sets, bric-a-brac, novelties, toys, Christmas cards and New Years presents at Fisher's Book Store. Go see.

Herr Bros., the jewelers, have an advertisement in this paper that is deserving of attention if you are thinking of buying Christmas presents. You will find their store "chuck full" of the prettiest goods you ever saw and at prices that will astonish you for their cheapness.

Ribbons for Fancy Work, all widths, shades and prices. M. M. Tredwell & Co.

STILL TALKING WATER.

The Good-Natured Warfare Continues Around the Store Stove.

The views expressed "around the store stove," as published in the HERALD the past two weeks, have excited not a little interest among the people of this town, and have given a new impetus to those in favor of the borough issuing bonds for the purpose of constructing water works, as well as those who are hostile to the proposed measure. Polls of the vote of the borough are made almost daily by enthusiasts on either side, and to day both sides are claiming a majority.

"What's this I hear about the borough school board's indebtedness?" said the venerable gentleman with tobacco-stained beard, and then paused to adjust his false teeth, which he accomplished by a movement of the tongue, before proceeding. "I can't get it through my head that the 'academy' building is not paid for yet."

"Oh, don't worry about such a trifle," said the cracker-barrel man. "A debt of $4,000 or $5,000 is nothing to our school board. Why, this is one of the richest towns in the State. The prospects are that you will have another school tax elephant on your hands before the 'academy' is paid for. Some folks say that the school board have lost their 'score' and don't really know what the school indebtedness is. But that don't make any difference; we've got to have a new school house next summer, and with the extra labor that will be forced upon the board, I shouldn't be surprised if they would vote their secretary a salary, as I understand some wanted to do a year ago. But, as I said before, Somerset borough is rich and can afford to pay its bills—but not as it goes. People tell me that the 'academy' cost over $17,000. Think of it! And the directors who were elected to build it were elected with a special view to the economy they would enforce. I don't gainsay that the building is not a good one, but there must be some defect or they wouldn't have to adjourn school every cold day. We musn't economize on our school buildings, since the State has appropriated $5,000,000 for the improvement of our schools; but what are our taxes going to amount to?"

"Oh, I guess we can bear the expense without much grumbling," said the young man with the cracked voice. "The 'academy' only cost one-half as much as the proposed water works are to cost, and when we get water the surplus revenue derived from that source will relieve us from all other forms of borough taxation. Give us water, and let us have a taste of the pleasure Meyersdale enjoys."

"I haven't taken any part in this dispute," said a gray-bearded gentleman from the west ward, "but if there is a man in town who has reason to vote for water it is me. The well at my place has been dry as a powder-horn for at least three months. I am of the opinion that a town meeting should be called at which this question can be discussed by the people whom the introduction of water will directly affect. I have labored all my life in order to buy a little property, and if a meeting is called I want to make a few remarks. It is claimed that this election is to be held merely for the purpose of getting an expression from the voters as to whether they are willing to bond the borough for the purpose of introducing water, and will be in no sense an endorsement of the Kimberly run scheme. That's all well enough; but it means a dogged on sight more than that. If water carries, it will mean that the people of this borough have empowered their burgess and town council to accept any proposition that they choose and to issue bonds to the amount of $27,000 to pay for it. That's what it means, and can't mean anything else. I haven't a complaint to utter against the present borough officers and believe that they are acting in perfect good faith, but in considering this subject it must be remembered that we will elect a new burgess and one member of the town council in February, and who is to say what views they will hold on the water works question? No, sir-ee; let's know what scheme we're voting for when we go to the polls, and don't let's saddle ourself with a debt before we know what t's for."

"That's a view of the case I never heard of before," said the nail-keg man, as he opened the stove-door and drew out a hot poker and applied it to the end of his toby. "As a matter of course, the town council and burgess are committed to the Kimberly run scheme. Didn't they have the engineer come here and make a survey, and when his estimate of $40,000 was considered too high, didn't they have him come back again and go over the ground a second time and obtain an estimate at one-third less cost? If water can be brought from Kimberly run, that's where it will be broughtt from, and don't you forget it. The town authorities, so far as I can learn, refuse to consider any other method."

