The Erie Weekly Observer.

ERIE, PA., NOVEMBER 29, 1866.

A THANKLESS POSITION.—The remarks of the Crawford *Journal*, to the effect that "the habit of abusing the members of the city council has become so like second nature to many people, that they never are able to see anything worthy of commendation in the action of this body of public servants," applies as well to almost every other locality as to that for which it was written." It is not enough that the councilmen must work without pay; they must also be content to give their time without thanks. The property owners and tax-payers, ever on the look-out for 'number one,' are constantly suggesting improvements and changes in their particular neighborhoods, all necessary of course, but intended exclusively for the benefit of a particular locality or to enhance the value of some individual possessions. Perhaps all members of the council make up their minds, when accepting the office, to bear the abuse and contumely sure to be heaped upon them with a christian fortitude; and they doubtless act, in their official capacity, in a conscientious manner, and intend to do justice to all. The position is a thankless one at best; and our only wonder is that enough freeholders can be found in any community willing to accept the office and the accompanying curses."

NEW RADICAL PAPER.—Since it has become a generally understood matter in the community, we presume that we are violating no secret in announcing that arrangements are on foot for the establishment of a new Radical paper in this city. The gentlemen who are engaged in the movement are Mr. Curriden, late of the Hagerstown Torchlight Mr. I. B. Gara, late of the Gazette, and Mr. A. H. Cluzbey, President of the Young Men's Christian Association. They are represented to be well backed by pecuniary means. The intention is, we believe, to commence with a weekly about the 1st of January, to be followed by a daily in a short period. The new paper is designed as the organ of that element of Radicalism in the county which is dissatisfied with the Dispatch and Gazette. A very bitter feeling against both these papers has for a long period existed in the party ranks, mainly growing out of their opposition to Messrs. Scofield and Lowry. The Dispatch is too "independent" and unmanageable to suit the purposes of this class, and the Gazette has not recovered from the distrust engendered by its attacks on our Congressman. The design has been long entertained of establishing a new organ, but from some cause never came to a head until lately. How far the movement will prove successful, and what effect it will have on local political relations remains to be seen; but whatever the result may be, the country will still be safe.

FIENDISH PLOT TO BURN A LAKE STEAMER.—A diabolical plot to burn a lake steamer, engineered by a Chicago desperadoes, has just been unearthed at Detroit. Chief in it was a man named Henry Miller, who formerly kept a furniture store in Chicago, and a boy named *Adolph Dennis*, who worked with him. The plot was *to ship goods on a* steamer running from that port to Cleveland, cover them with heavy insurance, and then have the boy burn the steamer and collect the insurance. In accordance with an agreement, on September 20th the two left Chicago and went to Detroit, taking with them one trunk and two boxes which were ostensibly destined for Cleveland. They were deposited at the warehouse of Keath and Karter, and on the bill of lading Miller got an insurance of one thousand five hundred dollars, in the Western Insurance Company. Miller and Dennis then wandered about town all day, and the latter got so drunk that he went on board the Morning Star and fell asleep in the afterhold, although he had been cautioned to keep his wits about him and carry out the arrangement which had been made. He was not sober until about twelve o'clock at night, and then he remembered the plot he had entered into. Miller had furnished him with two bottles of benzine and a lot of old rags. These rags Dennis saturated with benzine, and in order to avoid detection threw the bottles overboard, while the boat was on Lake Erie, off Point au Pelee. He was so drunk, however, that he did his work bunglingly, and the flames were soon discovered and extinguished. Miller, on learning of the failure of the plot, absconded, leaving Dennis to take care of himself. The latter revealed the plot to G. W. Southerland, a Chicago detective, and was arrested and taken to Detroit last Saturday. Miller was chased up, found in Buffalo, and arrested.

