

Craftsman's Journal.



CLEARFIELD, PA., FEB. 3, 1869.

A Snake.—Tax-payers Beware. A petition has been circulating here for a few days past, addressed to the Senate and House of Representatives, praying the enactment of a law to authorize the Commissioners of the county to pay to George Thorn the amount lost by him on his contract for building the Court House. A number of persons out of personal regard for Mr. Thorn, who is a most worthy man and estimable citizen, signed the petition without reflection or examination. On subsequent reflection and investigation, however, it turns out that instead of being designed for the relief of Mr. Thorn, it is in reality a piece of sharp practice to relieve certain other parties, who are only using Mr. Thorn's name as a cover.

It will be recollected by most of our readers that when it was proposed to erect a new Court House, a sharp controversy arose as to whether it should be built in Clearfield or Curwensville. The citizens of the latter place agreed, if the county seat was removed to their town, to erect a Court House and Jail at their own expense. In order to prevent such a removal, and to forestall its evil consequences, a vote of the people, certain responsible citizens of Clearfield entered into a bond to the county, in the sum of \$30,000, conditioned that if the Commissioners should let the building within thirty days, it should not cost the county over \$15,000, and that the funds to build it should be provided without increasing the then current rate of taxation, which was six mills on the dollar. This bond, duly signed, was filed in the Commissioners' office on the 30th day of December, 1859, and on the 29th day of January following, the Commissioners proceeded to let the Court House. The bids ranged from \$11,400 to \$23,000. The contract was awarded to George Thorn for the sum of \$13,960, and Richard Shaw, Sr., became his surety for its fulfillment. Mr. Thorn was to erect a Court House 60 feet wide and 96 feet in length, in all respects, save frescoing, like the new Court House in Bellefonte, and to deliver it, completed, to the Commissioners by the third Monday in September, 1861.

Subsequently, on the 29th of June, 1859, Mr. Thorn applied to the Commissioners to modify his contract, by adopting certain plans prepared by Backus & Bro's, Architects, and by raising the price to \$16,500. This the Commissioners agreed to do, provided a majority of the signers of the bond of the 30th of December, 1859, agree to renew said bond so as to cover the whole cost of said building in regard to the county orders, and also agree to pay to the contractor all that it costs over \$16,000, and the citizens of Clearfield agree to put a clock in said Court House at their own expense. No bond of any kind is now to be found on the files of the Commissioners' office, nor can the Clerk or any of the present board of Commissioners tell what has become of any bond that may have been on file. A copy of the bond of the 30th of December, 1859, duly certified by the Clerk, however, is in existence, from which the extent of the liability of the signers is easily ascertained. If the bond was not "renewed," and the conditions of the Commissioners complied with, then there was no modification of the first contract, and Mr. Thorn was bound to build the Court House complete for \$13,960, and his bail, Judge Shaw, is liable for the same. If, on the other hand, the conditions of the Commissioners were accepted, then the signers of the bond are bound to pay Mr. Thorn all the building cost over \$16,000, so that a bill to authorize the Commissioners to pay to Mr. Thorn any more of the people's money, instead of being to relieve him, is simply to relieve the signers of the bond who have obligated themselves to pay to him all the building cost over \$16,000. Mr. Thorn has received from the county, as shown by the books of the Commissioners, in all the sum of \$27,326.02 for the building of the Court House, or \$9,366.02 more than the price fixed in the original contract. Now, if the terms fixed by the Commissioners, when he applied to have his contract modified, were not complied with, it must be plain that Mr. Thorn and his bail are liable to the county for the whole amount of the \$9,366.02. If, on the other hand, the terms were complied with, then the signers of the bond are liable to the county for all they have paid Mr. Thorn over \$16,000, to wit: \$7,326.02, and are liable to Mr. Thorn for whatever the building cost him in addition.

Letter from Washington City. WASHINGTON, D. C. Jan. 30, 1869. DEAR JOURNAL.—Up in the pine woods, I presume, you have as yet plenty of snow and real winter weather. Here, during this week, we have had genial sunshine and summer-like breezes.

The Railroad subsidy schemes that were hatched up to draw millions of dollars from the Treasury, it is true, are not receiving much favor, and will probably get the "go-by," as they should. For this, at least, Congress is deserving of credit.

The so-called Sue Murphy claim, you will doubtless have observed, has received a great deal of attention in the House. The lady hails from Decatur, Alabama, and was represented as one of the few "faithful among the faithless" Southern people. The claim grew out of the destruction of some property by our army during the rebellion. Some warm-hearted members advocated the payment of the claim, believing the statement in the case correct; but an army officer represents her father as a boisterous secessionist, and that the mother and daughter were no ways chary in their denunciations of the Union soldiers. The claim will hardly be paid.

It seems there are still some people in the land that fear the "skull and cross bones" ghost of Masonry. Last week, petitions were presented in the Senate, from citizens of Ohio, praying for a repeal of the act granting a charter to the Masonic Hall Association of the District of Columbia, because the organization was dangerous to a republican form of government, that it directed its efforts to the support of slavery and the inception of rebellion, etc., and a good deal of similar nonsense. The petition was consigned to the Committee on the district.

The subject of Gen. Grant's cabinet is still the engrossing topic among politicians of all parties. Observe that whilst the correspondents of some of the papers in your State assert that Ex-Governor Curtin will certainly be appointed to a place in the Cabinet, others are equally sure that it will be John W. Forney, and others that it will be Mr. Somerville. I profess to be neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet; but I am willing to wager a pipkin apple against a wasted pea-nut, that so far as Pennsylvania is concerned, Admiral Porter will be Secretary of the Navy, and that will dispose of all the rest of the Keystones. The Admiral and Gen. Grant are old friends; and it is but natural that the latter should select for that position an acquaintance in whom he has had a large and successful experience in that branch of the public service. You may stick a pin right there, and see how far out of the way is the guess of Yours, &c., SPECKS.