"Oh, that can't be true!" said whiskers, after he had loaded a worn out chew in the centre of the puddle of tobacco spit in front of him. "These men certainly haven't concluded to go ahead and let contracts for a water supply from Kimberly run, in event the question carries. Why, there ain't one of you fellows sittin' 'round this stove that don't know that that water isn't fit to drink. Why, that water drains through a swamp of black mud for miles, and is never fit to drink unless during high water. If you don't believe me, ask some of the older men who have traveled around Kimberly run. Another thing, and I'll stake my life on it; there ain't water enough in that creek to supply the town. You all know that Dave Casebeer can only run his saw mill for about three months in the year, because he can't get enough water. Pshaw! talk to somebody else about that creek furnishing water for Somerset. I know a blamed sight better."

"Taxes is pretty high in this town now," said bow legs, "and I don't know but that I will have to be exonerated next year; but something must be done to improve the sanitary condition of Somerset. There will be some interesting developments in regard to this matter at next term of court, when a number of property owners will have to answer for maintaining a nuisance. Something's got to be done to improve the sanitary condition of our town, and if water will do it, why, let's have it, no matter how high the taxes go, or how soon our homes are sold for taxes."

"Well, I am surprised at such a speech coming from you" said the cracker-barrel man, snapping his jack-knife shut, after having finished picking his teeth with the long blade. "Do you really suppose that the introduction of water will relieve the foul condition of the gutters, drains and sinks of this town? That's too absurd to talk about. Think for a moment, and then tell me what is to become of the water that will be used by the people on the hill? You know the condition of the gutters in the East and West wards now, and what will they be after water is introduced? Sewerage is what the town wants, and what it must have, or I guess the borough is hardyl able to tackle both sewerage and water at the same time, to say nothing of a new school house."

"Since I have taken time to look into this water works question carefully," said spindle-shanks, "I have made up my mind that if a stock company wants to put in water works for Somerset, they should be permitted to do so. One of the soldiers men in this town told me last evening that he knew a party who would put in water works for us, and wouldn't ask a cent from the borough as an inducement. Why shouldn't he be granted the franchise of the streets? Then only those people who want water need take it. It would be decidedly cheaper all around. If it afforded fire protection the borough could pay for it, if it wanted it. This would give Somerset people water as cheap as Meyersdale gets it, and that appears to be the point the water folks are fighting for. Let a stock company furnish the water, and the borough will have as much as it can do to put in sewers."

"I'm opposed to a stock company," said the boom town man, "and think it would be the greatest mistake this town could make to grant a franchise to any person or company. If there is one thing above another that should be cheap, it is water, and the taxpayers of Somerset will rear and swear forever more if they place themselves at the mercy of a stock company."

"Oh, come off," said the cracker-barrel man. "No one would need take water from a stock company unless they wanted it, and were willing to pay for it. It would not increase their taxes, and they would have no bonded indebtedness. If a stock company expected to make anything they would have to make their rates within the reach of everybody. But laying all this aside, I think the stock company talk is all a bluff. I don't believe such a thing has ever been thought of, and I don't believe that it would pay 2 per cent. on the investment."

"But suppose the borough does build the works and our taxes are doubled," said the squint-eyed man, "look at the reduction we would get in our insurance rates. I am told that insurance rates in Meyersdale have been reduced at least 17 per cent."

"Ho, ho, ho!" croaked the cracker-barrel man. "The entire yearly insurance premiums in Meyersdale amounts to about $5,000, in round numbers. The reduction in premiums since they have had water, is about $750. The great "Metropolis" of the county pays $500 a year for the fire protection the water works afford, so the actual saving to the taxpayers who carry insurance is properly the difference between $750 and $500, or $250, and the per cent of reduction is properly in the relation that 250 stands to 5,000. Now can you figure 17 per cent. out of that? And notwithstanding her water works, insurance rates are higher at Meyersdale to-day than they are in Somerset. We have a superior class of buildings, is the reason. We can't ask for a much lower rate of insurance in this town than we have at present. I think the insurance agents will bear me out in the assertion that the average rate in this town is one-half per cent. per year, or $5.00 on the thousand."

