

A Sad Spectacle. The present House of Congress presents a sad spectacle of 'Americanism' to the friends of republicanism...

And is this Americanism? This desecration of the highest legislative place in the Republic? This gambling by the long month for spoils...

The true-hearted Democrats stand firm as a rock; while the factious majority fall back dismayed at every shock...

Snow Storm and Cold. For two days past we were "in search of knowledge under difficulties" until sometimes we thought the Superintendent and all knowledge of him would be buried under a snow-drift...

County Finances. On last Monday the County Commissioners and Auditors met at the Court-House to make the annual settlement...

Harrisburg "Patriot & Union." This Democratic journal at the seat of our State Government will be issued Semi-Weekly during the session of the Legislature...

Fire at the Furnace. Last evening (Wednesday) a fire broke out in the casting-house of McKelvy & Co's Furnace near this town...

Appointments. The Commissioners of Columbia county have made the following appointments for the year 1856:

New Cases. The Catawissa & Williamsport Railroad Company have recently placed a set of new and elegant Passengers cars on their Road...

A Fine Sleighting-Song.

For such sleighting parties as that which paid Danville a visit on last Friday night, and those of a more juvenile character...

How swift we go Thro' the sparkling snow, In the moon's silver glance, And out glad song wells, While the jingling bells...

Several of our friends at Harrisburg have sent us the annual report of the Auditor General, from which we learn that the following sums have been paid into the State Treasury during the past year by Columbia county:

Tax on real and personal estate, \$7 153 04 Tavern Licences, 843 50 Retailers' Licences, 843 50 Militia Tax, 35 50

There are twelve churches in Danville. A course of popular lectures is published in the upper room of the Danville Academy. The Welsh choir is acquiring a considerable popularity for its practice of vocal music.

Liquor Law in Carbondale. Last week court was held at Carbondale, and among other business, eight indictments under the new liquor law were presented to the Grand Jury...

Another Tragedy. Two Men Murdered by a Maniac. A double murder was committed on Tuesday near Woodbridge, Conn., by Charles Sanford, an insane man, whose nephew is one of the Wakemans who was arrested in suspicion of the recent murder of Matthews...

A Woman Swimming the Mississippi. Lloyd's forthcoming Steamboat Directory gives a thrilling instance of the necessity of women knowing how to swim. When the ill-fated Ben Sharrod was in flames on the Mississippi river, and the lady passengers who had thrown themselves into the water were drowning around the boat...

The Burlington Accident. Israel Adams an engineer on the Camden and Amboy railroad, who was on trial at Mount Holly, for manslaughter, has been honorably acquitted. Mr. Adams was engineer on the train which ran off the track in August last, causing a deplorable loss of life...

The Pottsville Gazette urges a stricter attention to agriculture and a more general prosecution of husbandry in the coal regions of Schuylkill county. It says that \$200,000 are sent to Philadelphia yearly for vegetables, which could be raised in the county, and that thousands of acres that could be converted to agricultural purposes are left in a state of nature.

Married Again. Mrs. Payson Eldredge, better known as "Fanny Fern," was married on last Saturday to Mr. James Farion, a literary gentleman. He is the author of the Life of Horace Greely, and the working editor of the Home Journal. The lady was married twice before. One husband is dead and the other divorced.

Correspondence of the Star.

FROM HARRISBURG. HARRISBURG, Jan. 5th, 1856. Both Houses have been very harmonious in the choice of a Speaker. In the Senate the two rival candidates voted for each other...

Finance, Mr. Buckalew. Judiciary, Mr. Wilkins. Corporations, Mr. Brown. Banks, Mr. Creswell. Education, Mr. McClintock. Vice and Immorality, Mr. Erioe.

The Governor has appointed Joseph Casey, now of the Dauphin Bar, as Reporter of Supreme Court decisions, in the place of James Hepburn deceased. He has also appointed E. Beatty of the Carlisle Herald as Superintendent of Public Printing, in the place of A. K. McClure resigned.

It is remarkable that the daughters of Shakespeare with whom we are most acquainted, Desdemona, Juliet, Jessica, Hero, Miranda, Rosalind, Celia, and Portia, have neither brother nor sister. Each of them is the only child of her parents. Ophelia has no sister.

Shakespeare's Heroines. It is remarkable that the daughters of Shakespeare with whom we are most acquainted, Desdemona, Juliet, Jessica, Hero, Miranda, Rosalind, Celia, and Portia, have neither brother nor sister. Each of them is the only child of her parents. Ophelia has no sister.

THE EASTON ARGUMENT. Samuel P. Higgins, Esq., has become associated with Col. Hater in conducting this well known Democratic Journal. Mr. H. is a practical printer of experience and capacity, and judging by his salutatory in a recent number of that paper, he wields the "grey goose quill" with equal facility.

A CHANCE FOR SPECULATION. The Government of Peru has got a project up for selling all the guano on the China Island—nearly twelve millions of tons—the price of which is \$30 a ton. Any company having the small sum of \$360,000,000 will probably have a chance to purchase the whole lot at this price.

