

business for him, at the same time, advancing towards Alice and seeking to embrace her. With almost superhuman exertion she forced herself from him, and struck about. Her voice echoed through the gloomy hills, but no assistance came. As he was about to grasp her again, the shrill notes of a horn sounded at the gates and rang through the old arches of the castle. He bowed and turned to meet one of his followers, who with breathless haste, announced the arrival of Oscar Ruthven.

With an exclamation of joy, Alice threw herself on her knees, and thanked heaven for the timely arrival of her long lost Oscar. Turning the lackey aside, McFergus, saying that he would soon return after silencing the noisy boy, strode from the apartment and called for his armor. He was soon prepared, and rode forth completely clad in steel. Oscar stood firm as a rock prepared for the onset; McFergus rushed on to bear him down, confident of his superior strength and skill—but victory is not always to the strong, nor the race to the swift, as the issue will prove. McFergus was hot and impetuous. Oscar cool and collected. He knew his adversary was a dangerous man to cope with, and was the more guarded in his bearing. Oscar received his charge with coolness and deliberation, and parried his desperate blows with a judgment that would have done honor to an older head. The contest was carried on with great fierceness on the part of McFergus for some time, and opposed with great bravery by Oscar. Youth and activity impelled by love were doomed to conquer. McFergus gradually receded and was closely followed by his adversary. They had by degrees approached very near the edge of the precipice. McFergus saw his danger and stung to madness at the idea of being vanquished by one so much his junior, he made a desperate effort to turn his horse, and force Oscar from his position, which he perceiving, used all possible means to prevent. They gradually approached near the brink of the abyss. McFergus saw that there was but one alternative, and that was to make an effort to ride down his opponent by sheer strength, as he was better mounted and heavier armed than Oscar. Plunging his spurs into the sides of his horse, he raised his arm to hurl Oscar from his saddle, but at that moment McFergus' horse, driven to desperation, became frantic and unmanageable, and backed near the edge of the precipice. Oscar, perceiving his advantage, aimed a blow at his throat, and trying to avoid it McFergus was thrown completely off his guard. Oscar followed it quickly by another, and the bright steel entered the outlaw's throat between the breast-plate and helmet. With a curse upon his lips tottered in his saddle and the earth crumbled under the feet of his horse, and both him and rider were hurled into eternity! Down, down they fell, and the jagged rock far below, marked the course of the daring outlaw. The spot to this day, is pointed out by the descendants of Oscar Ruthven, and is yet called the Outlaw's Crag.

The meeting between Oscar and Alice can be more easily imagined than described. She threw herself into his arms and wept with pure joy—and with each embrace, thanked heaven for the timely deliverance and happy meeting.

The outlaws seeing their leader fall, immediately deserted their castle and fled to the mountains.

The story is told. Oscar, on arriving at the castle, on his return from Palestine, learned the sad news of the abduction of Lady Alice. Without stopping to refresh himself after his toilsome journey, he flew, on the wings of love, to rescue one dearer to him than all the world. Nervous by desperation he was able, as has been described, with great firmness, to overcome one of the most daring outlaws that ever flourished in Scotland.

Under the escort of Oscar and his party, with the followers of Sir Rupert, bearing the body of their master, Alice was conducted to her home. It was a mingling of sorrow for the death of Sir Rupert, and joy for the reunion of the lovers, after so many trials and difficulties.

With tears of joy and gratitude the old Earl embraced his daughter and prayed that heaven might reward her preserver.

After due preparation and ceremony, Sir Rupert was entombed in a neighboring chapel. His grave was moistened by many a tear. He died beloved by all who knew him.

It is needless to say that the Earl, seeing how matters stood between Oscar and Alice, eagerly gave his consent to their union—which was celebrated a few months afterwards with great pomp and ceremony.

The King having heard of the death of the outlaw McFergus, bestowed the castle and surrounding estate upon Oscar Ruthven, with privilege of bearing for his family arms, Gules, a chevron between three presents with the crest of a arm in armor, holding a sword Gutter de Lang—the motto 'Semper, Paratus.'

