

TERMS OF THE "AMERICAN"

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SUNBURY AMERICAN

AND SHAMOKIN JOURNAL

Absolute acquiescence in the decisions of the majority, the vital principle of Republics, from which there is no appeal but to force, the vital principle and immediate parent of despotism.—JAYNESON.

By Masser & Eiseley.

Sunbury, Northumberland Co. Pa. Saturday, Feb. 21, 1846.

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PIECES OF ADVERTISING.

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Anecdote of General Jackson.

At the southwest the people delight to spin yarns of Gen. Jackson; of his daring—love of justice, and the prompt way of administering "that article," when he found it necessary. The following anecdote is related of him:

The General, then Gen. Jackson, was holding court—long time ago—in a shanty, at a little village in Tennessee, and dispensing justice in large and small doses, as seemed to him to be required in the cases before him. One day during court time, a great bulging fellow, armed with pistols and bowie knife, took it upon himself to parade before the open door of the Shanty Court House, and in the Judge, Juror, and all there assembled, in grand set terms, "Sheriff," rung out the Judge in an awful tone, "arrest that man for contempt of court and confine him!"

Out goes the sheriff, but soon returned with word to the Judge that he had found it impossible to take the offender.

"Summon a posse, then," said the Judge and bring him before me!"

The sheriff put out again, but the task was too difficult; he could not, or dared not lay hands on the man, nor did any of the posse like the job any better than he did, so the fellow threatened to shoot the first "skunk" that came within ten feet of him.

At this the Judge waxed wrathful, to have his authority put at defiance before all the good people of the vicinity, so he cried out from the bench, (it was literally a bench.) "Mr. Sheriff, since you can't obey my orders, summon me, sir, yes, summon me!"

"Yes, Judge!" exclaimed the sheriff amazed. "Yes, me, summon me! By the Eternal! I'll see what I can do!"

"Well, Judge, if you say so, though I don't like to do it, but if you will try, why I suppose I must try you!"

"Very well," said Jackson, rising and walking to the door, "I adjourn this court ten minutes."

The ruffian was standing a short distance from the shanty, the centre of a crowd of people, blaspheming at a terrible rate and flourishing his weapons, vowing death and destruction to all and singular who should attempt to molest him.

Judge Jackson walked very calmly into the centre of the group, with a pistol in his hand, and confronted him—

"Now," said the Judge, looking him straight in the eye, "surrender you infernal villain, in this instant! surrender, or by the Eternal, I'll blow you through!"

The man eyed the speaker for a moment, without speaking, and then let fall his weapons with the words— "There, Judge, it's no use, I give in," and suffered himself to be led off by the Sheriff without opposition. He was completely cowed.

A few days after the occurrence, the man was asked by one of his comrades why he knuckled under to one man, when he had before refused to allow to be taken by a whole company; his reply showed the estimation in which the daring and determined spirit of Jackson was held throughout the country.

"Why," said he, "when he comes up I looked him in the eye, and I saw shoot, and there wasn't a shot in nary other eye in the crowd, and so I says to myself, says I bows, it's about time to sing small—and so I did!"

CHARCOAL FOR PEACH TREES.—A friend of mine has just informed me of the success he has met with, by the application of charcoal to his peach trees; a few years ago he had some fine trees in his garden which invariably had had wormy fruit; when the fruit was about the size of marbles he had the earth removed from each tree about 2 feet around and 3 inches deep and filled up with charcoal; the result was that the fruit grew to a fine size free from worms; and every year since, the fruit has been good, and the trees became healthy and free from gum; while two trees left without the charcoal, continue to bear wormy fruit, and the trees unhealthy; as this will be in time for the readers of the Cultivator to make a trial this year, and should it prove as good with others as in this case, it would be of great benefit to the fruit grower.

If farmers will plant their pumpkins, melons, and other vines on land that brought corn last year they will never be troubled with the striped bug. This course has been practised here for many years, and has always proved successful, when vines planted on land that has any other crop, even vines the year previous, are destroyed by the bug.

CUT FODDER.—Every Farmer should provide himself with a straw cutter. We are now as we ever have been, of the opinion that from 4 to 5 the food usually consumed by our cattle, during winter, might be economized simply by "chopping." Corn butts, straw, and refuse hay if cut, and moistened with warm water, in which there is mixed a handful of salt and a little meal, answers the purpose of the best hay, and is much cheaper.—Cult.

TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY PERSON'S IGNORANCE TO CHARGE HIM AN UNREASONABLE PRICE FOR ANY COMMODITY, IS THEFT; AND THE FACT THAT THE LAW MAKES NO PROVISION FOR THE INJURED PERSON, ONLY ADDS TO THE DISHONESTY OF THE ACTION.—W. R. J.

H. B. MASSER, ATTORNEY AT LAW, SUNBURY, PA. Business attended to in the Counties of Northumberland, Union, Lycoming and Columbia.

ALEXANDER L. HICKEY, TRUNK MAKER, No. 150 Chesnut Street, PHILADELPHIA.

WHERE all kinds of leather trunks, valises and carpet bags, of every style and pattern are manufactured, in the best manner and from the best materials, and sold at the lowest rate.

Removal. DR. JOHN W. PEAL. RESPECTFULLY informs the citizens of Sunbury and its vicinity, that he has removed to the Brick House, in Market street, formerly occupied by Benjamin Hendricks, east of the store formerly occupied by Miller & Martz, and now by F. T. Clement, where he will be happy to receive calls in the line of his profession.

NEW CARPETINGS. THE subscribers have received, and are now displaying a splendid assortment of the following goods: Saxony, Wilton and Velvet Carpetings, Brussels and Imperial 3 ply do, Extra superior and fine Ingrains do, English shag and Danish Venetian do, American twisted and field do, English Druggets and Woolen Floor Cloths, Sair and Passage Backings, Embossed Piano and Table Covers, London Chenille and Tufted Rugs, Door Mats of every description.

UMBRELLAS & PARASOLS, CHEAP FOR CASH. J. W. SWAIN'S Umbrella and Parasol Manufactory, No. 37 North Third street, two doors below the CITY HOTEL, Philadelphia.

SHUGERT'S PATENT WASHING MACHINE. THIS Machine is now being used by more than thirty families in this neighborhood, and has given entire satisfaction. It is so simple in its construction, that it cannot get out of order, contains no iron to rust, and no springs or rollers to get out of repair. It will do all the work of any other washing machine, with less than half the wear and tear of any of the late inventions, and what is of greater importance, it costs but little over half as much as any other washing machine.

CHARLES W. HEGINS, A. JORDAN, CHS. WEAVER, CHS. PLEASANTS, GIDEON MARKLE, Hon. GEO. C. WELKER, BENJ. HENDRICKS, GIDEON LEISENRING.

HENRY MASSER, Superior Port wine, Madeira and Lisbon wines. Also superior Brandy and Gin, Lemon Syrup. Also a few barrels of BLUE FISH, for sale by HENRY MASSER.

From the Water Cure Journal. HISTORY OF VINCENT PRIESSNITZ, BY CAPT. CLARIDGE.

Priessnitz's father was the proprietor of a small farm upon which the establishment we have been treating of is placed. He gave his son an education in accordance with the times and place in which he lived; but this was perhaps limited, in consequence of the blindness with which he (the father) was stricken in his advanced years, and of Priessnitz's uncle being a priest, so that in early life the cares of the family and farm devolved upon him. It is said that an old man who used to practise the water cure upon animals, and occasionally upon the peasantry, was much encouraged by the elder Priessnitz; that the latter invited him to instruct his son, and that it was from this source that Vincent Priessnitz obtained his first ideas of the cold water cure. It would appear that Silesia was destined by Providence to be the spot whence this great boon to humanity should extend itself to all nations; for so far back as the year 1730, the great Dr. Hahn, who resided at Scheideitz, about 30 miles from Graefenberg, wrote a book on the virtues of cold water, both for drinking and curing disease; but as the book was completely out of print, until found on a book-stall by Professor Oertel in Bavaria, it is doubtful if Priessnitz ever obtained any information from that source. Early in life, whilst engaged in lay-making, an accident which befell him was the principal cause of the greatest blessings to suffering humanity: he was kicked in the face by a horse, which knocked him down, and the cart passing over his body broke two of his ribs. A surgeon from Freiwaldau being called in, declared that he could never be so cured as to be fit for work again. Having always possessed great presence of mind, and an unusual degree of firmness, the young Priessnitz not being pleased with this prognostication of the doctor, and being somewhat acquainted already with the treatment of trifling wounds by the means of cold water, he determined to endeavor to cure himself. To effect this, his first care was to replace his ribs, and this he did by leaning with his abdomen against a wall, and supporting his head with his hands against a table or a chair, and holding his breath so as to swell out his chest. This painful operation was attended with the success he expected; the ribs being thus replaced, he applied wet cloths to the parts affected, drank plentifully of water, ate sparingly, and remained in perfect repose. In ten days he was able to go out, and at the end of a year, he was again at his occupations in the fields.