"Now, if you all keep quiet for a minute," said the sawed-off man, "I'd like to give you the water rates as assessed in a town where the municipality owns the water works."

"Agreed," answered all hands, as soon as they had emptied their mouths of tobacco spit.

The sawed off man drew a small pamphlet from his pocket and began to read:

Dwelling houses (5 rooms or less)	$ 8.00
Barber shop (1 chair)	6.00
Bath tub	5.00
Blacksmith shop (1 fire)	5.00
Butcher shop	10.00
Drinking saloon	30.00
Eating saloon	30.00
Fountain (flowing 6 hours per day during season)	$8.00 to 45.00
Filling private cisterns, each time	1.00
Hotels and boarding houses, first ten rooms	20.00
Each additional room	1.00
Street sprinkling, 25 feet or less, including washing store fronts	5.00
Sprinkling lawn	5.00
Livery stables, each stall	1.50
Private stable, 1 horse	3.00
Each additional horse	2.00
Photograph galleries	$10.00 to 20.00
Printing offices	6.00
Steam engines, per horse-power	2.50
Stores	$6.00 to 15.00
Water closets (private)	2.50
Water closets (public)	5.00
Expense of tapping main	15.00

"These are the rates charged in a town about three times the size of ours, and I understand their water supply didn't cost a great deal more than ours are to cost."

"Meyersdale don't pay no such rates as those," spoke up our nail-keg friend.

"Well, I should guess not," said the cracker barrel man. Only a few families over there have more than one spigot, and no matter how much water they consume the cost is the same—$6.00 for the first spigot and $1.00 for each additional one. While I've got the floor I want to say this—and I know what I am talking about, too. Meyersdale water stock has never drawn a dividend exceeding 6 per cent. The company have wisely created a reserve fund with which to meet accidents and extend and improve their plant. If the borough owned the works they would have to levy an additional tax to meet everything of this kind. But what's the use talking? It seems that all these water people would rather have the tax collector come around once a year and say your water tax is so-and-so, and your additional tax for water repairs is so-and-so-much more, to knowing for a dead certainty that their water will cost them so much a year, and if they don't want it they don't need to pay for it.

"Now look-ee here, Mr. Cracker-barrel" said the man wearing one gum boot, "I'll have to call you down on a statement you made awhile ago, and give you a mite of cheese to nibble at in return. You said the "academy" building cost over $11,000. Now, you know that isn't true, and that it only cost between $7,000 and $8,000, and what's the sense in luggin' the school question in with the water works?"

"I'll answer your last question first," replied the cracker barrel man, as he helped himself to a wad of "Sailor's Joy." I did that simply to illustrate how our taxes are increasing. Perhaps the "academy" building only did cost $8,000, but a handsome fence was put around the entire square, a heater was put in the building, a well dug on the lot, down almost to China, and from which it is almost impossible to get a drop of water, because it was dug three times as deep as it should have been. The whole square is covered with trees and shrubbery, planted so close together that they can't grow, and several other items of expense have swelled the original cost $3,000 or $4,000. I know that I have been paying a building tax for years, and that the debt has not been diminished, and I'd like to know by what authority that money has been turned over to employing new teachers? these matters ought to be all set right, so that the taxpayers may know just where they stand before they assume a $27,000 debt for water works."

"I'm opposed to bonding the borough for water works," said the property owner looking for a job, "because my taxes are already too high, and the unjustness of this election is bothering me a good bit, but I don't see how it is to be avoided. The fellows who are loudest for water are fellows who own no property, and pay no taxes. What right have they to vote taxes on me? Then, again, there are a number of people temporarily residing in this town, who want to vote a water tax on us property owners. By what method of reasoning should they be permitted to vote on this question? And again, a large percentage of the taxable real estate in Somerset is owned by women, who will have no right to vote on the question, but who will have to bear the burden of increased taxation, simply because a lot of non-residents and non-taxpayers want, as they say "all the comforts of home."