INTERIOR CITIES AND TOWNS.—The Harrisburg Patriot, in an estimate of the population of the leading cities and towns of the State, (exclusive of Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Alleghany) takes the table of votes, and figuring upon the basis of six and a-half persons to each voter, *judges them to stand about in the following order. According to the* Patriot's ratio, the population of Pennsylvania is 3,887,000, against less than 3,000,000 six years ago: of Philadelphia about 663,000, and of Pittsburgh about 80,000:

		Population. 1866.	1860.
1. Reading, Geary	2,704		
" Clymer	2,689		
	5,393	35,000	23,162
2. Scranton, Clymer	2,433		
" Geary	1,565		
	3,998	26,000	9,223
3. Lancaster, Clymer	1,930		
" Geary	1,601		
	3,531	22,900	17,603
4. Harrisburg, Clymer	1,753		
" Geary	1,582		
	3,335	20,700	13,405
5. York, Clymer	1,237		
" Geary	939		
	2,176	14,200	8,605
6. Pottsville, Geary	1,333		
" Clymer	810		
	2,143	14,000	9,444
7. Allentown, Geary	1,035		
" Clymer	1,010		
	2,045	13,200	8,025
8. Williamsport, Geary	1,046		
" Clymer	984		
	2,030	13,000	5,664
9. Erie, Geary	1,214		
" Clymer	738		
	1,952	13,000	9,419
10. Norristown, Geary	940		
" Clymer	937		
	1,877	12,000	8,848
11. Easton, Clymer	948		
" Geary	912		
	1,860	12,000	8,941

We have no idea how near this estimate approaches to correctness so far as it relates to other localities, but any person who is acquainted about this city must agree with us, that it does not do Erie justice. The ratio of one voter to every six and a-half persons may be high enough in the old settled sections of the State, where the increased population is mainly made up from the surrounding counties; but here, where there is a steady influx from other States and Europe, it is certainly too low. The location of Erie, in a triangle between New York and Ohio, and only a few miles from the line of each of those States, has a natural tendency to give us a large population who are not represented in the table of voters. Our foreign population, too, is very large, and rapidly on the increase, so that, putting all the facts together, we may safely say that the ratio of voters to citizens is not less than one in eight. This would give us a population of about 15,500, which every person acquainted with the facts will admit to be rather under than over the mark. Another thing must be borne in mind. The city limits of Harrisburg, Williamsport, Reading and most of the other places mentioned, comprise not only all the thickly settled portions of their respective localities, but every building, person and piece of property, which appropriately deserve to be included in an estimate of their population, wealth and business interests, with slight exceptions. The case is different here. Our city limits do not comprise much more than three-fourths of the population whom we are properly entitled to claim as a portion of our community. Portions of the adjoining borough of South Erie and township of Mill Creek are as thickly built up as the city itself, and their interests areas thoroughly identified with ours as if they were under the same corporate government. A movement is now going on to consolidate these outside localities with the city proper, and when it is accomplished, as we hope it will be at the next session of the Legislature, it will increase our vote to about 2,500, and give us a population not far from 20,000.

We last week alluded to the strictures made by the Observer, upon the course pursued by the Grand Jury and other parties in this county, *for enforcing* the law disfranchising deserters, against certain parties who had wilfully violated its provisions—by stating that any law duly passed by the Legislature and approved by the Governor, must be regarded as valid, and enforced, until declared void by competent authority. This is so plain and common-sense a view, that we wonder at the Observer censuring men for simply performing their sworn duty.—*Gazette.*

The Gazette is either incapable of stating our positions correctly, or it does not undertake to. It has never yet published a view put forth by the Observer in the sense in which we presented it, nor commented upon one except from a false stand point. Although this policy is vexatious at times, we cannot expect anything else, for the theory upon which the Radical party is founded derives its whole sustenance from the persistent distortion and falsification of its opponents' opinions.

Take the cases above alluded to. Judge Johnson, in his charge concerning them, advised the ignoring of all the bills growing out of the election. The Grand Jury followed his advice in the cases where Republicans were indicted, but held the Democrats in several instances to answer for trial. Others it allowed to go clear, but loaded them with the costs, while the expenses of the cases in which Republicans were the indicted parties, were saddled upon the county. This course we pronounced unfair, unmanly and impartial, and as we have denounced it in the past, we will continue to do while we have power to wield a pen. The Grand Jury had two ways open to it:—either to dismiss the cases, as the Judge recommended; placing all the parties on an equal basis; or to hold every man of them, and give each the same opportunity for trial.

