

Abduction of a Young Girl—A Great Wrong in our own Midst.

Our village has been the scene of considerable excitement for some days past, in consequence of the sudden and mysterious disappearance, some two or three weeks since, of a young girl, aged about thirteen years, by the name of Catherine Langdon, residing in the family of Nelson Lee, proprietor of the American Hotel in this place, to whom she had been entrusted by her father, John Langdon, to rear up to womanhood. She has since, by extraordinary efforts, been found and restored to her father and friends. The reported particulars of her absence, as given by herself, are as follows: It seems that Catherine was attending school, and on Monday the 20th December last she was enticed away in company with a young Irish girl by the name of Sarah Shaughnessy to the house of the Hon. R. R. Little, where another Irish girl, by the name of Mary McGuire, was in waiting to receive her. Catherine was taken from thence, in company with these two girls, to the house of Mrs. Coad, a widow lady, where the Irish frequently hold "mass."

THE AGITATOR.

M. H. Cobb, Editor & Proprietor.

WELLSBOROUGH, PA. Thursday Morning, Jan. 27, 1859.

All Business and other Communications must be addressed to the Editor to receive attention.

S. M. PATTERSON & Co., 119 Nassau St., New York, and 10 State St., Boston, are the Agents for the Agitator, and the most influential and largest circulating Newspapers in the United States and the Canada. They are authorized to contract for us at our lowest rates.

Special Notice.

With the present number, my connection with The Agitator as Editor and Proprietor thereof, ceases. All dues for Advertising and Jobbing will be received by me. Agents in the several townships having subscription moneys in their hands will please pay over to my successor, Mr. Young, to whom all letters pertaining to the paper should henceforth be addressed.

Friends will direct letters intended for me to Wellsboro, until further notice.

M. H. Cobb.

The time of Elder Stone's Donation is changed to the 9th of February.

L. P. WILLISTON, Esq., will please accept thanks for State documents.

Col. ELI SLIPER was elected Treasurer of this Commonwealth last Monday week.

We are unable to notice several matters as we intended, owing to the crowded state of our columns.

Subscribers to the N. Y. Evening Post, and N. Y. Tribune, are requested to pay in their subscriptions without further delay.

We understand that the late change in the weather affected the oyster market most miraculously. It is reported that the price of bivalves never commanded so high a price in this market as on Thursday night of last week.

LARGE GAME.—A fine, large Buck made his appearance in the Public Square with more haste than dignity, Wednesday of last week. A posse of the citizens, with dogs, took his case into consideration, and after an exciting chase, his audacious Buckship was captured and killed.

THE LECTURES.—Mr. WILLIAMS lectured before the Lit. Association in the Court House, last Thursday evening, as advertised. The theme, "The Age of Brass," was skillfully handled and the effort flatteringly received by an intelligent audience. The reading is highly commended.

The next lecture of the course is to be delivered by Mr. H. N. WILLIAMS. Neither the subject nor the time of delivery are known to us. There will be a debate this evening.

GOOD-BYE.

THE world is full of leave-takings. We meet, greet each other, form acquaintances knit our souls into the bonds of friendships destined to survive the clay, and not seldom become so mingled in thought, hope, emotion and aspiration that the landmarks of a separate identity are swept away for time—perhaps for eternity.

And then we separate; some led away into diverging paths by yearnings and ambitions connecting them with life's business; some are thrust away from each other by untoward fortune; and some are snatched away by the unseen Hand which never forgets its cunning. And life is rife with good-byes.

It is now four and a half years since I came to live with you, to labor with you, to see your interests as mine, mine as yours and our mutual interests as the interests of MAN, everywhere. If anything of success has accrued to you and to me in the liberalization and better progress of popular sentiment, I do not forget that the credit must be shared, as the labor was shared, equally. I bear in mind that the field was ready for the seed which I have helped to scatter, and for the privilege of so aiding you I cannot seem grateful enough.

As I promised in my salutation—that I would defend the Right, however unpopular it might be, and denounce the Wrong, however powerful and popular it might be, and this, too, without regard to personal consequences, asking no quarter and granting none—so have I done. Nobly have you sustained me. Your hands have been ever outstretched, your hearts have always beat kindly, your kind words have gladdened some of the darkest days of my life with sunshine; and up to this hour of final separation the evidences of your appreciation, liberality and good-will have multiplied with the lapse of time. I shall not forget it. There is a gratitude which baffles language to express. My attachment for Tioga county and its thousands of warm hearts was never so great as it is to-day.