THE SCHOOL DIRECTORS OF Northumberland county met at the Court House, in Sunbury, on last Saturday, and increased the salary of the County Superintendent, Mr. Reimsnyder, from \$350 to \$600.

THE STATE IMPROVEMENTS. The amount of tolls on all the lines of the public improvements amount to \$27,000 more this year than last. The expenses were \$70,000 less.

GOVERNOR POLLOCK'S MESSAGE.

The Philadelphia Ledger gives the following abstract of the message. We think it does the document full justice: A large portion of it is devoted to the subject of the State finances, and it appears by the exhibit that the State Treasury is in good condition...

Condition of the Schools. Most of the schools are in a primitive condition, and nearly one-fourth of the teachers have received certificates from necessity, rather than by merit. A number are unable to teach grammar or geography. In but few schools is arithmetic taught by classes, and a number of school houses are destitute of a blackboard.

I have introduced into the schools, generally, the plan of reviewing studies. Some teachers had already adopted it before my visit. I have urged the introduction of rhetorical reading, grammar and geography into schools where these studies were not taught, and found some cases where they had been thought only proper for high schools and seminaries.

Grades. There were some good schools in this county within the past year. For the first time in the history of the common school system we have had graded free schools, and they have answered an excellent purpose. It is only to be regretted that the plan cannot be introduced into sparsely populated districts.

Teachers' Association. Soon after I commenced visiting the schools, I saw that more good could be done if an association of teachers could be formed; so that proper interest and ambition could be inspired, and all of many of the teachers reached at once with suggestions and improvements. To that end I called together the teachers of the county, and in conjunction with the most intelligent of them, organized a "TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION," which has since held two meetings, and is engaging the attention of all good teachers in the county.

Female Teachers. In summer our schools are generally taught by females, for the reasons that it is more economical, the scholars are all quite young, and the schools small. The moral influence of a female teacher on such minds, is perhaps better than that of males, and has more of nature's proper sympathy to develop and lead on the tender intellect. The scholarship of these females is also, in general, equal if not superior to the teachers of the other sex.

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SCHOOLS OF COLUMBIA COUNTY.

From the advance sheets of the annual report of the State Superintendent of Common Schools, we copy the report which relates to the schools of Columbia county for the year ending June 1st, 1855:

Immediately after the receipt of my appointment, on the 8th of January last, I commenced visiting the schools of the county, and continued steadily at that engagement until the 1st of March, when the schools in this county generally closed their terms. From the number I had designed to visit in that time, I was unable to spend as much time in each school as I wished, but I noted the exercises of the several classes, suggested improvements to the teachers, and, where I thought it proper, addressed the scholars. In some cases I examined classes, but generally wished to witness how the teacher taught, as well as how the scholars studied and recited.

Teachers' Certificates. Unfortunately the old form of our certificates divided all teachers only into two classes, and of these a very small one; so that it was difficult for even intelligent directors to discriminate. The new blanks which I have received will remedy this difficulty, at least to some extent; and they are one of the improvements by which time and experience can perfect the common school system. But, in my judgment, there might be still another form of certificates used with good effect. I mean one like the new provisional certificates, except that it should not be limited to one year, so as imperatively to demand a new examination each year, but leaving it at the option of the teacher to apply for an improved certificate, if he had studied diligently, or to content himself with the old one, if he had made no improvement. The backward teachers would still receive the certificate limited to one year, so that there might be room for a better class at the end of each year; and the re-examination would not take place in those cases where no good result can be seen likely to follow.

School Law. The new school law of 1854 is understood, in this county, as an improvement, by all who are favorable to the common school system and who have given attention to its operations. The old sub-districts divided responsibility, until the directors often refused to act in a manner, and the committees too often chosen by the passion or private prejudice of the spot and occasion, rather than with reference to the interest of public education.

County Superintendent. The County Superintendent has by many been appreciated as a desirable and necessary part of the school system, and has met with no objection in this county, except from those who have always opposed the system of common schools. It has been treated with uniform kindness and respect, and I have only heard of objections against its necessity from two townships, where it is very evident that its operations are highly necessary. In one of these I visited all the schools without finding a blackboard, or one scholar to recite in grammar or geography; and three schools of the other district were in the same condition, with the addition that there was not in any one of these latter a book with instructions for reading. One of the teachers was even ignorant of the use or purpose of the different pauses in reading, and unable to define a period or one of exclamation. He had been employed without a certificate, because he taught cheap. The present board of directors in that district will hire only such teachers as have certificates.

Services Rendered. Not a week has elapsed and in some weeks not a day without bringing calls upon me from directors, teachers or citizens, for information and counsel as to the operations and requirements of the school law and school system. In every instance I responded promptly, and in every instance the difficulties complained of were explained or adjusted, to the satisfaction of all parties. The counsel and labor I have given in this way, alone, would, in a professional capacity, have been charged more than the amount of my salary as County Superintendent.

R. W. WEAVER, County Superintendent. BLOOMSBURG, July 14, 1855.

The world renowned John Smith sends the Boston (Mass.) Post the following pithy toast for the next celebration of the Fourth of July, but it is too good to lay over: "The Two Declarations—the Declaration of Independence, whereby we gained our liberty, and the Declaration of Love, whereby we lost it."