"Well put, well put, indeed!" said Whiskers, choking in a wild attempt to revive the slumbering spark in his toby. "These fellows may have a legal right to cast their votes on this question, but what moral right have they. I do like to know?"

"Do unto others as you would be done by," poked in the cracker-barrel man, "even if it is to curtail the take of a widow, and place a mortgage on her home for the sake of a pleasure you will never enjoy."

"It is a preposterous idea," said the lawyer, "for the people of this town to vote an indebtness of $27,000 and then place it at the disposal of the burgess and town council to expend as they see fit. Why can't they make a statement over their own signatures showing what they have done and what reasons they have for thinking that a water system can be introduced from that abominable mud hole, Kimberly run. Talk about a few interested parties antagonizing this scheme through selfish motives. Bah! the people who pay the taxes are the persons who are most interested and I would caution them to look well to their interests when they vote on this question. A number of plans have been suggested, any one of which I regard as feasible, but the town council refuse to consider them, while we are asked to authorize them to create an indebtedness of large dimensions without knowing what system will be adopted. Let the voters look at this as business men and there will be no doubt as to the result of the ballots."

"Yes, but you are against progress," said the boom-town man. "You would sit idly by and let all the world laugh at Somerset because her citizens lack enterprise."

"Enterprise be hanged!" retorted the lawyer. "Here is a proposition from one offering to put in electric lights if granted a franchise of the streets, without asking a cent from anybody. 'Oh, no,' say the powers that govern the municipality, 'if any thing is to be made out of electric lights the town should be the beneficiary, and in any event the wires must go underground.' Here comes another and says, 'I'll put in a system of water works if you grant me the privilege of your streets, and won't ask one cent guarantee.' 'Oh, no,' is the reply, 'we can't place ourselves at the mercy of capital.' Talk about progress—about standing in your own light—while you are striving after impossibilities! Away with you."

"This water talk makes me sick," said the shop-keeper, as he began shoveling coal into the stove and preparing the fire so that it would keep throughout the night, "and I wish all you fellows would go somewhere else to loaf unless you can find something else to talk about."

"The tariff is a tax," croaked the cracker-barrel man, "and so are public schools, and public roads, and all other public institutions, but maybe," and he winked the other eye, "water works in Somerset will be self-sustaining, free trade, as it were."

And thus the talk continues from night to night around the store stove, while the great fire within cerakles and laughs at the views expressed by the sturdy citizens until it is finally smothered by the good shopkeeper, who longs for an opportunity to as quietly strangle the water debate and turn the attention of the "argyfiers" to raising ducks.

See Where You Can Do the Best.

See where you can get the best and purest candy for the most reasonable price, then buy. We have ordered barrels and boxes of candy for the holiday trade and can sell as cheap as any for the quality of these goods. Our candy is not made of glucose, but is pure sugar candy. Special prices to Sunday-school and other treats. All sizes of oranges at a low price, nuts, dates, figs and anything kept in a first-class grocery store. Market prices paid for butter and eggs, in exchange for goods. Prompt attention, courteous treatment. Give us a call. No trouble to show goods.

Kantner & Platt,
No. 2, Baer Block. Somerset, Pa.

It is said that within a month ex-Senator William A. Wallace will make application for the discharge of his assignees, his financial affairs being in such a condition that he can control his own estate. Mr. Wallace has paid dollar for dollar of his indebtedness, and still has a comfortable sum left.

Now Open.

At the store of M. E. Schrock, Somerset, the largest line of Queensware, Japaneseware, Silverware and Wall paper ever brought to Somerset county.

Robert R. McFarland, Chief Engineer of the rolling mills of the Holidaysburg Iron and Nail Company, was run over and killed by an express train of the Pednsylvania railroad.

Special Handkerchief Sale.

Mrs. A. E. Uhl will have a special Handkerchief and Muffler sale on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week. Stock very large, variety great and prices specially low.

Mrs. A. E. Uhl.

An Afflicted Town.

Somerfield, Somerset Co., Pa., Dec. 4, '91.