I go away at the beck of no sudden impulse, and your patronage is sufficient assurance that I am not driven out. I have desired to go away for more than two years. The Agitator is the only child of my house. I took it from the cradle, taught it its infant paces and gave it to all that I had to give in the days of its helplessness and adversity. So, from a precarious existence, have I watched and tended it up to this hour—the hour of its greatest strength as yet, and full of promise of still greater prosperity under its new conductor. It is not my desire to greatly magnify my labors; yet, when we sit down in the old place in the family circle on the eve of departure, do we not speak more freely and frankly? Bear with me.

If The Agitator has proved a pleasant weekly visitor at the firesides of some of you, it has become so through labors of which you have little dreamed. Imperfect as it is, far short of my ideal as it falls, I have worked my life into it. I have shunned no labor. It has cost me more sleepless nights than have been good for the body to endure. These four and a half years have been brimmed with Real life to me, fraught with varied experiences, some pleasant, some painful, but all disciplinary, necessary, and therefore good. I could not recall aught if I would—would not if I could. I would not say that were I not conscious that my heart beats truer for MAN because of these silent and continual wrestlings. I could not afford to lose the strange experiences of these few years—

beginning as they do in the rosy morning of young Manhood, when least looked-for, yet most needed, and leading through fields of sunshine and shadow whose alternations have come to be more loved than feared.

Friends and patrons: Through your liberality The Agitator passes from my hands in the hour of its greatest prosperity. No New Year has added so many names to its subscription book—none has commenced with such an increase of general patronage. I am glad to say this—I wish I could say that the income of the paper had trebled in these four and a half years. It has doubled; you can treble it and be no poorer.

And I am yet more gratified in being enabled to deliver the establishment into the hands of a gentleman in every way qualified to conduct it up to a higher pitch of influence and prosperity than it has yet reached. The paper will hereafter be in the control of HUGH YOUNG, esq., who comes to the work with willing hands and a heart that has ever throbbled in sympathy with the wronged and oppressed, everywhere. He comes to the work with no little experience as a journalist, experience purchased "in the times that tried men's souls," amid the difficulties and dangers which overflowed Kansas with ruin in 1856. In that year Mr. Young stood shoulder to shoulder with the Free State leaders in Kansas, in the treble capacity of soldier, Special Correspondent of the Missouri Democrat and Correspondent of the New York Tribune,—posts which he filled ably and faithfully, as the Press bore ample and flattering testimony during the period of his connection with those Journals. He was likewise for one year one of the editors of the Herald of Freedom, published at Lawrence, Kansas. I mention these facts to show that in abandoning my post the interests of the cause have not been for a moment forgotten. I have enjoyed the friendship of Mr. Young for several years and know him as a man of high-toned principle, genial, and as true as steel. I may ask for his favorable consideration of every true Republican, saying to you all that a favor shown him will be considered a favor shown to myself; for my interest in the welfare of the AGITATOR will never abate, the interests of the cause of Freedom in Tioga will never be less dear to me than they have been. Give him your aid in everything that can contribute to his prosperity and the resources of the paper will never fail. I know, by experience, that the Republicans of Tioga will never suffer Mr. Young to regret having assumed this new responsibility.

I can only thank the kind friends who have interested themselves in the pecuniary and political success of this paper. May that interest never flag.

The many excellent contributors and correspondents of THE AGITATOR are entitled to my highest esteem. It is not without sincere regret that I part company with them. My successor will be duly grateful for a continuance of their favors.

To my brethren of the Press, thanks for the many courtesies and uniform consideration they have shown me. I shall not say "Good-bye" to them, since this field is abandoned only that I may enter upon another, where there is pioneer's work to be done. Till then.

Friends, patrons, to each, to all, in the first and best sense of the term: GOOD-BYE.

M. H. COBB.

SALUTATORY.