The fame of this extraordinary cure soon spread abroad amongst his neighbors, who came to consult him when any accident occurred. By means of treating their disease, and occasionally those of cattle, he acquired a better knowledge of the virtues of water, and ventured upon more serious cases. This soon gave him renown, so that his house was beset with persons rich and poor, begging his advice. From having watched so many diseases with his observing eye and inquiring mind, he soon acquired the knowledge requisite to detect them by their symptoms. Having no remedy but plain spring water, no theories to puzzle his brain, and no guide but nature, which spoke to him more clearly because there was no art to stifle its voice, he soon perceived the defect of the present system of diet and mode of treating disease, and found out by various applications of water, means of remedying most of those bodily evils which mar our happiness in life.

Priessnitz's renown soon brought down upon him the envy of his neighbors and of the people of Freiwaldau, who were very ready to become his persecutors. Many imagined that an access of strangers would enhance the price of commodities, some were jealous of his fame, others imagined him possessed of an evil spirit, but foremost or most prominent of his adversaries were the medical men. About this time he had effected cures on a great number of people, when the doctors resolving to put an end to his quackery, as they called it, denounced him to the authorities at Vienna, alleging that the sponges used in ablutions contained some medicinal property capable of producing these wonderful cures which, if true, would have put him under the jurisdiction of the law. The sponges were decomposed, and the fallacy of the allegation proved before the tribunal, in a question as to the cure of certain miller. This man had been a martyr for years to the gout. The doctor declared that the man was indebted to him for his recovery, whilst in reality he had been restored by Priessnitz. On being questioned by the judge as to who had cured him, he replied, "Bath; the doctor freed me of my money, and Priessnitz of the gout;" this caused a laugh against the doctor, and put an end to all cavils of the faculty.

The Austrian government, perhaps the most jealous in Europe in allowing the assembling of the people for any purpose whatever, and particularly violent against empirics, or the sale of any medicine by any others than regularly certificated persons, sent a commission of inquiry to Graefenberg. This commission found that the only agents there employed in the cur-

ing of disease were cold water, air, and exercise; and they had such evidence of its beneficial effects, and the total absence of all danger, even in the most advanced stage of disease, that, on their report, the government allowed Mr. Priessnitz to continue his praiseworthy operations. Since that time, he has been honored with the friendship of some of the Royal Family, and by very many of the first people of the empire.

From the commencement of his mode of cure to the present time, there have been no less than 7000 persons at Graefenberg to seek his aid; that is, from 1820 to 1842. This does not include the numbers whom he treated before he regularly declared his intention of devoting himself entirely to this science, nor the people of the neighborhood, to whom, whilst he yet conducted his farm, he devoted himself with such assiduity, that what with his labors in husbandry, and in the relief of the sick, which latter occasioned him to long distances and return on foot, in all weathers, by night and day, he very much endangered his health. For a long time he complained of weakness and pain in the chest. It is, however, gratifying to find, that since he has accustomed himself to ride on horseback, which he always does when going anywhere, and has made use of his own cold fomentations, or unslings, for his chest, he has been quite restored. As his habits are so simple, (going to bed early, and rising in summer at four, in winter at five o'clock, and immediately plunging into cold bath,) and as he knows how to ward off colds, or any other acute diseases, it may fairly be hoped that he will live to an advanced age. On the 4th of October, 1841, he attained his forty-second year; but, from the causes we have stated, he appears somewhat older. Notwithstanding his astounding success, his accumulation of wealth, (of which he is now said to possess upwards of £50,000) and the manner in which he is courted and respected by the first nobles in Germany, Mr. Priessnitz retains all the humility of his former humble station. It is the custom in this country with the peasantry to kiss the hands of their superiors, on entering and leaving a room. He is a man of deep reflection, and of few words for he says but little, and rarely promises anything; consequently, his words when spoken are considered as sacred by high and low, as the responses of the Delphic Oracle. Many people complain that he does not talk enough, and doctors who come here to learn the treatment, say that he never explains any thing to them. With respect to the first allegation, it must be evident, that a man who has all the year round from 500 to 600 patients, besides the peasantry of the neighborhood that may require his aid, cannot have a great deal of breath to throw away. Let any person speak to him on his own or his family's case, and he will find his reply that of a man of profound sense,—a reply that he, Priessnitz, never wishes to retract, and for which he will give his reasons in the most unaffected manner possible. But with respect to the second complaint, it must be avowed that he has no very great regard for medical men, because no one has suffered more from their vindictive feelings than himself; besides, he has ever found it a work of supererogation to endeavor to dispossess them of their prejudices; nor has he time or inclination to enter into disputes upon a mode of treatment which he knows, as directly emanating from nature, to be always true to itself. He has frequently witnessed the conduct of medical men who came to inquire into the mode of treatment, who took a carriage at Freiwaldau, went up to Graefenberg, looked at the baths, the doctress, rooms, &c., and proceeded home to decry a discovery of the merits of which they knew nothing.