In course of time the old Earl was gathered to his fathers, but not before seeing a goodly train of grandchildren, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, as well as and cheer his old age. The tale is told by the descendants, and the coat of arms shown with pride, as an evidence of the exploits of their ancestor OSCAR RUTHVEN.

**REMARKABLE ESCAPE.**

I may be pardoned for relating an anecdote of a remarkable escape which was told me by several individuals who knew the fact. A young man from Stonington, who visited the South Sea Islands on a sealing voyage, was anxious to explore one of the glaciers, as he could not induce his comrades to accompany him, he started alone. While walking on the surface of the glacier, which was then covered with snow, he fell into a fissure, to the depth, as was supposed, of a hundred feet. He was so much bruised and injured by the fall that he remained senseless, it was supposed, some hours. Upon receiving he found himself wedged between the walls of the narrow chasm. His first feeling was regret that he had not been instantly killed, as there appeared no mode of escape. But, as he thought of dying in such a manner that his friends would never know of the place or manner of his death, he determined to make an effort to save his life. Taking his jack-knife, he began to cut steps for his feet in one side of the wall, while he pushed himself up with his back. He continued cutting until his fingers were completely lacerated by hard, sharp ice, and until the chasm became so wide that he could just reach across with his knife. However, his length reached the surface, and was found by his comrades crawling along the glacier twenty hours after he had fallen. Although he thus wonderfully escaped with his life, he was so lacerated and bruised that he was unable to labor for several months. As my informant said, no one but a man of remarkable spirit and strength would have had the energy to save himself under such circumstances.

**A PETRIFIED APPLE.**

We were shown last week, by Dr. Stewart of this borough; a petrified apple, which was found some time since in Armstrong township, in this county, immediately beneath where formerly stood a large tree which bore fruit precisely similar, in shape to this apple. It has changed into a sand stone of whitish cast and is truly, a beautiful and perfect specimen of petrification. Upon one side of the apple there is a small spot which seemed to have commenced to decay, and its color has changed to that which appearance it still retains, and is as hard and lull at that particular place as upon any other portion of the apple. From this it would appear that the quality of petrification has the same effect upon decayed that it has upon undecayed matter.—*Holidaysburg Register.*

**HORRIBLE DEATH.**

A man, named Maxon, of Ceres, Pa., was killed and had his legs burned off to the knees at his saw furnace, on the 17th inst. He had been boiling sap at the foot of rising ground, when his fire getting low, he cut off a large oak log a short distance above the fire, and fearing that it might roll against his kettles, thrust a handspike under one end of the log to direct its course away from the fire. The end of the log rolled on to the handspike with such force as to crush Maxon under it and crowding his legs into the fire, they were burned off to the knees.

**DREADFUL CASE OF MANIA-A-POTU.**

Two gentlemen, hunting a short time since in a swamp near Little Rock, Ark., were attracted by a faint, moaning cry, which led them to a spot where they found a poor creature lying in the mud and water, and suffering from the effects of mania-a-potu. His name was Mays, and it was supposed that he had remained in the situation in which he was found for two days and nights. He had eaten the flesh from the ends of his fingers, and was in a state of the greatest suffering. Though partially restored to his reason by prompt and humane treatment, his recovery was very doubtful.

**Editors Honored.**—E. W. Hunter, principal editor of the Democratic Union has been appointed private Secretary of Mr. Buchanan, Samuel D. Patterson, proprietor in part of the Democratic Union, has been appointed Navy Agent at Philadelphia. J. W. Forney, of the Lancaster Intelligencer, has been appointed Deputy Surveyor of the port of Philadelphia.

**DEMOCRAT.**

"TRUTH WITHOUT FEAR"

**BLOOMSBURG.**

**SATURDAY, April 5, 1845.**

**Remember the Printer.**  
WHEAT, CORN, RYE, BUCKWHEAT, OATS or WOOD, will be received for debts due us for subscription.

Also a few bushels of POTATOES if delivered soon.

From those who have promised Lumber (one inch and one quarter pine boards) will be received if delivered soon.

**CHARLES R. BUCKALEW, Esq.** of Bloomsburg, has been appointed, by the Attorney General, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, for Columbia County.