In assuming the editorial management of a political newspaper, we trust we are duly impressed with the great responsibility which rests upon us. To cater to the literary tastes of the public; to take a straightforward, just, and manly course on every subject which affects in any manner the well being of society, regardless alike of the smiles or frowns of any man or set of men; to advocate and encourage Right, and to rebuke and denounce Wrong wherever either may be found; to be courteous and tolerant to those who may differ with us politically or otherwise; to do all this successfully, requires more than ordinary experience and ability. Whether the Agitator will maintain its present pre-eminence among its contemporaries outside of the cities, remains to be demonstrated. We shall spare no efforts to make it as good as could reasonably be expected of a country newspaper. We may fail to do so, nevertheless our readers may rest assured that the paper will be no less in earnest in its work than heretofore.

While we feel grateful for the kind words which Mr. Cobb has spoken to you above in our behalf, and for the generous allusions he has made to some former services in the cause of Freedom, we had hoped to come before you an entire stranger, relying solely upon our columns for that status which your intelligence and judgment will accord to us.

We will now proceed to state frankly the course we intend to pursue, so that no misunderstanding can possibly arise between us and our readers. We believe in the principles embodied in the Philadelphia Platform. The brilliant victories gained in almost every Free State, in the memorable contest of 1856, showed how dear these principles were to the popular heart; and the Republican victories in the States from time to time since then, but go to show that these principles are becoming better understood, and that the masses are determined sooner or later to rid themselves of the iron rule of the Oligarchs, and to place the Government where the fathers designed it should be, on the side of Free Soil, Free Labor and Free Men. The Agitator will therefore continue to be "devoted to the extension of the Area of Freedom and the spread of Healthy Reform." With this motto at our mast head, we would be manifestly false to ourselves if we passed by in silence the great sin, which, next to slavery, blocks up and retards our intellectual and moral progress as a nation. We believe therefore in Temperance everywhere, and in their practical application to everyday life. We believe that the License Law of last year is a nuisance, and the sooner it is repealed and a more stringent law enacted in its

place, the better will it be for the people. We believe that the existence of doggeries in any village is discredit to its inhabitants. It is in such haunts that young men take their first lessons in crime. The young man who plays for beer or oysters, can very easily be induced to play for money. The step is short. If these poisons have not brutalized him—if these associations have not stultified the good in his nature—if he have a conscience yet left to him, he stands before it a self-convicted criminal! If it is the duty of society to protect itself from criminals, surely it is no less its duty to rid itself entirely of these nurseries of crime.

Believing this, we ask all good citizens, particularly those who have sons and daughters growing up around them, to frown down these rum holes, wherever they may be found. We shall from time to time, as circumstances may seem to require, willingly open these columns to those who desire to discuss this question; provided always, that the articles submitted for publication be written in courteous and temperate language, and designed to promote the general good.

We have but one new feature to announce. We have set apart the first column of the third page for items of local interest, which, we trust, will be more interesting as we become better acquainted with the people, and with the county.

We hope the friends who have from time to time added to the interest of the paper by their contributions, will continue to do so. We hope every person who feels an interest in the welfare of his county—every one who has a new fact or idea which might benefit others—will take advantage of the means afforded by these columns to make it known. In this way any intelligent farmer, teacher or mechanic can benefit others, and be benefited.

In conclusion, as it shall be our constant aim to merit the generous support heretofore accorded to the Agitator, we hope to receive it; but we ask no man to subscribe for the paper who does not feel that he will be as much benefited as we.

HUGH YOUNG.

ADAM had his EVE, Sampson his Delilah, Paris his Helen, Aeneas his Dido, Petrarch his Laura, Byron his "Maid of Athens," and last but by no means least, James Gordon Bennett has his Mary-Ann. Had any other than the immortal Bonner made the startling announcement to the public, we should have taken the liberty to doubt; but since it is accompanied with the news that Edward Everett is to enjoy no longer his solitary grandeur as a star contributor to the New York Ledger, but is to become the pivotal star of the most remarkable constellation in the literary heavens, composed of such lights as Horace Greeley, James Gordon Bennett and Henry J. Raymond. "Wonders will never cease!" Mrs. Grundy saith it, and she is right for once. Wonders will never cease until Bonner lays down his immortality. To return; Bennett has, or had his Mary Ann, and what more natural than that he should celebrate her charms in flowing verse? It was natural, and therefore Bennett sang. What more natural than that Bonner should hear the refrain and trace the melody to its source? Having found the spring, what does he but invite the smitten Bennett to rehearse his lines to the charming Mary Ann on the tuneful harp of the New York Ledger? "Barkis was willin'," and in addition volunteered to sing "The Smile of an Angel." Mr. Bennett is presumed to possess peculiar qualifications for the voluntary. We have seen him try to smile, but the result did not remind us of the angels. But Bennett writes for the Ledger; Greeley writes for the Ledger; Raymond writes for the Ledger; and after that who will not buy the Ledger?