The idea of the Gazette, that the election officers were bound to obey the disfranchisement act, in spite of the decision of the Supreme Court, and its acknowledged unconstitutionality is of a character with that paper's general teachings Perhaps our cotemporary is not aware that each election board is furnished by the county with a copy of that clause in the State Constitution which lays downs the qualifications of voters. That instrument is the acknowledged superior law of the Commonwealth, and all acts of the Legislature which come in conflict with it are invalid. How could any election officer, having a copy of the Constitution and of the disfranchisement act in his hand, hesitate as to his duty? He was sworn to obey the law, and knowing as he did that the Constitution is the highest authority in the State, it was his clear requirement to disregard any act which is plainly in violation of its provisions. In a case where a mere legal technicality was concerned there might be some excuse for any hesitancy he might feel; but where the antagonism is so distinct, irreconcilable and indefensible as in this disfranchisement act, the man must have been *dull indeed, or so blinded* by partizan passion as to be incapable of honest judgment, who could not perceive that it was his positive duty to disregard its provisions, and take his stand on the platform of the Constitution.

The Dispatch, in speaking of the misfortunes which have attended the Union & Titusville R. R., uses the following language:

"Finally, it fell to Wm. A. Galbraith, Esq., to become its President, and we hoped and believed that it would be carried forward to an early completion. It seems, however, that its embarrassments and uncertainties have not ceased, and that further work upon it has been postponed until spring."

We think it due to Mr. Galbraith that the injustice done him in these sentences (unintentional, perhaps) should be corrected. When he was chosen President of the road its affairs were in a nearly bankrupt state. It was with great hesitation that he assumed *the duties of the office*, and he was only induced to do so by the unanimous appeal of the stockholders, who believed that if any person could rescue the concern from total ruin it was him. Since then he has been unremitting in his labors to secure the completion of the road. By strenuous exertions he has secured pledges of important help from Eastern capitalists, on condition that the means to grade it would be furnished by the citizens of the counties through which it is to run. The iron to track it, and the material to stock it, are all provided for, and nothing but the money to complete the grading remains to be obtained. This amount Mr. Galbraith thinks, and all sensible men will agree with him, should be advanced by our wealthy citizens He has frequently brought the matter to their attention, but thus far without success, and the enterprise, if it fails, will do so through the neglect of those most interested in its completion.

This is the whole story in a nut shell, and it plainly proves that the responsibility does not rest on Mr. Galbraith. He has done his full duty, and would have accomplished more had he been sustained as he should have been by the men of means amongst us. Let the Dispatch, if it is disposed to find fault, put the blame at the right door.

We are pained to hear of the death of Mr. Edwin Hall, of Girard township, one of the best and most influential citizens of that part of the county. He was walking on the R. R. track, near the junction of the Lake Shore & Pittsburgh roads, on Saturday evening. Hearing a locomotive whistle, he mistook it for a train on the Lake Shore road, and stepped off that track on to the Pittsburgh, the wind blowing heavily at the time. While looking for the Lake shore train, he was struck by the one from Pittsburgh, and instantly killed, his body being awfully mangled. *The engineer and conductor were unaware of* having run over any object until they got to Girard, when a brakesman insisting that some accident had occurred, was allowed to go back to the junction, and there found Mr. Hall's remains. Mr. Hall was one of the most enterprising citizens of Girard township, and a great favorite among all classes. His sad fate will be learned with more than usual regret by all who knew him.

The Clearfield Republican, the old established organ of the Democracy of Clearfield county, comes to us in a new dress, enlarged, and so much improved in appearance that its best friends could not recognize it. The Republican has always been an able and prosperous paper, but under the administration of brother Goodlander it has taken many steps ahead of what it ever was in the past.

Items of Local Interest.

A Court for the trial of civil cases will commence on the second Monday in December.

The young men who attend the Academy have adopted a suit of grey, which they all wear, giving them quite a military appearance.

The daily Dispatch appeared on Monday in quarto form, considerably enlarged, printed on new type, and presenting a very neat appearance.

Mr. S. W. Lytle is the builder under whose supervision the elegant new Episcopal church has been erected. Erie has reason to be proud of such mechanics.

The lecture of Mr. Vincent, last Thursday evening, is warmly complimented, as having been able, interesting and eloquent, and free from objectionable political allusions.

Twenty-eight acres of land on the Ridge road, a mile and a-half south-west of the city, were sold by Hayes & Kepler, last week, for the sum of $14,500. The property belonged to V. M. Thompson, and was purchased by John Berst.

Cowan, of the Warren Mail, has been adding a newspaper power press to his office, and of course is highly tickled. He showed his good judgment by selecting a Potter, which we regard as the best manufactured.

