

LEIGH VALLEY AND BLOOMSBURG GENERAL ADVERTISER.

LEVI L. TATE, EDITOR.

"TO HOLD AND TRIM THE TORCH OF TRUTH AND WAVE IT OVER THE DARKENED EARTH."

TERMS: \$2 50 IN ADVANCE.

VOL. 19.—NO. 40.

BLOOMSBURG, COLUMBIA COUNTY, PENN'A, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1865.

VOLUME 29.

SHERIFF'S SALES.

By virtue of several writs of venditioni exponas and Levari Facias, do directed, I will expose to public sale at the Court House in Bloomsburg, on Monday, the 11th day of December, 1865, at 10 o'clock in the afternoon of said day, the following real estate to-wit:

A certain lot of ground situated in Green Township, Columbia County, containing 200 acres more or less bounded as follows: on the north by the lot of John White, on the east by the lot of John White, on the south by the lot of John White, and on the west by the lot of John White, with the appurtenances.

Also, a certain lot of ground situated in the township of Bloomsburg, containing 100 acres more or less bounded as follows: on the north by the lot of John White, on the east by the lot of John White, on the south by the lot of John White, and on the west by the lot of John White, with the appurtenances.

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Select Poetry.

A Slight Drawback.

Enchanting girl thy form so fair
In playful dreams around me dances;
They smile so bright, so free from care,
Thy dimpled cheek, thy jet black hair.

But oh those eyes, those lovely eyes,
With joy and innocent soft gleaming;
The woeed light source and fire flies;
That do the glances from those eyes;

I'd won thee, maiden, were it not
Thy woeed light source and fire flies;
Thy woeed light source and fire flies;
Thy woeed light source and fire flies;

THE COINERS.

FROM THE DIARY OF A DETECTIVE.

During the year of 1847 the West was flooded with a counterfeit coin. It was so well manufactured that it passed readily. The evil at last became so great that the United States authorities requested that a skilful detective might be sent to ferret out the nest of coiners. I was fixed upon to perform that duty.

I had nothing to guide me. The fact, however, that Chicago was the city where the counterfeit coin was most abundant, led me to suspect that the manufactory was somewhere within its limits. It was, therefore, to the capital of the West that I proceeded. I spent five weeks in the city without gaining the slightest clue to the counterfeiters.

I began to grow discouraged, and really thought I should be obliged to return home without having achieved any result. One day I received a letter from my wife requesting me to send some money, as she was out of funds. I went to the bank and asked for a draft, at the same time handing a sum of money to pay for it, in which there were several half dollars. The clerk pushed three of them back to me, saying, "counterfeit."

"What!" said I, "you don't mean to tell me those half dollars are counterfeit?"

"I do,"

"Are you certain?"

"Perfectly certain. They are remarkably executed, but are deficient in weight, and the latter brought up the former."

"This is the best counterfeit coin I ever saw in my life," I exclaimed, examining them closely. "Is all the counterfeit money in circulation here of the same character as this?"

"O dear, no," the clerk replied, "it is not nearly so well done. These are the work of the famous New York counterfeiter, Ned Willett. I know them well for I have handled a great many in my time. Here is some of the money that is circulating here," he added, taking half dollars from the drawer. "You see that the milling is not so well done as Ned Willett's although this is pretty good too."

I compared the two and found that he was right. I supplied the place of the three counterfeiters with good coin, and returned the former to my pocket.

A few days after this I received information which caused me to take a journey to a small village about thirty miles from Chicago. I arrived there at night and took up my quarters at the only tavern in the place. It was a wretched dwelling, and kept by an old man and a woman, the surliest couple, I think, it has ever been my lot to meet. In answer to whether I could have lodging there that night I noticed the host gave a particular look at his wife, and after some whispering, I was informed in the most ungracious manner possible that I could have a bed.

I have frequently in the course of my life been obliged to put up with wretched accommodations, so I did not allow my equanimity of temper to be destroyed by the miserable sleeping apartments into which I was ushered after I had finished my repast.

The chamber was of small size, and certainly well ventilated, for I could see the stars through the roof. The bed was simply a bag of straw thrown into one corner of the room, without sheet or covering of any kind. The host and his wife, however, were not of much consequence, as it was summer and oppressively hot.

I stood for more than an hour gazing out the opening which served for a window. Before me was an immense prairie the limits of which I could not see. The tavern in which I had taken up my abode appeared to be isolated from all other dwellings, and save the croak of the tree-toad and the hum of the locust, not a sound reached my ear. It was a beautiful moonlight night, so bright that I could see to read the smallest print.