Editor Herald:—

This hitherto healthy little town is now experiencing a severe season of affliction. Fully one-half of its citizens are down with a malady, which, if not la grippe in its worst form, is something equally as bad, if not even worse. The victims are taken with chills and fever, severe pains in the head and limbs, accompanied with stomach sickness and vomiting. Some cases are of two week's continuance and while the symptoms have usually been of an alarming character, no deaths have yet occured. The disease, in most instances, has claimed for its victims every member of a family, thus, leading to the opinion that it is more or less contagious. The usual remedies resorted to for severe colds do not seem to have any perceptible effect. Quinine and favorite cough syrups afford no relief.

The remarkable fact about it is that this town has always been noted for its uniform good health. While neighboring communities have been scourged with epidemics, Somerfield has been singularly exempt from everything of the kind. Such diseases as typhoid fever, dysentary, diphtheria, etc., have never been known to prevail here, and while the grip reveled in its work in the surrounding country last year, there was not a well defined case in this place.

Much speculation is indulged in as to the cause of the present affliction. As it is popular just now to lay all sickness in cities and large towns to the water that is used, some of the knowing ones charge it all up to the well-water of the town. But others take no stock in this theory, on the ground that no purer water is to be found anywhere than is pumped from their wells, and that while impure water might be a factor in producing other diseases there is no reason to think it is an agency in la grippe.

X.

Now Ready

The largest and most complete line of Christmas and every day goods in Somerset. Don't fail to see our China and Japanese glassware, opal ware, vases, etc. Lamps of the season, at prices bound to take Christmas presents from 1 cent up in the dollars. Call early and get the choice bargains.

E. B. Coffroth.

Handkerchiefs.

Handkerchiefs, Handkerchiefs for 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 50, 75 cts and $1.00 as complete and beatiful variety to be seen anywhere at Mrs. K. B. Coffroth's.

Parker & Parker's large show windows are attracting the attention of everybody who comes to town. The junior member of the firm is the artist who dressed them.

Notice!

The finest line of pictures ever shown in the county will be opened by Pritts & Kantner on December 15.

To fascinate you must have a Fascinator. See them at M. M. Tredwell & Co.

HOLIDAYS!

Now that the festive season is approaching, we are again prepared to meet the wants of the trade, as usual, for such occasions. Our stock of Candies, Nuts, Bananas, Oranges, Lemons, Raisins, Grapes, Figs, Dates, Cranberries, Olives, and many other delicacies, will be the best the market affords; therefore your interests will be well subserved by patronizing the old stand, which has weathered the storm for twenty years. And now, then, to say that our trade has been entirely satisfactory during the past year, is but voicing the sentiment of the old adage, "An honest confession is good for the soul." And furthermore, as the year 1891 draws to a close, may we not again, with sincerity, return thanks for the liberal patronage of our friends in the years gone by, with the hope that it may be merited in the future. May we add, a merry Christmas and a happy New Year (1892) to all.

Respectfully,
COOK & BEERITS.

Shovers of the "Queer" Trapped.

Tuesday morning two strangers, one about fifty and the other thirty years of age, stopped at the residence of Daniel Coleman, five miles east of town, and bought two glasses of cider. They offered a silver dollar in payment and received 95 cents in change from one of the women of the family. The men were away from home at the time, but when they returned, shortly afterwards, they discovered that the dollar was a counterfeit. Frank Meyers, who lives with Mr. Coleman, started in pursuit of the counterfeiters and followed them to town.

About half-past four o'clock Meyers discovered one of the men in Coleman's eating house, in the act of passing another dollar. Stepping up to the counter Meyers said, "That's a counterfeit dollar." "I know it is," was the reply. "You are the man who gave the woman a counterfeit dollar at Grandpap Coleman's this morning," continued Meyers, "and I want it back."

At this the man bolted out of the store and down the street towards the railroad station, closely followed Meyers.

He passed the station and hurried into the office of the Mechanical Works, and when Manager Snyder looked up the man raised his hand and exclaimed, "for God's sake don't say anything," and dropping into a chair, pulled off his boot. His stocking and drawer leg were filled with bright dollars, all of which he cast