**MINER S. BLACKMAN, Esq.** has also been appointed for Luzerne County.

The passage of the Removal bill appears to have completely upset the nervous system of the Danville faction; so much so that they are constantly snapping and snarling at every thing and every body. All goes wrong with them. It is hard we know for them to give up the long cherished object of their affections, the county seat, although it was originally obtained through fraud and deception, and has been retained, greatly to the injury of the citizens; and against the prosperity of the county. But, as it is for them, the people have willed it, and the bitter pill must be taken and all the abuse they can heap upon individuals will not prevent the medicine from having its due operation. Not even the late attack upon county officers, or the more recent attack upon the county meeting to appoint Delegates to the State Convention to nominate a candidate for Canal Commissioner, can affect the long desired result. The people understand all such 'tricks of the trade,' and will not be 'diddled' by them. The sneering of a writer, in the last Intelligencer over the false signature of 'Millin,' as the name of James S. Monroe, is all lost, as this name was a typographical error of the printer, and should have been Isaac S. Monroe, of Catawissa. With this correction, we presume the writer will recognize the gentlemen at once, and be satisfied, that as he has been appointed a Delegate by the Democracy of the county, so he will take his seat in the convention as their representative, despite the snarling and snapping of the expiring Danville faction, and the opponents of long deferred justice in the county.

**STATE TAXES—AGAIN.**

From pages 20 & 30 of the Report of the Revenue Commissioners we get the following information:

That from the returns of the County Commissioners of Luzerne and Columbia Counties for 1845 as laid before the Board it appears that, of acres of land subject to taxation,

Luzerne has	913,280
Columbia	267,350

being an excess in Luzerne over Columbia of 645,930 acres, and making a proportion for the first named County, to the last of three acres to one, nearly. Yet the total valuation of Real Estate in the respective counties is very nearly the same, being,

Luzerne	\$3,770,040
Columbia	3,538,030

This valuation is untrue and unjust. It is untrue that an acre of land in Columbia is worth three in Luzerne, and it is unjust that we must pay State Taxes according to this false valuation. We can see no good reason why a German farmer in the 'Star of the North' should pay as much tax for one acre of land as his Yankee neighbor in Luzerne pays for three acres, and we think the people.—Dr. Salisbury's 'roiling millions,' will agree with us in this matter.

**Baltimore Methodist Conference.**—The correspondent of the New York Commercial Advertiser writes that this body has re-affirmed its decision in the case of Rev. F. A. Harding. His case, it will be remembered, came before the General Conference by appeal last May, and caused much excitement, the Baltimore Conference having suspended Mr. Harding for refusing to emancipate his slaves. The General Conference approved the decision, and now the Baltimore Conference has re-affirmed it. The proposition to divide the Church on account of Slavery was lost 148 to 48.

**Boston.**—Ex Governor Marcus Morton has been appointed Collector of Boston, vice Lemuel Williams, removed; and Mr. Merrill succeeds Mr. Urison as Surveyor of same port.

**ORIGINAL.**

**The June Bug Letters.**

**LETTER VI.**

**WILKESBARRE, March 21—1845.**

Dear Jim, have you  
Ever known a school  
Where dullness drew  
The rod and rule?

If not, allow  
A rattle-brain  
To tell you how  
(Though it may pain.)

Things are done up  
Where the poor buy  
Quaffs of the cup  
Of agony!

The Pedagogue  
Performs his part  
With squish-like skill  
And squish-like art.

With brow of brass  
Though wrinkled some  
Confirms each class  
And bids them 'come.'

While cheek of flame  
Bespeaks the tide  
Of mighty thoughts  
Within his head!

Woe! be to him  
Who makes him mad  
He'll 'catch a few'  
From that old gad;

A faithful suik  
Well known to all  
And oft applied  
To large and small.

For trivial fault  
The dunce block gets  
A customer  
To take the 'sets.'

The poor boy groans  
And he would swear  
If fear did not  
Whisper, 'forbear.'

He feels, he knows  
That on his back  
The cruel blows  
Fall thwang and thwack,

That down his nose  
And o'er his face  
The tear drop flows  
With careless grace,

Pit'pat his heart  
Beats up and down  
But though all smart  
From rule to crown,

He guesses (and  
He guesses right  
If one can judge  
By sound and sight.)