At last I began to grow weary, and throwing myself on my pallet, I was soon plunged in deep slumber. How long I slept I know not, but I was awakened by a dull sound, which resembled some one hammering in the distance. I suppose it was the peculiarity of the sound which awoke me, for it was by no means loud, but conveyed to me the idea of some one striking iron with a muffled hammer. I rose from my bed and went to the window. The moon was now in the western horizon, by which fact I knew that it must be near morning. The sound I had before referred to reached me more distinctly than when in the back part of the chamber. It appeared to come from some out-houses which were situated a hundred yards from the house.

Now I am naturally of an inquiring mind, and this sound, occurring as it did in the middle of the night, piqued my curiosity, and I felt an irrepresible desire to discover the cause of it. This desire, as the sound continued, grew upon me with such intensity, that I resolved to gratify it at any price.

I put on my boots, the only article of attire I had discarded, and cautiously opened the door of my chamber and noiselessly descended the rickety staircase. A few steps brought me into the lower apartment, which I found entirely deserted. I crept quickly to the window, and unfastening it without making the slightest noise, was soon in the moonlight.

Not a soul was visible, but the sound I have mentioned grew more distinct as I approached the place from whence it proceeded. At last I found myself before a long, low building, through the crevice of which I could perceive a larid glare issuing. I stooped down and peeped through the key hole, and to my extreme surprise I saw half a dozen men, with their coats off and sleeves up, performing a variety of strange occupations. Some were working at a forge, others were superintending the casting of moulds, and some were engaged in the process of mining coin. In moment the whole truth burst upon me. Here was the gang of counterfeiters I was in search of, and the landlord and his wife evidently belonged to the same band, for in one corner I perceived them employed, the men polishing off some half dollar pieces, and the woman was packing the finished coin into rolls.

I had seen enough and was about to return to my apartment, when I suddenly felt a heavy hand placed on my shoulder, and turning my head around, to my horror found myself in the grasp of an ill-looking scoundrel as ever escaped the gallows.

"What are you doing here, my good fellow?" he exclaimed giving me a shake. "Taking a stroll by moonlight," I replied, endeavoring to retain my composure.

"Well, perhaps you will just take a stroll inside, will you?" returned the ruffian, pushing open the door, and dragging me after him.

All the inmates of the barn immediately stopped work and rushed toward us when they saw me.

"Why, what's all this!" they exclaimed.

"A loafer I found peepin' outside," said my captor.

"He's a traveler that came to the tavern last night and asked for lodging; the last I saw of him he was safe in bed," said the landlord.

The men withdrew to a corner of the apartment, leaving one to keep guard over me. I soon saw they were in earnest consultation, and were evidently debating some important question. The man keep guard over me said nothing, but scowled fiercely. I had not said a single word during all the time I had been in the barn. I was aware that whatever I might say would in all probability do more harm than good, and it has always been a maxim of mine to hold my tongue when in doubt. At last the discussion seemed to be ended, for the blackest of the whole came forward, and without any introduction, exclaimed,—

"I say, stranger, look here, you must die!"

I did not move a muscle or utter a word. "You have found out our secret, and dead men tell no tales!"

I was silent.

I burst into a violent fit of laughter, in fact it was hysterical, but they did not know it. They looked at one another in amazement.

"Well, he takes it mighty cool, anyhow," said one.

"Suppose he don't think we are in earnest," said another.

"Come, stranger, you had better say your prayers," said the man who had first spoken, "time flies."

My only reply was a fit of laughter more violent than the first.

"The man's mad," they exclaimed.

"Or drunk," said some.

"Well, boys," cried I speaking for the first time, "this is the best joke I have ever seen. What, hang a pal?"

"A pal—you a pal?"

"I ain't nothin' else," was my elegant rejoinder.

"What is your name?"

"Did you ever hear of Ned Willett?" I replied.

"You may be certain of that. Ain't he at the head of our profession?"

"Well, then, I'm Ned."

"You Ned Willett?" they all exclaimed.

"You may bet your life on that," I returned, swaggering up to the corner where I had seen the old woman counting and packing the counterfeit half dollars.

Fortune favored me. None of the men present had ever seen Ned Willett, although his reputation was well known to them, and my swaggering, insolent manner had somewhat thrown them off their guard, yet I could plainly see that their doubts were not all removed.