We have a parting suggestion to make to Mr. Bonner. It is this: He should not forget that Mrs. Stowe still remains among those forlorn individuals who do not write for the Ledger. Stephen A. Douglas ditto. John W. Forney ditto. James Buchanan ditto. Rufus Choate ditto. We might go on to enumerate a host of dittos, but time would not suffice. We are about to retire to the shades of private life for a season, on a stipend of four cents a week, the which will be invested in the Ledger so long as Mary Ann is leal to Bennett and Bennett loyal to Mary Ann.

RESPECT FOR WOMAN.—It is a common thing to hear Woman's labor spoken of as of secondary importance. Her industrial responsibilities are underrated, belittled. She has worked on unnoticed, doing all things "by the hardest," while science, combined with skill and ingenuity, has forestalled the labor of many hands with machinery which is the wonder of the world. The manufacturer controls the labor of a thousand hands in the engine which drives his looms and his spindles. The farmer finds his resources trebled in his improved plow, his Mowing and Reaping machines and his Thresher. Man's labor has been lightened in divers ways. Until lately, woman has plodded through the routine of duty unrequited for.

The pathos of Hood's "Song of a Shirt" awakened many noble souls to a sense of criminal neglect of duty. Lives had been stitched away by tens of thousands ere Genius planned the overthrow of that cruel tyrant, the NEEDLE. The invention of the Sewing Machine must be ranked next in importance to that of the Steam Engine. Its inventors must be counted among the world's benefactors.

Among the many Machines of this class that manufactured and sold by Messrs. GROVER & BAKER, of New York, is the best, undoubtedly. We procured one of their Sewing Machines a few weeks since, and after testing it thoroughly and comparing it with others, most award to it the palm. It is a beautiful piece of mechanism and considered either as an article of utility or of ornament, cannot be surpassed. We make no doubt that this Machine, occupying no more room than an ordinary work-stand, skillfully operated, can perform the labor of twenty women and perform it well. There is a charm about its operation, an intelligence, so to speak, perfectly irresistible. This Machine may be seen and examined at the residence of Mr. L. BACZ, in this village. Could every family be possessed of one of these Machines, Consumption and a host of diseases directly traceable to the Needle would perish for lack of sustenance. See the advertisement.

Does the County Superintendent Pay? This is a legitimate question, and as far as Tioga County is concerned I will endeavor to answer it. I believe it does pay and in many ways.

1. It pays in the rejection of teachers who would damage the schools more than they would profit them. Most of these teachers would obtain schools if they had certificates, and some of them indeed did teach years under the old system. There are many spelling lessons in which they cannot pronounce half the words correctly. In the neighborhood where they are hired, though the pupils have been to school for years yet they can scarcely read or write. Thirty such teachers have been rejected in the Fall examinations, twenty of whom, would, without doubt, have found somebody to hire them had the old system prevailed; and the same might be said of the Spring examinations. If the average salary of these be placed low, it would even then make a large amount of money worse than thrown away. Suppose they teach for \$12 per month on an average, and four months in the year, their wages would amount to \$1,920.

11. It pays by augmenting the usefulness of those who do teach, and stimulating them to become better qualified for their business.

A teacher's value is to be estimated by the amount of correct thinking which he may cause his pupils to perform during the term,—by the advancement the pupil has made in the proper development of his moral, intellectual and physical being. It is no uncommon thing for the teacher to double or treble his value or usefulness in the school room by giving some attention to the various methods of teaching and detaching a reasonable amount of time in preparation for the business. The first school of which I had charge I taught for ten dollars per month and boarded myself; for the second seventy dollars per month, and if I am any judge in the case my last pay was much better deserved than the first. The difference consisted in the opportunity I had enjoyed for improvement during the intermediate time.