That a poor clown  
And great green fool  
Is lurching him  
And keeping school.

Now I believe  
The law of love,  
Should 'rule the roost'  
Nor blow nor shove,  
Nor box nor kick  
Should fall on Grove  
Or Jack or Dick.

Let them 'cut up'  
Poor, gentle dears!  
Their tan will last  
But a few years:

And we old boys'  
Who know the birch  
Ne'er helped us on  
At school or church;

Protest against  
This cruel life  
Of constant blows  
And ceaseless strife!

The eye should rule,  
And not the rod,  
The intellect,  
And not the clod!

Dear Jim, adieu  
My yarn is done  
Health be with you  
And lots of fun!  
May you long live  
And I to see  
Your constant friend  
Tobias D.

To James Hagley.

As the following was handed us with a request that we would publish it, we give it as we received it.

Whereas, in the "Columbia Democrat" of March 29, 1845, a publication charging the Deputy Attorney General of this county indirectly, with aiding or consenting to the execution of manifestly bad in the case of the Commonwealth vs. Vanhorn, committed for the offence of altering and publishing counterfeit notes, knowing them to be counterfeit notes, this is to certify, that the information against the said Vanhorn, was sworn to before me, and he was committed by me, and the amount of bail was fixed by me, without any aid, consent or consent in the part of Edward H. Baldy, Esq. Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, and moreover, that no suggestions or advice were given me by Mr. Baldy, except that on my representing to him the situation of the prisoner, and that his death might be the consequence of his confinement, Mr. Baldy said that \$200 two hundred dollars, which was the sum originally fixed by me, was small enough—and that sum was reduced by me, under the circumstances of the case which I thought justice in so doing, to one hundred dollars, without the acquiescence or knowledge of Mr. Baldy.

**WILLIAM KITCHEN,**  
Danville, March 20—1845.

At a meeting of the voters of sub school district, denominated the Bloomsburg School, held pursuant to public notice, at the school house in Bloomsburg, on the first day of April, 1845 for the purpose of electing a committee of Schools for the ensuing year.

On motion Thomas Painter, was called to the chair, and John M. Chamberlin, appointed Secretary. After the object of the meeting was stated.

The committee of last year made report of their proceedings during the year, which was approved of and adopted.

Resolved that the committee are entitled to great credit, and should receive the approval of the citizens, for their attendance and judicious management of the school house and common schools during the past year.

Resolved, that the old committee, Obad Everitt, E. Armstrong and J. M. Chamberlin, be continued for this year.

Resolved, that the committee employ two Male Teachers and one Female Teacher during this summer for subscription schools:

Resolved, that the proceedings be signed by the officers and published.

**THOMAS PAINTER, President.**  
**J. M. CHAMBERLIN, Secretary.**

**Mr. Bess:**—Will you please state for the especial information of 'Reform' and 'Tax Payer' and for the satisfaction of those of your readers, when their communications might mislead, that the Commissioners of Columbia county did make out and forward to the Board of Revenue Commissioners, statements, certified copies, lists, &c. from their office, and the Prothonotary's and Recorder's offices containing in themselves the fullest answers to all the interrogatories and inquiries addressed to the Commissioners, which these Commissioners could be supposed to be able to answer; and that the interrogatories which were not answered were of such a nature, that as individuals they could not, from a want of knowledge on the various subjects inquired about, answer them satisfactorily to themselves or in such a manner as to aid the Board in their deliberations. These statements were received by the board, the receipt acknowledged, and we presume were satisfactory, as there were no objections made and no further enquiries asked, or any more answers desired. With regard to the County tax allotted to 'Reform' is desired to remember that the Auditor's report was made out before the January county; of course a large sum of what was then due the County has since been expended. He will also please observe, that all the commissions of the different Collectors must be deducted from the amount stated as due the County, and further that a considerable amount consists of notes and obligations, at present not available.

