

# THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.

I have sworn upon the Altar of God, eternal hostility to every form of Tyranny over the Mind of Man.—Thomas Jefferson

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY H. WEBB.

Volume VI.

BLOOMSBURG, COLUMBIA COUNTY, PA. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1842.

Number 33

OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRAT  
OPPOSITE ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, MAIN-ST.

**TERMS:**  
The COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT will be published every Saturday morning, at TWO DOLLARS per annum payable half yearly in advance, or Two Dollars Fifty Cents, if not paid within the year. No subscription will be taken for a shorter period than six months; nor any discontinuance permitted, until all arrearages are discharged.

ADVERTISEMENTS not exceeding a square will be conspicuously inserted at One Dollar for the first three insertions, and Twenty-five cents for every subsequent insertion. A liberal discount made to those who advertise by the year. LETTERS addressed on business, must be post paid.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### EXTRAORDINARY CONSPIRACY.

BRISTOL (England) has been the scene of one of the most romantic incidents in real life which ever occurred, and of which a highly respectable merchant of this city has unfortunately been made the dupe.

This affair has been made public, in consequence of the gentleman (Mr. Wooley) having been charged before the magistrates with having conspired to defraud a goldsmith, named Jones, of a lady's gold watch and chain.

We subjoin an accurate account of the facts of the most extraordinary conspiracy, of which a most respectable man has been made dupe.

Mr. Wooley has been, it appears, for the last five years a widower; and Miss Bryers, who is now about twenty-two years of age, and whom he has brought up and educated from the early age of eight years, resided with him in the New Cut. About six months since, Miss Bryers intimated to him that a lady whom she knew, and whose property was worth £47,000, had accidentally seen him, and had on the instant fallen in love with him; that she had striven long to conquer her passion, but in vain, that her declining health bore testimony to the intensity of the struggle; and that, as a last resource, she had communicated her passion to her (Miss Bryers,) with a view to sounding her brother-in-law as to the state of his heart, with much more sufficiently nonsensical and absurd. Hearing this tale, Mr. Wooley, being of course most anxious to know who the lady was, pressed Miss Bryers to inform him who the fair innamorata might be, and was at length told by her that she was Miss——, a lady of the first family and respectability. Mr. Wooley, who had never seen the lady whose name was mentioned to him, agreed to reciprocate the alleged affection, and pressed anxiously for an interview. To this Miss Bryers replied, that such a course was entirely out of the question, for should the relations of the lady arrive at the knowledge that such an acquaintance existed, they would immediately have her removed, and her peace of mind would be ruined for ever, and Mr. Wooley's chance for the £47,000 would be destroyed. To mitigate the rigor of this sentence, however, a tender correspondence was fabricated and carried on in this lady's name (who was all the while unconscious of even Mr. Wooley's existence,) through Miss Bryers, and, in answer to one of these tender billets, Mr. Wooley pledged his honor not to seek an interview with the lady until it could be safely granted.

The matter having been mentioned to some confidential friend by Mr. Wooley, it was suggested to him that he ought to be better assured of the truth of the affair, and that it might be a hoax. The insinuation was, however, indignantly repelled by Mr. Wooley with the reply, 'Could they suppose that she whom he had brought up as his own child from the early age of eight years, whom he had ever treated in the most kind and indulgent manner, would attempt to be a party to the playing off of any trick upon him who might be con-

