...on account ... knowledge from ... localities in Alle... Allegheny or St. Clair ...nd between that and McKee's ...en on trial for two or three days District Court. The action has been ...ought to recover a piece of ground, immediately behind Ledlie's Wharf, bounded by Killbuck, Craig and Corry streets and the river, now claimed by the heirs of the late John Irwin, and claimed to be held by him under conveyances from the Commonwealth down, and which has been in possession for a period of seventy years, without question, until within the last seven years. The present claimants show a patent from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, dated October 22d, 1860—three years ago. The plaintiffs brought testimony to establish a chain of islands about this locality, consisting of Killbuck, Nelson, and a third, name not given, which last was the ground in dispute, and all of them, as they alleged, well known, defined and distinct islands. That the ground claimed was surrounded by a slough, which was a channel of the Allegheny river, and that this slough was navigable, at certain times, for skiffs, flats and keel boats. In short, they claimed that the ground in dispute was an island, known as such, and being called by the different names of Smoky, Stewart's, Beale's and Ledlie's Island, although it had no early definite title.

On the other hand the defence adduced testimony to show that originally, dating from as early as 1806, by living testimony, and by record evidence from 1787, there was but one island in that locality, which was known as "Killbuck." That in later times a tow-head or high part above Killbuck, was patented to Nelson as an island ground ever existed in that part of the river. It was also shown by their testimony that the slough above named was a mere high water run or channel, only filled as high or eight feet stage in the Allegheny, and dry from nine to ten or eleven months of the year, and never considered a channel of the Allegheny river. Much of the testimony was interesting, because of the age of the witnesses, who were all residents of the county, and had been familiar with the localities of Block House Run, and the old appearance of the ground around about its mouth, as well as the topography of the ancient island known as "Killbuck," of which there is not now a vestige remaining. Their testimony fully showed that the whole physical condition of the beach or low ground in that vicinity, has become a matter of history, nothing there now giving any idea of its early appearance when the native chief, and proprietor of Killbuck, (Kilbuck himself,) passed with proud step and haughty mien among his red skinned vassals, as they smoked around the banks of the beautiful Allegheny river.

After a short absence, the jury found a verdict for the defendants.

The Rattigan Case—The Investigation Closed.

This morning, at ten o'clock, Coroner McClung re-assembled the jury in the case of the late Thomas Rattigan, who died from the effects of a severe beating received on the night of the 14th of November. Eight or ten additional witnesses were examined, but no material fact was elicited tending to show who perpetrated the outrage. We therefore deem it unnecessary to burden our columns with the testimony. The case, however, may be summed up thus: Mr. Rattigan was found about midnight, horribly beaten, in the vicinity of the canal bridge, by Mr. Clypher, who, on asking him where he received his injuries, was directed to the alley in the rear of the row of buildings in which Lanahan's Exchange is located, and received the reply from Rattigan, "there, in that alley." This alley had just been newly paved, and our readers will remember the very clear testimony of Dr. Murdoch, in which he described the wounds in the scalp as having been done with sand, as if the struggle had taken place on a newly paved street. The conclusion seems irresistible, therefore, that the beating took place in that alley, but who the perpetrators were we will perhaps remain a mystery.

The jury agreed upon the following verdict: "That the deceased came to his death from injuries inflicted by some person or persons unknown, on the night of the 14th of November."

The jury also passed a resolution, recommending an increase of the night police, the employment of none but good men, and the exercise of more diligence and promptness in affairs of this character.

The Coroner deserves credit for the energy and diligence which he has displayed in endeavoring to bring to justice the perpetrators of this foul deed. That he has not succeeded in doing so is certainly no fault of his. The blame is indirected in the resolution adopted by the jury, lies rather with the Mayor and his police; and we have little doubt whatever, that, if proper exertions had been used by the police, immediately after the outrage, the perpetrators would have been already in jail.

The commonwealth, during this investigation, was represented by the Assistant District Attorney, John W. Riddell, Esq.

Church Improvements.

We learn that the Trustees of the First United Presbyterian Church, Allegheny, of which Rev. J. T. Pressly, D.D., is pastor, have negotiated for the purchase of a lot on the west side of the East Common, a short distance above Ohio street, upon which they propose to erect a new and handsome church edifice. The lot which they have purchased is one hundred and twenty feet front by one hundred and thirty feet deep, and will make a fine site for a church building. The Trustees can sell their present lot in the Diamond, together with the building, at a very remunerative price, and as the edifice has become unfashionable, as well as unsuitable in other respects, the project for a new house of worship is very, very commendable. The congregation is large and influential, and has grown from a society of sixty souls, to several hundred, under the care of their beloved and now venerable pastor, who has labored with them for a period of over a quarter of a century.

We also learn that the congregation of Trinity Episcopal church, of which Rev. C. E. Shope is pastor, are raising a large sum for the purpose of rebuilding that ancient edifice, upon the present site, Sixth street, between Wood and Smithfield. The congregation is wealthy and enterprising and we commend their desire to keep pace with the progress and taste of the age.

The foundation for the M. E. church, Beaver street, Allegheny, located on the corner of Beaver street and the North Common, is about completed, and will be left to "settle" during the winter. The bricklaying will be commenced early in the spring. This will be a splendid church edifice.

The foundation for St. Patrick's Catholic church, in the Fifth Ward, is progressing very favorably, and is a splendid specimen of masonry. It occupies the site of Wood's old brewery, on the north side of Liberty street, the old site having been purchased by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

Christ M. E. Church.