"And you call these things well done, do you?" I asked taking up a roll of the money. "Well, all I have to say is that if you can't do better than this, you had better shut up shop, that's all."

"Can you show us any better?" I asked one of the men.

"I rather think I can. If I couldn't I'd hang myself!"

"Let's see it," they all cried.

This was my last coup, and one on which my life depended.

"Look here gentlemen, I exclaimed, taking one of the counterfeit half-dollars from my pocket that had been rejected at the bank, 'here is my last job, what do you think of it?'"

It was handed hand-to-hand, some saying it was no counterfeit at all, and some saying it was.

"How will you prove it with a genuine one," I asked one.

This plan was immediately adopted and its character proved.

"Perhaps he got this by accident," I heard a man whisper to another.

"Try these," I said, taking the other two out of my pocket.

All their doubts now vanished. "Beautiful!" exclaimed some. "Very splendid!" said others.

When they had examined them to their satisfaction they all cordially took me by the hand, every particle of doubt having vanished from their minds. I carried on my part well. Some questions were occasionally asked me involving some technicalities of the business; these, however, I avoided, by stating that I was on a journey, and would rather take a glass of whiskey than answer questions. The whiskey was produced and we made a night of it.

It was not until morning dawned that we separated.

The next day I returned to Chicago and brought down the necessary assistance, and captured the whole gang of counterfeiters in the very act. The den was broken up forever, and most of them were condemned to serve a term in the State Prison.

I have those half dollars still in my possession, and never intend to part with them, for they were certainly the means of saving my life.

First Love.—David Crockett, when quite a youth, fell in love with a beautiful Quaker girl, and he thus forcibly, graphically and poetically describes the effect, in an ardent and susceptible mind, produced by first love:

"I found myself over head and ears in love with this girl, and I thought that if all the hills were pure chink, and all belonged to me, I would give them if I could just talk to her as I wanted to; but I was afraid to begin, for when I would think of saying anything to her, my heart would begin to flutter like a duck in a puddle; and if I tried to outdo it, and speak, it would get tight smack up my throat and choke me like a cold potato."

The following was handed us for publication by S. P. Hathaway, who is a "wheeler" and is well acquainted with Mr. Snickensacker. To appreciate the narrative, one should hear Mr. H. read it:

"An Unlucky Dutchman."

"Who's 'in here since Ish bin gone?" "Brick" Pomeroy, of the La Crosse (Wis.) Democrat gets off the following:

Hilfiekler Snickensacker, a Teutonic vender of sour-kraut, wooden combs cradles, cabbages, striped mittens, cotton suspenders and such 'little dings,' with true patriotic zeal, left his home in LaCrosse at the commencement of the war, and enlisted as a slop grocery keeper, behind the sutler's shop, on the Potomac. When he went away it was with the intention of making some monish, if it took all summer, and nobly did he fight it out on his line. How he done, it is best told to us on his return, last week:

"You see, Mr. Bomroy, der trum beats, and der call comes to go to wars mit arms, is so patriotic so much as General Washburn, Shemeral Curritts, or Shemeral Bangs, or any dem Shemerals what lives to come home great men. So I pays some liddle dings, and gets some papers der der War Commidtee and goes mit ter pays for be patriots, and sell some liddle dings and wooks some monish. I kiss my frow five, nineteen dimes, and goes mit dem. I goes to Shemeral-dimes and makes much monish. Un day I poke my window out of mine head to hear ter serenade, and dink some dings, when I see Stonevall Shackson mit his droops and der big brass band coming down der street playing like der tyul on der brass band."

"What's 'in here since Ish bin gone?"

Dat Stonevall Shackson is ter tyul mit lightings, and I puts my monish in mine pockets, and mine liddle babers in mine bag, and I goes so quick ash never vas to Gettysburg. Un dar I opens some more stuths and sell some more liddle dings.—Un day I hear some men un der horse-back ridding down der street like dunders and den I pokes der wider under mine head and look myself up der street, and der coons dat tyul, Shemeral Stonevall Shackson, playin der same under tune as I heard before."

"Who's 'in here since Ish bin gone?"

Den I make mine monish goomes inter mine buckets, and makes mine bag goome inter mine papers and puts min big sign on der pig shore on der corner, so I loses more goods dan I had not get, and dings I go to Wisconsin to see min frow, as I had't seen in dese two years, so long time ash never vas."