sidered as her father?' Shortly afterward, some circumstances transpired from which he was led to think that a trick was being played on him, and, determined to make sure, he mentioned his suspicions to Miss Bryers, wrote a letter to Miss——, and proposed himself to accompany Miss Bryers to the door of the lady's house, and wait outside for an answer. Miss Bryers, nothing daunted, reproached him for entertaining the slightest suspicion, and said that she would be most happy to convince him, and that he had better at once write the letter, and they would walk together with it to the house in which the lady resided. This was accordingly done, and, on reaching the house, Miss Bryers knocked at the door, and having ascertained that the lady was at home, sent in her card (both being personally wholly unknown,) and desired Mr. Wooley to wait for her.— She then, with unparalleled effrontery, introduced herself into the presence of the lady. She apologized for her intrusion, and said that being informed that Miss—— was very kind in administering relief and religious consolation to the poor, she had presumed to solicit her to visit a poor woman at a place in Cathay, which she named to administer some relief to her mind—that the poor woman did not need pecuniary assistance, as she (Miss Bryers) had procured for her every thing that was necessary. The lady replied, that it was true she was ever most happy to contribute to the relief of the suffering poor as far as possible but that, with respect to religious consolation, she thought the clergyman of the parish was the proper man to be applied to. Miss Bryers immediately acknowledged that this was the proper course, and having apologized for troubling Miss——, requested to be allowed to write a note to the reverend gentleman, soliciting his aid. This was, of course, acceded to, and Miss Bryers sat down to write the note; but, instead of writing to the clergyman, she penned an amorous answer to Mr. Wooley's letter, in the name of the lady in whose house and presence she was committing this wanton fraud. Having finished, and used a wafer instead of a seal, she wished the lady good morning, and, having rejoined Mr. Wooley in the street, she triumphantly produced the note, still wet, told him Miss—— was very much annoyed at his suspicions, and, in fact, completely convinced the too credulous Mr. Wooley that all things were proceeding rightly for his marriage with the lady.

The correspondence continued uninterruptedly between the parties, and at length Miss Bryers produced a very handsome ring with the initials of the lady engraved upon it, told him that she had sent it with the request that he would wear it for her sake. Things being in this state, it was arranged, on this semi-fictitious correspondence, that £20,000 of the lady's property should be settled on herself, while the other portion was at her husband's disposal.— A request was also made that they should exchange watches, and Miss Bryers produced a neat lady's gold watch and chain, which the police report show that, together with the ring, she had procured from Mr. Jones. Mr. Wooley was of course delighted, and immediately handed Miss Bryers a very valuable gold watch, &c., which he wore. Mr. Wooley then became most anxious for the lady to name the happy day, but Miss Bryers told him that before he married, as he had been a widower for some time, he ought to refurbish certain portions of his house in a style befitting the reception of a lady. This was of course agreed to. Miss Bryers was directed to select the necessary furniture, and on handing in the various bills, cash was given her to discharge them. At this period this artful young lady, in order to still further blind her too credulous relative to her machinations, requested him to accompany her to make a morning call upon the lady of one of the first merchants, at her residence at Clifton, and told him that this lady was most intimate with Miss——, and would no doubt induce her to immediately

name the day. Mr. Wooley accordingly accompanied her in the carriage to Clifton to the house of Mrs.——. When they arrived there Miss Bryers persuaded him not to enter the house, but to remain in the carriage while she went in and spoke to Mrs.—— upon the subject, as they should not be able to converse freely in his presence. Miss Bryers then went into the house, and on being introduced to Mrs.——, whom she had not at all known previously; informed her that she had been taken suddenly ill at her door, &c. It is needless to say that the lady, of course, sympathized with her for her illness, and persuaded her to take a glass of wine, which might recover her. The artful girl did so, and took care to spill a portion of the wine on her cambric handkerchief; she then assured the lady of the house that she felt better, and, having returned to the carriage, told Mr. Wooley that she was sorry to have detained him so long, but that Mrs.—— had promised to go immediately to Miss——, and that she would make her have a glass of wine, and 'Bless me,' added she, 'I declare I have spilt some of the wine over my handkerchief.' If any doubt whatever had remained in Mr. Wooley's mind, he must have been more credulous than the generality of men if he had any longer entertained the slightest suspicion and accordingly he procured the licence for their marriage in Redcliff Church.