Sabbath last was devoted to the cause of missions by Christ M. E. Church, Rev. W. A. Smively pastor. Bishop Simpson, by special request, was present, and delivered a discourse eminently suitable for the occasion; at the close of which the congregation gave their offerings, occupying but a brief space of time, amounting to nearly four thousand dollars. In the afternoon a children's meeting was held in the main audience room. Bishop Simpson delivered a brief address. Contributions were then made, which, with what had been collected monthly during this Conference year, amounted to five hundred and eighty-two dollars. This made in all four thousand four hundred and forty-seven dollars, which was afterwards increased to the even sum of forty-five hundred dollars—just *double the sum* contributed last year.

At the evening service the pastor made a brief allusion to the financial condition of the charge, in which he stated that the arrangement entered into one year previous, to liquidate the debt of the church, had been consummated, and that the whole sum, over eleven thousand dollars, had been paid, leaving it entirely free from debt, except a small ground rent on a portion of the lot, which can easily be paid off at the pleasure of the holder of the claim.

THE EASTERN WEEKLIES.—These well known papers of all classes, Religious, Pictorial, Literary, etc., are regularly received by express and for sale at J. P. Hunts, 59 Fifth street (Masonic Hall,) Pittsburgh, and by J. T. Samples, 85 Federal street, Allegheny. Among those received to-day are:—*The Independent, Harper's Weekly, Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, Street and Smith's New York Weekly, The Weekly Tribune, World, Herald*, etc., etc.

THE MESSAGE.—All the weekly papers, containing the President's Message in *full*, can be had, in wrappers for mailing, at Frank Case's News Depot, Chronicle Building.

Mayoralty Nomination.

...s ago the friends of Mr. Sawyer ...o confident of his re-nomination that ...ady offered to bet large sums of money on the result, and their boldness and confidence were such that in some instances they failed to find takers. Lately, however, they have not been so lavish of their money, and are beginning to feel rather "shaky." On Tuesday last, officer Gumbert, of the Mayor's police, offered to bet $1,000 on the nomination of his Honor, and the offer was accepted by a gentleman doing business in the Eighth Ward. The forfeit, ($50,) was placed in the hands of Mr. S. Cairns, of Wood street, and each party was required to put up the balance, $950, by seven o'clock, Wednesday evening, or pay the forfeit. The Eighth Ward man came up to time promptly and his money was deposited by the stakeholder in the German Trust Company. Officer Gumbert called during the day, and objected to the deposit in bank, alleging that the money was to have been put up in Cairns hands. Mr. Cairns then procured the amount from a friend, but Mr. Gumbert subsequently objected to the terms of the agreement, and finally *declined to put up the money!* The stakeholder refused to pay over the forfeit to him, and he entered suit for the amount before Alderman Donaldson. The magistrate served a summons upon the stockholder, and the case will come up for a hearing on Monday next. The Mayor's friends are very much mortified at this result, so we are informed, as it exhibits a "caving in" by no means agreeable. Mr. Cairns declares that he will pay the forfeit over to the Guardians of the Poor, under an old act of Assembly which "confiscates" money put up in this illegal way.

Catholic Intelligence.

Thursday, the 3d inst., Miss Ellen McCarthy (sister Mary Callistus) died at St. Xavier's Convent, near Latrobe, aged twenty-seven years. The funeral ceremonies were conducted by Bishop Dominec, Very Rev. Jas. O'Connor, Rev. J. Hickey, Rev. Dr. Keogh, and other distinguished ministers.

On Wednesday evening, December 2d, in the chapel of St. Xavier's Convent, near Latrobe, Miss Emma Cosgrave, in religion Sister M. Gertrude Aloysia; Miss Mary Ann Daly, in religion Sister M. Joachim and Miss Veronica Freithoof, in religion Sister M. Stephana, received the habit and white veil of the order of Mercy at the hands of the Bishop of the Diocese, who preached on the occasion. On the following morning, Sister M. Felicitas Joseph (Miss Mary Loughran), and Sister Catharine de Ricci (Miss Ellen Tierney), made their profession of poverty, chastity and obedience in the presence of the Bishop.

On Sunday last, at New Brighton, the old church which was formerly used for the services of the Methodist congregation was solemnly dedicated for the Catholic worship, by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Dominec. The Bishop explained the ceremonies of the dedication. He also thanked the citizens of New Brighton for their kind feelings towards the Catholics and exhorted the Catholics in return to show every kindness to their separated brethren.

Helping the Government to Put Down the Rebellion.

Ex-Mayor Little, of this city, has just cause to be proud of his patriotic boys. Note the record: John B., the oldest son, "enlisted for the war," in the Pittsburgh Rifles, Co. A, of 9th Pennsylvania Reserves, May, 1861, and served through all the engagements of this gallant body of men until wounded and made prisoner at the battle of Gaines' Mill, Cross Roads, before Richmond, June 30th, 1862. When exchanged and at home recovering from his wounds, he was promoted to be Quartermaster of the 160th Pennsylvania Regiment, and served until the time of the regiment expired. He was afterwards appointed Assistant Quartermaster, with the rank of Captain, by the Secretary of War, and ordered to Harrisburg, where he remained a few days, awaiting future developments. The transactions have benefited him, as prices are unsettled and irregular, we quote nominally at 21@22c in bulk, and 23@24c in bbls. On Thursday evening, 2500 bbls in bulk changed hands at 21c, and 1000 bbl, at 22c, packages included.

Refined is in precisely the same condition as Crude. Holders do not seem disposed to operate, unless at extreme rates, while buyers are a little cautious; or in other words, are holding off, awaiting future developments. The transactions have been light, and prices are unsettled and irregular, we quote nominally at 24@25c in bulk, and 26@27c in bbls. On Thursday evening, 2500 bbls in bulk changed hands at 24c, and 1000 bbl, at 25c, packages included.

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