Smart William Declines. The Democratic Convention which met here on Court week, instructed the delegates to the State Convention in favor of that patriotic, honest, and distinguished Democrat, "Sweet William," of immortal memory, for Governor. William was at home, engaged in Court all week, and the Convention was presided over by his partner Lord Blake Walters. After William got back to Harrisburg, being in blissful ignorance of the time of the high honor conferred upon him, he learned what the Convention had done, and immediately wrote to Lord W., the following modest epistle, which made its appearance in the Harrisburg Patriot, from whence it was copied into the home organ:

SENATE CHAMBER, HARRISBURG, PA., JUN. 20, 1869. J. BLAKE WALTERS, Esq., Chairman Co. Com. Clearfield Co. DEAR SIR:—I learn that at the meeting held at Clearfield on the evening of the 12th instant, to provide for the selection of delegates to the Democratic State Convention, a preference was expressed by those present for myself as the democratic candidate for Governor in the coming election. At the time that meeting was held I was confined to my room by illness, or I would have been present and declined the honor that my fellow citizens thus seek to confer. I write you now, to say that I am not a candidate. Whilst I am gratified by this mark of confidence, I am convinced that my nomination is not the best that can be made. I recognize the vital importance of the selection of the strongest candidate that can be found, to make this contest. I am one of those who believe that everything but principle should be subordinated to success, and that preferences for individuals and the desire to reward party services should be made to yield to the imperious necessity to win. It seems to be the universal desire of the press of the State that the convention shall be held at a late day, and if the best men of the party be selected as delegates, and authorized to carry out the will of the party as shown by the light that shall surround them, the selection of the strongest candidate will follow and our success will be assured.

I desire through you to express to my constituents who have invariably given me a cordial support, my earnest thanks for their renewed mark of their confidence. Very respectfully yours, WILLIAM A. WALLACE. Sensible William! He says, "I am convinced that my nomination is not the best that can be made." Precisely so. Everybody is of the same opinion. "I recognize the vital importance of the selection of the strongest candidate that can be found, to make this contest." Not a doubt of it. William's experience last year enables him to read "the handwriting on the wall." He knows perfectly well that the present Legislature will take care that coffee-colored papers and Snowden's seal shall never carry another election. He is convinced that defeat is inevitable, hence he declines to be a candidate. What exerting devotion to "principle!" What self-sacrificing patriotism! Virtuous William, what a martyr! Where's Tracy to hold his immaculate Senatorial coat-tail?

The French wheat prospect is bad.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES OF CLEARFIELD COUNTY, FOR THE YEAR A. D. 1868.

Table with columns for Receipts and Expenditures. Includes items like 'Amount due from Collectors for 1868', 'By balance due from Moore last settlement', and 'By aggregate amount of exonerations'.

Table titled 'General Statement of Bond Fund for 1868 and 1867'. Shows 'Amount due from Moore last settlement', 'By balance due from Moore last settlement', and 'By aggregate amount of exonerations'.

Table titled 'Statement in Detail—Debtors'. Lists various debtors like Beccaria, Bell, Boggs, and their respective amounts.

Table titled 'Statement in Detail—Creditors'. Lists various creditors like Beccaria, Bell, Boggs, and their respective amounts.

Table titled 'Statement of School Fund for 1867 and 1868'. Shows 'Amount due from Collectors for 1868 and previous years', 'By balance due from Moore last settlement', and 'By aggregate amount of exonerations'.

Table titled 'Amount due from Collectors for 1868 and previous years'. Lists names and amounts for various individuals like Yr. Names, Twp. Name, County, and Bounty.

Table titled 'WINE & LIQUOR STORE'. Lists items like 'Wines and Liquors' and their prices.

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Table titled 'STATEMENT IN DETAIL—CREDITORS'. Lists various creditors like Townships, Exonerations, Treasurers, and their respective amounts.

NOTE.—The additional assessments amounted to the sum of \$62 1/2. Adams \$35 62, Decatur \$17 10, Ferguson \$10 35. The refunds amounted to \$110 00. Adams \$35 62, Decatur \$17 10, Ferguson \$10 35, Harrisburg \$15 50, \$2 10, Jordan \$5 30, Karlsruhe \$6 76, Morris \$1 25, Jan. \$4 52, Pike \$2 10.

Certificate. We, the undersigned, Executors of the Estate of George Thorn, late of the County of Clearfield, Pennsylvania, having in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and in the County of Clearfield, a certain will of said George Thorn, deceased, do hereby certify that we find the same to be a true and correct copy of the original, and that the same was duly proved and admitted to record in the County of Clearfield, on the 30th day of December, 1859, and that the said George Thorn, deceased, was at the time of his death, a resident of said County of Clearfield, and that the said will was duly proved and admitted to record in the County of Clearfield, on the 30th day of December, 1859, and that the said will was duly proved and admitted to record in the County of Clearfield, on the 30th day of December, 1859.

NOTE.—The sum of \$29 50 was collected as road tax of lands returned by the owners, viz: Bradford \$3 25, Decatur \$10 00, Ferguson \$7 50, and Harrisburg \$8 75. The refunds were: Beccaria \$13 00, Bradford \$2 10, Girard \$1 80, Huston \$7 00, Jordan \$2 25, Karlsruhe \$2 70, Morris \$1 50, \$1 50, \$2 10, Woodard \$1 80, Total \$22 55.

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