The teachers of this County have the stimulus of a thorough and rigid examination, with the prospect of being rejected if found unqualified, and if qualified of being marked according to their merits and of receiving low wages with a low certificate.

They have the stimulus of Teacher's Institutes—both town and county, and of a thorough examination of their school in the presence of Directors and others. I believe these influences, constantly operating, very much increase their usefulness. Indeed I know many who are frank to confess that their ability to teach has been augmented more than three-fold.

Allow that teachers earn only two dollars more with these influences than they would without them, and as there are twelve hundred months taught during the year, there would be the round sum of \$2400 saved to the County.

111. It pays by the influence of the Superintendent over the pupils.

Nearly every school in the County was visited last winter, and the name of each pupil written in a book prepared for that purpose, and on due examination the advancement of each pupil was marked opposite his name.

These pupils are all looking for the Superintendent again this winter. They know right well that he can tell whether they have made any improvement. In many instances they are intensely excited about it. Sometimes a boy who has not made good use of his time, is so thoroughly ashamed of his remissness that he will not submit to an examination by the Sup't, but will leave the house in spite of the remonstrances of the teacher. The Superintendent however in most cases is able to induce pupils to remain and submit to an examination. The faithful scholar is rewarded for his faithfulness by his ability to answer, the negligent one is chagrined at his own failure.

It requires no arguing to convince any one who has half an eye to human nature that such an examination by an experienced person is a source of great advantage to the pupils. True there are some pupils as there are some teachers who will not be influenced by any ordinary means. These however are few.

I think it is not overestimating the matter to say that these influences will occasion the pupil to learn ten cents worth more per month than he would otherwise do; and if he attends school four months in the year, this would make forty cents, and for the eight thousand pupils of the county, three thousand and two hundred dollars. There are many other sources of advantage, which however, cannot be as easily computed in dollars and cents, and yet be none the less valuable.

I firmly believe the above figures are more and much more than realized. They would make a debt and credit account with the County as follows:

Tioga Co., to the County Superintendent, for money saved by the rejection of unqualified teachers, Dr. \$1,920.

For better qualification and labors of those who teach, 2,400.
For influence over pupils, 3,200.
Total, \$7,520.
Cr. By salary of Co. Sup't, 900.
Balance, \$6,620.

The credit here of the \$900 ought not in truth to be given to Tioga County, for she pays less than \$400 of the entire school appropriation, and receives from that source over \$2,200, to be directly distributed among the townships for the payment of their teachers; and then this \$900 in addition, of which she would otherwise receive very little, if any.

N. L. REYNOLDS.

Zero.

I had proposed to examine professional and political zeroes before taking up conditional zero, but having treated zero as a symbol of operation, as a matter of course, zero of condition should take precedence of those of less account and importance. When the sign minus is prefixed to an isolated term it is not to be considered as a symbol of operation, but as a symbol of condition, merely showing that the number or quantity is in a state or condition directly opposite to that denoted by plus; thus, the degrees of the thermometer above zero are called positive, while those below must be called negative, being conditionally plus or minus as regards conditional zero on the scale.

I think we proved conclusively in the first article that there is a plain distinction between absolutely nothing and analytical zero, or zero; now zero under consideration differs very materially from these, from the fact that it performs a different office where it is used. Thermometers are used for the purpose of determining

COMMUNICATIONS.

For the Agitator.

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the variations of temperature. Those in common use consist simply of a glass tube of an exceedingly small bore with a bulb blown at one extremity and filled with mercury to about one-third the height of the stem. The tube being expelled, the tube is hermetically sealed, and the freezing point ascertained by holding it a short time in water containing ice, and the boiling point by holding it in the same manner in boiling water; these points being determined, the intervening space is to be divided into equal parts, called degrees, to indicate temperatures between these established points. Below the freezing point, and above the boiling point, degrees are usually marked of precisely equal magnitude with those of other parts of the scale. Now it appears very evident that some point should be established on this scale from which to determine the relative varieties of temperature. Two scales have established these points at the freezing point, while a third has placed it 32° below; they all respectively call it zero. One scale is divided into 80 parts from the freezing to the boiling point, another into 100 parts; while Fahrenheit's thermometer, which is chiefly used in this country, divides this space into 180 parts, and the zero is placed 32° below the freezing point, so that the boiling point is at 212° above zero. Zero in this case is simply a conditional symbol with respect to plus and minus, which indicate different degrees of heat above and below it. J. W.