Losses by Fire. Losses sustained by the Locomotive County Mutual Insurance Company from September 10th 1855, to December 10th 1855, being the 2d quarter of the present fiscal year, as given in the Muncy Luminary, amount to \$71,029 81.

A GOOD BUSINESS. A professional beggar woman, who has lived in Pittsburg, Pa., for ten years past, has accumulated property for which she has refused \$10,000.

The Montour American gives the present population of Danville as 6422. In 1850 it was 3333.

The ladies of Reading found out that this is leap year, and so gave a Ball to the girls on last Tuesday.

B. P. FORTNEE, Auctioneer, WILL SELL. In Franklin township, Columbia county, on January the 18th, a house and lot; the property of John Teasle.

Attention from entering the profession of teaching, and sometimes drives them out while it creates an unjust and unfortunate prejudice against the common school system among those persons where incompetent teachers have, during the past year, been engaged at advanced wages, because they now had certificates. But such accidental cases are incident to every system, and to remedy this, I have lately endorsed upon the back of my temporary certificates the grade of the teacher's proficiency in each branch of study in a tabular form with figures. In every case where, to keep a school open, I was compelled to give a certificate to a teacher, much deficient, because no better one could be had, I explained to some one or more of the directors, where the person was to be engaged, the extent of his or her qualifications, so that no prejudice might subsequently result against the school system, nor against the efficacy and value of certificates.

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On the 19th, in Franklin township, Columbia county, the real estate of O. P. Teetsworth, being nine acres of land with good improvements on the same.

Persons who desire the services of B. P. FORTNEE as Auctioneer will do well to engage him before advertising the date of their sale.

FOUR DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE ARAGO. New York, Jan. 6.—The steamship Arago has arrived, with London dates to December 19th. She sailed from Havre on the same day, with 240 passengers, and a cargo valued at over two millions.

The London Daily News affirms that Sweden has ratified a treaty with England and France. The allied powers guarantee the territorial integrity of Sweden, and the latter engages not to alienate any part of her territory to Russia. The contracting parties also engage to communicate reciprocally all propositions coming from Russia.

Rumors of peace are still abundant both in France and England. Count Esterhazy left Vienna for St. Petersburg on the 16th ult. with important despatches containing propositions for a pacification. It is stated, that if the Czar refused their acceptance, Austria will withdraw her Ambassador from St. Petersburg. Both the London News and Times express strong doubts of the acceptance of these propositions by the Czar.

The instruction given to Prince Esterhazy, are to return immediately, in the event of the Czar's refusal to negotiate. The difficulty which existed between the English and French governments, relative to the conditions on which peace should be made, have been arranged, through the efforts of the King of Sardinia.

The surrender of Kars to the Russians, is confirmed. Nine Pashas, together with Gen. Williams and sixteen thousand troops, have been taken prisoners. Among the armaments of war captured, are 120 field pieces, some of which are very heavy guns.

The Russian General Bebutoff has established his headquarters at Kulars, and intends shortly to resume his offensive operations against Anskia and Redoubt Kale. His army is abundantly supplied with provisions by the Armenians.

The defiles between Kars and Erzerum are held by the Russians. Affairs in the Crimea are quiet. Great preparations continue to be made for augmenting the British fleet, in anticipation of operations in the spring.

Contracts have been made in Sweden for the French fleet and the accompanying army. The Persian Ambassador arrived at St. Petersburg on the 9th of December.

Holloway's Ointment and Pills, the best Remedy for the cure of Female Complaints. The extraordinary effect these Pills have upon all complaints peculiarly incidental to females, would appear incredible to the citizens of the Union, if it were not confirmed daily by the wonderful cures they effect in various States. It is an unquestionable fact, that there is not any remedy to equal them, for exterminating suffering from the softer sex, particularly for young girls entering into womanhood, therefore all are requested to give them a trial, which will insure their recommendation.

MARRIED. On the 1st of January, 1856, by Rev. E. A. Sharratt, Mr. David Brown, of Man wpa, and Miss Dorothy Brown, of Millin township, Columbia county.

On the 27th of December, by the Rev. W. Goodrich, Mr. John F. Hutchison, of Bloomsburg, and Miss Rebecca Baurig, of Fishing-creek township, Columbia county.

In Huntington, by Rev. E. Wadsworth, on the 1st inst., Mr. J. ALBERT BEAS, of Rockport, Carbon county, to Miss REBECCA TAYLOR, of the former place.

By the same at Huntington, on the 3d inst., Mr. Wm. Ash, and Miss MARY A. SMITH, both of Benton, Columbia county.

On the 3d inst., in Beaver Valley, Columbia County, by the Rev. I. Bahl, Mr. JOSEPH SACHMAN, and Miss ELIZABETH BREIDENBACH, both of that place.

In Bloomsburg, on New Year's evening, by the Rev. E. A. Sharratt, Mr. WILLIAM T. ERASMUS, and Miss MARTHA JANE TERWILLIGER, all of this place.

IRON STEEL, and every kind of Hard ware or sale by MCKELVY, NEAL & Co.