Nevertheless, before receiving 'Reform's' gentle hint, the Commissioners had come to the determination to reduce the rate of County tax for the coming year, one half. In answer to 'Tax Payer' we have only to say that we always supposed Mr. Rupert, the late Treasurer, and his body, sufficiently able to pay any balance which he may owe either to the State or County, without the interest thereon. And that 'Tax Payer' need not be afraid of being 'fired' of his money to pay interest for Mr. Rupert. Mr. R. will, however, probably answer for himself. How 'Reform' arrives at the conclusion that the county Commissioners are the cause of the increase of State tax in this county, we are at a loss to conjecture. But there are always some disposed to find fault, & if they have no good cause for grumbling they can generally make one. This Statement was deemed due to ourselves, and to the public, to prevent misunderstanding, and correct misapprehensions.

**COMMISSIONERS.**

The following was published in the Wilkesbarre Advocate of March 12, 1845 upon its receipt, we marked it for immediate publication, but the paper becoming out of sale, it has consequently been deferred until now. Our attention was again called to it, by the usual liberality of the Danville Democrat, in copying the first paragraph of the communication which relates to the county generally, and excluding from its columns that part relating to the advantages of the Pshingereck region for Iron works and we now publish the article entire.

From the Wilkesbarre Advocate.

**Columbia County.**

We received the following communication from an esteemed friend in Columbia County, and most cheerfully give it publicity. Columbia, like Luzerne, is destined to become a rich County. The two together, have all the materials necessary for the most extensive business operations. No section of country perhaps in the world, combine, with so great facilities, a greater abundance of all necessary materials.

**COMMUNICATION.**

It is the opinion of many persons that the mineral wealth of Columbia County is not as much known and appreciated as it ought to be; especially when it is viewed in connexion with the Coal of Luzerne County. It would, no doubt, surprise many persons to know that not less than eleven furnaces, and some of them of the largest class, will be in successful operation in this small county next summer; and they would be still more astonished to learn that three times the number might be erected and do a profitable business. When the immense mineral wealth of this county is fully developed (and it will be developed soon or late) it will be one of the richest counties in the Keystone State. What, then, would be the quantity of coal necessary to meet this demand? and be it remembered that this coal must come from your county. Large tracts of land containing inexhaustible quantities of the best hematite ore can be had, at this time, for half their value. Limestone is abundant and situated just in the place where it would be wanted; and coal from the Wyoming Mines can be brought on the canal and sold for \$175 per ton, and probably for less. When it is remembered too, what vast quantities of flour, grain, pork, beef, potatoes, &c. are taken to the cities and to Pottsville, Mauch Chunk, Beaver Meadows, Tamaqua, and other places, there is no doubt but a population of three times its present number could be supported without bringing a single bushel into the county.

There is just cause to believe that the Seat of Justice will now be removed to Bloomsburg. This, with other favorable circumstances will conspire to make it, in time, one of the most flourishing villages in Northern Pennsylvania. Large streams of water on both sides of the North Branch would furnish water power sufficient for all kinds of machinery. This especially is the case with regard to Fishing Creek. Sites for furnaces within two miles of Bloomsburg on this stream can be had, at this time on reasonable terms, within a mile of vast quantities of ore, and less than half a mile from limestone. The ore is so situated that two good horses could draw two tons at a load; and can be had at the mines for 25 cents per ton.—It is well known that some gentlemen have made large sums of money who have brought their ore and limestone a distance of from 7 to 8 miles and their coal across the river, 4 to 5 miles if persons under such unfavorable circumstances, have become independent, what might not be expected if men of business habits would engage in the business in these very eligible situations where the materials for manufacturing iron, in any quantity are at the very door? One thing is certain, that these things cannot remain long. They will soon be purchased, and many may regret that they did not avail themselves of the opportunities when they could be engaged.

The solidity of Columbia county is not exceeded by any place in the Union. In proof of this we might mention the almost total absence of all endemic and epidemic diseases, and the general health and longevity of the people. In the northern parts of the county timber of all description can be bought for \$5 per 1000, and brought down Fishing creek at a small expense. It any should ask, if these advantages are so great why have not greater improvements been made already? In answer to this it must be said, the settlement of a great part of the county is comparatively of recent date, the inhabitants are generally farmers, and do not possess sufficient funds to engage in such business.

Upon a candid and impartial review of all the preceding facts and looking forward to the result of things as they will in time be developed; the writer thinks he has good ground in predicting that Columbia county will, before many years pass away be the Southshire of Pennsylvania.

**FERRIS.**