LYNCH LAW IN ARKANSAS.—FIVE HUNDRED THIEVES HUNG.—The Memphis Eagle learns the following from a friend recently returned from Arkansas:

"A man by the name of Rogers stole a horse from an honest old farmer of Arkansas, and wended his way up into Washington county, where he said he sold it to a farmer there. Upon his not being able to give the name of the man, nor make a satisfactory explanation, a company who had been in pursuit of the horse thief took him to the woods and tied him to a log, and gave him two or three hundred lashes well laid on. This had the effect of bringing him to terms. He then confessed where the horse was, and who were his accessories. The company then proceeded to Red River Bottom, where they found the missing horse and five fellows, whose business it was to steal all the horses, and whatever else "would pay," that they could, whom they hung to limbs of trees, until they were dead, dead, dead. Upon consideration of Rogers having 'turned,' he was spared."

"THE WRONG PEW."—A correspondent of the Addison (N. Y.) Advertiser, writing from Woodhull gives the following incident as of recent occurrence to the Woodhull Brass Band:—"They were invited to Jasper, to attend a lecture, and enliven it with their music. The lecture was to be at the meeting house, and at the appointed time the band marched up and proceeded to the gallery. Finding a few gentlemen and ladies occupying the seats below, they immediately struck up Yankee Doodle, a very excellent tune and excellently played, but singularly inappropriate to the occasion. They had broken in suddenly on the solemnities of a prayer meeting! The few persons below turned around and viewed the intruders with staring eyes and gaping mouths which the band very innocently took for an expression of admiration, and they at once struck up the American Quick Step."

THE LUMBER BUSINESS.—Our lumbermen at present "as busy as snailers." We have been making inquiries in regard to the extent of business this season, and although it is a question to procure accurate information, we are satisfied that about the usual quantity of square timber will be made. So far as square lumber is concerned, we do not know how it will compare with the products of former years but one thing that we do know is, that a large number of our saw mills are standing idle. On the other hand, the "log men" have given up large contracts on the two Clearfield creeks, Shannock and Sinnamahoning, which will aggregate from 70,000,000 to 80,000,000 feet. The scarcity of snow this winter has however retarded their operations considerably, and it is doubtful whether their contracts will all be filled.—Clearfield Raftsmen.

WORSE THAN LEAP YEAR.—The ladies of Schuyler county, New York, have a very peculiarly their own, of intimidating the marriage matrimony. The Rushville Times says that on day last week, at Huntsville, a young man who had, or pretended to have, some claim upon the hand and heart of Mr. Thomas, called at his store and demanded that the best either carry her or submit to the effects of a bullet. Mr. W. refused either horn of the dilemma, when she banged away. The ball went pretty near his centre, but hitting a rib, passed around and out, doing no material damage. The young lady was arrested and tried, the Esquire Benson dismissed the charge, and she got her go.

A BALD EAGLE FROZEN TO THE TAIL.—The other day a large bald eagle caught a wild fish in the river Susquehanna, opposite Duncanville, carried it to a cake of ice which had lodged in a rock, and commenced his feast. During the operation, it is supposed that being wet on feet and feathers, from the intense cold, he fast to the ice; and being unable to extricate himself, perished. He was seen floating on wings until dark. There was a desire to capture the great "American," but he could not be approached on account of the great current floating ice between him and the shore.—Rushburg Telegraph.

The New York Waterbury, a magnificent paper published in New York and at 15 Brattle Street, Boston, at only \$2 per annum, on the best satin surface paper, elegantly illustrated with original cuts, is a most excellent, well as artistically beautiful paper, well worthy of a place in every family. A great deal is the publication of the "Waterbury" is worth more annually than the price of the paper—and this week begins a great story.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23, 1859.

Mr. Gilman of Maine is warmly in favor of Mr. Grow's amendment, which he would have voted for the engineering of the bill but was called out of the Hall before the amendment was demanded, and was immediately detained, and when informed that the bill was being taken, hurried back, and was present at the moment too late.

FLORIDA HAS REPEALED THE LAW providing for the incarceration of free negro sailors and their vessels are in port. South Carolina, we believe, is the only State that has such an actment on her statute book.