Bridal dresses and presents were prepared, bridecake ordered, and every arrangement made for the performance of the ceremony; on the day preceding which, however a strange series of events took place. In the afternoon of that day Mr. Wooley sent to the house of the Rev. Marcus D'Arcey Irvine, to request that gentleman to perform the ceremony on the ensuing morning. The reverend gentleman was, however, gone out to a dinner party, and Mr. Wooley, the anxious bridegroom, sent again and again, at six o'clock, at eight o'clock, and at ten o'clock at night, before Mr. Irvine returned home, who then stated that he would perform the ceremony in the morning, but that it was a strange time of night to come to a clergyman about such an affair. In the mean time the confectioner, who had orders to make the bridecake, happening to see one of the brothers of Miss——, the circumstance was mentioned to the utter astonishment of the gentleman, who immediately communicated the intelligence to his brother and Miss——, and, as was to be expected, finding that their sister had never seen Mr. Wooley, nor knew aught of the matter they determined that a respectable man like Mr. Wooley should not be made the victim of so cruel a hoax. They, in the evening of the same day, went to his house, sent in their card, and desired to speak with him. Mr. Wooley was at home, but being persuaded by Miss Bryers that they had found it out, and were only come to stop the marriage, he had himself denied and would not see them. These gentlemen, however, in the most praiseworthy manner made another effort to undeceive him, and wrote him two notes, desiring to see him at their counting house on business of the utmost importance, at the earliest hour in the morning, and before he went elsewhere.— These notes, however, together with their call, and the answer of the Rev. Mr. Irvine, only strengthened him in the opinion that their object was to prevent the marriage, and at the persuasion of Miss Bryers, he felt convinced that they should be interrupted if they attempted to get married at St. Mary Redcliff Church, and that they had better get married near London.— With this view Miss Bryers was despatched to Miss——, to inform her of this alteration; and make the necessary arrangements. This being done, Miss Bryers, in the most artful manner informed Mr. Wooley the next day that in consequence of the brothers having found it out, there had been a great disturbance, and that Miss—— had left her home, and was then in the house, where she would remain until the day of their starting for London, but

that no one must see her except Miss Bryers, not even the servant, as her character would be compromised if it should ever be come known that she had been in his (Mr. Wooley's) house before they were married. In order to favor this deception, Miss Bryers had procured an accomplice, the daughter of a neighbor, by whose aid the conspiracy was consummated.

This person was kept up stairs, and requested to frequently walk about, 'There, said Miss Bryers, 'don't you hear her over head walking about? how agitated she must be, poor thing?' Mr. Wooley pressed very hard to be allowed to see her, but this was still refused, and tender billets were passed by the hands of Miss Bryers, up stairs and down, almost every half hour and at length, in compliance with his tender entreaties, the lady above stairs agreed, that on his retiring to rest at night he might shake hands with her, but that he must not attempt to force his way into the room. Accordingly, on going to bed at night, a hand was put out through the door, and tenderly kissed by him, which hand, it now turns out, was that of his sister in law, Miss Bryers. On the fourth morning it was arranged that they should start for London, and the supposed Miss—— descended to the carriage thickly veiled, and accompanied by Mr. Wooley, Miss Bryers, and a male friend of Mr. Wooley's. They proceeded to Bath, where they dined at a hotel, Miss Bryers and the lady in one room, and Mr. Wooley and his male friend in another. The male friend then returned to Bristol, and the other parties proceeded to London, where a licence was procured, and, after the fourteen days had transpired, which by law there [compelled] to remain, they were married, Miss Bryers officiating as bride-maid.