That Mr. Priessnitz has founded some sort of theory on his mode of treatment, after so many years of successful practice, and with the help of that inquiring genius, and that natural imperturbable calmness which so particularly distinguishes him, there can be little doubt; and this theory has never failed him in his treatment of the most complicated diseases. But he has no time for writing; and if he had, he would find it extremely difficult to explain himself; since it is an extraordinary fact, that no two cases are treated exactly alike. There is no doubt that Mr. Priessnitz owes all his experience to his utter ignorance of medical science, which, indeed, is his greatest advantage; for what does the history of medicine offer, but the discouraging picture of the instability of principles, and a series of theories succeeding each other, without any one of them being able to content an upright spirit, or satisfy an inquiring mind?

We can hardly expect, however, that Mr. Priessnitz will ever attempt to give the world any medical or systematic details. This is only left to intelligent persons and young medical practitioners, who should observe all that is observable, and communicate their observations, so as to form a whole of that which is most important. Fortune and fame will be the reward of any of our students who may go to Graefenberg, and study the proceedings of this

extraordinary man. To do this effectually they must be possessed of patience, as it can only be studied on the spot; nothing but danger would result from acting on the dicta of books, as will be shown by the following case whilst the author was at Graefenberg. A person who had recently lost his wife and two children, was attacked with brain fever. Mr. Priessnitz ordered him a tepid bath, in which he sat and was rubbed by two men, who were occasionally changed. The man became so deranged, that it was with difficulty he could be kept in the bath; in ordinary cases this disease succumbs to the treatment in two or three hours; but the patient in this case became speechless at the end of this time. Mr. Priessnitz, with that coolness which is so leading a feature of his character, said, "sleep on, until he either talks much or goes to sleep." The latter the man at last did, but not until he had been in the bath for nine hours and a half; that is to say, they commenced at one o'clock in the day, and the patient fell asleep from exhaustion at half past ten at night; he was put to bed, and the next day the fever left him, and, though weak, he was able to walk about. A similar case had not occurred at Graefenberg for nearly three years. This shows the difficulty of any one practicing who has not well studied the cure; if the practitioner had become alarmed after the first two or three hours, and had taken the patient out of the bath to try some other method, the consequences might have proved fatal. Many doctors have been there, some on their own account, and others on that of their respective governments, who, after a residence of three or four months, went away imagining that they were as great or greater professors of the science than Mr. Priessnitz, and that they perfectly understood the treatment. On arriving at home they have opened institutions, and Graefenberg exhibits at this moment many melancholy proofs of their total ignorance of even the first principles of the science. The mere application of cold water, in a variety of forms, appears so simple, that one constantly hears people, who do not even understand the composition of that element, pretend that, when they arrive at home, they shall be able to doctor themselves and their friends; but this will be found a dangerous experiment.

From the Phila. Ledger. CONTINUOUS RAILROAD.

MESSRS. EDITORS.—In my last communication I have shown that the only natural channel through the Alleghany Mountains, that by the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, is yet without any proper instrumental survey, made with a view to a continuous railroad. It is true, that levels have at different times, and by various engineers, been carried along that stream, affording us one sort of information in respect to it, namely, the amount to rise and fall which would be encountered. The survey of Messrs. Rawls, Mitchell & Wilson, in 1825, with those of Messrs. Millert & Ayrygg, at a later date, furnish data sufficient to show the easy grades of that route. But no accurate maps or profiles of the ground, no proof of the necessary distance which a railroad must traverse in reaching the heads of the stream, and no estimate of the cost of the different sorts of work on the several sections have, to the best of my knowledge and belief, been afforded.