After the marriage, the country, and visited the Isle of Wight, Southampton, &c., driving every where with four horses, and living in the first style, to pass away the honeymoon; on Monday last Mr. Wooley and his bride returned to Bristol. On the day after their arrival at home, friends called, as is usual, to offer their congratulations. Among them was the gentleman who had accompanied Mr. Wooley to town, who, on seeing the lady, said, 'Why, my dear Mr. Wooley I thought you had told me that you had married Miss——, of——, sister to the Messrs—— African merchants?' I have replied Mr. Wooley, 'this lady was Miss——, she is now Mrs. Wooley.' 'That lady!' exclaimed the friend; 'she is no more Miss—— than I am.' The friend then departed and Mr. Wooley inmediately charged his wife, 'Indeed,' said the lady, 'I'll convince you and all the world in the morning that I was Miss—— for your sister in law and myself will go to my brother's and bring away the deeds of my property, &c.' Upon hearing this, Mr. Wooley was reassured, and every thing passed off well until the morning, when the bride and Miss Bryers went out for the purpose as stated by her the preceding evening. It is needless to say that they absconded, and have not since been heard of, and Mr. Wooley discovered, that instead of having married the rich Miss——, with £47,000 besides expectancies, he was, through the contrivance of Miss Bryers married to a person bearing, indeed, the same name, but not worth 47 pence.—How the affair will end we know not; but it will doubtless furnish abundant occupation to the gentleman of the long tobe. What were the reasons inducing Miss Bryers to play her brother in law such a trick remain a profound secret. It is right to state, that the lady whose name was so unwarrantably made use of to deceive Mr. Wooley, not only knew nothing of the transaction, but is a perfect stranger to both Mr. Wooley and Miss Bryers.

'Come, get up, you've been in bed long enough,' as the gardener said when he was pulling up radishes to carry to market.

### TOUCHING TALE FROM LIFE.

We take the following touching story from the Evening Courier. In reading it, almost every body will be able to recognize its unfortunate subject:—

In the year 184—, a number of individuals were arrested for keeping a Gambling house in Chesnut street, near Independent Hall. The Counsel for the prosecution was sitting in his office one day when a young man genteel exterior and good address entered, and the following dialogue ensued;

'I have been summoned, to appear to-morrow as a witness against——, for keeping a Gambling house. Unless it is absolutely necessary, said he, as his agitation increased, 'I wish, sir, you would not urge my attendance.'

'I don't know,' said the counsel, 'that the conviction will depend upon your testimony, but as you are an important witness, it may be necessary to bring you upon the stand.'

'My reasons for asking this favor are urgent,' said he, 'and the consequence of a refusal may be fatal to my prosperity, and the happiness of others.' He became more agitated, and at the request of the gentleman, he continued. 'In a few days I am to be married to Mr.——'s daughter, residing in Chesnut street. The preparations are made, and day is fixed. If I am called upon as a witness in this case, I shall criminate myself, and be exposed to the eyes of my friends, and the public gaze as a Gambler. My character will be lost, my prospects in life blighted, and, of course, my domestic happiness destroyed.'

'You shall not be called upon, young man,' said the counsel, 'unless it is absolutely necessary,' and with this assurance they separated; not without some painful misgivings on the part of the gentleman, that he was about to be accessory to a wrong, which might result in the utter ruin of a confiding yet unsuspecting girl. The trial came on, but conviction was obtained without summoning the young man, and he went on in his course of duplicity and crime unexposed. In a few days, he was married.

'Two years passed, and a young but heart-broken wife appears before the legal tribunal, seeking a divorce. Her counsel was startled, when the husband came forward, at discovering, confronting the wife, the identical young man, who plead not to be exposed as a Gambler? The interview with the witness instantly occurred to the counsel's mind. The painful incidents of a deserted house, a neglected wife, and the cruelties which had followed his gambling habits, then came up in fearful array before the individual who saved him from his merited exposure.

The trial proceeded, and a gradual succession of acts of injustice, neglect, coldness, alienation, domestic discord and cruelties, on the part of the husband against a confiding and affectionate young wife, were disclosed, which melted the heart of the coldest spectator. His defence was feeble, and her cause triumphed. Happily she was liberated from the monster, who had won her heart, destroyed her peace, and deprived her of that happiness which beamed upon her so joyously during the morning of her bridal day.

His fate hardly need even briefly be told. He soon lost the esteem of his friends, if the Gambler has friends, and his credit followed with his reputation. His fashionable and elegant establishment in Chesnut street was closed by the Sheriff a few weeks since, and more recently, he has been arrested for forgery! What a brief, but melancholy detail of the fruits reaped from the pursuits of the Gambler!

We heard of a polite Frenchman one time, who carried his ideas of gallantry to such a pitch of sublimity as to run round to the other side of a lady when her shadow fell so that he couldn't avoid stepping on it.