Since writing that communication, I have seen a bill reported to the Senate of Harrisburg, entitled "An act to incorporate the Pennsylvania Central Railroad Company," in which, among other significant facts, indicating that those who prepared the bill have not yet looked at all sides of this question, is this, that the names of all the counties along the "middle route" of Mr. Schlatter, from Harrisburg to Pittsburg, that is, Dauphin, Perry, Mifflin, Huntingdon, Clearfield, Cambria, Westmoreland, Indiana and Allegheny, are inserted, together with the names of commissioners for disposing of the stock of the Company, and to certify when a sufficient amount has been subscribed to authorize the Governor to issue the charter. But no such commissioners are named in the counties of Union, Northumberland, Lycoming or Clinton, through which the West Branch route must pass.

In order to enable those capitalists and others who may desire to become interested in a road to the West to decide how far they would be safe from future competition in adopting either of the routes, and what other advantages, besides reaching Pittsburg, may be afforded by any one of them, I will offer the following statement, derived from the different surveys:

1. The "Southern" route contains, in a distance of 204 miles, a total rise and fall of 11,375 feet, from which, deducting the difference of level between Harrisburg and Pittsburg, viz:—427 feet, we have left 10,948 feet of rise and fall, the half of which, 5,474 feet, is the height of a single equivalent eminence, to be ascended and descended by this route.

2. The middle route by Stone Mountain and Black Lick, which is Mr. Schlatter's "revised" and "preferred" route, has at a distance of 229 6-10 miles a total rise and fall of 5,699.5 feet, and the equivalent single elevation to be overcome is consequently 2,849 7-10 feet.

3. The middle route by Kishicoquillas and Conemaugh is 249 36 100 miles long; the total rise and fall 5,020 feet, and the equivalent height of a single elevation 2,296.5 feet.

4. The middle route by Stone Mountain and Black Lick, which is Mr. Schlatter's "revised" and "preferred" route, has at a distance of 229 6-10 miles a total rise and fall of 5,699.5 feet, and the equivalent single elevation to be overcome is consequently 2,849 7-10 feet.

5. The route by the West Branch and Mitchell's summit has, in a distance estimated at 351 miles, (but believed to be somewhat less,) a total rise and fall of 2834 feet, and of course an equivalent elevation to overcome beyond what would be required by the absolute ascent between Harrisburg and Pittsburg of only 1203 feet.

From these data it appears that the total rise and fall on the West Branch route is 8542 feet less than on the Southern. 2426 " " Bald Eagle & Emigh's Gap. 2187 " " Kishicoquillas and Conemaugh. 2355 " " Kishicoquillas & Black Lick. 2688 " " Stone Mountain and Conemaugh. 3501 " " Stone Mt. and Black Lick.

This last being Mr. Schlatter's "preferred route." By the preceding statement it appears that the West Branch route is 121.5 miles longer than the preferred middle route, and from the data just given that the middle route has 2861 feet more rise and fall than the West Branch route, which is an average of 23 1/2 feet per mile when distributed over the difference of length, for 2861 divided by 121 1/2=23 1/2.

Now since a grade of about 18 feet per mile, will in general be equal in its retarding effect to that of friction on a level, it is evident that the amount above obtained of 23 1/2 feet of grade per mile, avoided by pursuing the West Branch route, is, in so far as the use of the road is concerned, much more than a counter-balance to the increase of distance. But as the increase is estimated from the windings of the stream, and not ascertained by careful surveys, which alone could show how much might be saved on the West Branch route by a judicious location, the actual increase would very probably fall below the above stated amount.

Having shown the probability of the West Branch proving at least equal, if not superior to any of those surveyed, let us next consider what it offers in the way of collateral advantages.

1st. It will at the Forks of the Susquehanna be directly connected with the trade by railroads from Pottsville, Shamokin, and other coal districts.

2d. With the Iron district near Northumberland, at Danville, Bloomsburg, &c., by means of a railroad, which I consider certain to be ere long constructed along the natural channel of the North branch.

3. At Williamsport, 92 1/2 miles above Harrisburg, which it reaches with the exceedingly easy average grade of two feet per mile, it finds the Williamsport and Elmira road already completed 25 miles, and destined, when finished, to carry on a flourishing trade with central and Northern New York.

4. At the mouth of the Sunnemoishing, 66.1 miles above Williamsport, or 158.6 miles above Harrisburg, and with an average grade for the whole of the latter distance of only 2 3/5 feet per mile, it comes to the proper point of divergence of a line to meet Lake Erie at the town of Erie, in Pennsylvania, distance by Mr. Miller's survey, 151 miles.