Our citizens will be gratified to learn that the steamer Michigan has been ordered to winter in our harbor. Last winter, through the instrumentality of Capt. Roe, she was stationed at Buffalo.

The Gazette of last week printed what it calls a "correct" table of the Congressional vote in this district. We published the same table four weeks ago, and learning afterwards that it was *not* correct, have since given a other that was.

The Plumer Patent Boot, manufactured by Jos. Eichenlaub & Co., is the most comfortable covering for the feet ever introduced. No gentleman who has ever worn it will wear any other. Messrs. E. & Co. have the sole right to manufacture it in our city.

The new Cleveland railroad depot is claimed to be the largest in the world. It is 603 feet long and 180 in width, and covers an area of over two and a-half acres. It is built of sandstone, and is ornamented by a massive tower 96 feet high. This great depot was opened November 10th.

Mr. E. A Collins, of Platea, is agent for the Pianos, Melodeons and Organs sold by O. J. Willard, of New York, whose advertisement appears on our last page. Our readers in the western end of the county wanting any of these instruments, will find it to their interest to deal with Mr. Collins.

The next lecture will be delivered by Theodore Tilton, of the New York Independent, on Thursday evening, December 4th. Mr. T. is one of the leaders of extreme Radicalism, and, from the title of his lecture, we infer that it will be devoted to an argument in favor of the peculiar political tenets of that class.

The drunken Indian "Doctor" Copway is still travelling round the country, swindling the public. At last accounts he was somewhere in the State of New York. A large number of creditors would like to have him return to Erie, so that if they could'nt get satisfaction out of his purse, they might out of his hide.

It is stated upon good authority that Hon. John Morrissey will be elected President of the First National Faro Bank.—*Dispatch*:

It is stated upon equally good authority that Thad. Stevens will be chosen Teller of the same institution, a position for which his notorious gambling propensities eminently qualify him.

The editor's Thanksgiving was made doubly cheerful by the present of a large, fat turkey—the gift of our good friend, L. A. Hull, Esq., of Summit,—a gentleman whose heart is as sound as his Democracy is firm. Here's hoping that he, and all like him, may live a thousand years, and increase in health, happiness and prosperity all the time.

The legal fraternity of the city gave a supper to Judge Derrickson, at the Morton House, on Thursday evening of last week, the occasion being his retirement from the bench. The collation is represented to have been a splendid one, and everything passed off in a satisfactory manner. Two or three members of the bar, who were not willing to "go back" on their past declarations, refused to participate.

The heavy rains on Wednesday evening did not deter the friends and members of the United Presbyterian congregation from turning out in large numbers to attend the Festival given by the ladies in Farrar Hall. The hall was decorated with much taste, and the display of good things was on a scale that reflected the greatest credit upon the taste and industry of the ladies. The entertainment, under all the circumstances, is entitled to the claim of having been the most successfully conducted, that has taken place in our city for a number of years.

The car wheel factory of Messrs Davenport, Fairburn & Co., on the canal, just west of the city, we are pleased to learn, is rapidly gaining a very large business. A contract has been lately entered into to manufacture 1,600 wheels for one of our leading roads, and other orders are flowing in to a most gratifying extent. The wheels manufactured here are admitted by all railroad men who have examined them to be the best made in the country. We shall be much mistaken if the enterprise established by Messrs. Davenport, Fairburn & Co. does not eventually grow into one of the most important in our community.

A movement is talked of to secure the consolidation of the borough of South Erie and a portion of Mill Creek township with the city. It is understood that a bill to that effect will be introduced into the next Legislature. The people of South Erie are said to favor the measure, provided the city will assume their debt, as of course it is bound to do; but we suspect that the citizens of the township will not give so ready a consent. We regard the project as one that is certain to take place before long, and the sooner the better. As the city limits now are, at least 5,000 people, who should properly be counted as a part of our population, are excluded in the census and poll returns, and the community in consequence is prevented from taking the position which its actual number of inhabitants, wealth and increase entitle it to.

A letter appeared in Tuesday's daily Dispatch from Wm. A. Galbraith, Esq., in which he distinctly and pointedly puts to rest the stories which have been so long and industriously circulated respecting his connection with the newspapers of the city. In this communication Mr Galbraith says:

"To set at rest the mischievous report industriously circulated, connecting me with the ownership and management of the Dispatch and other newspapers in this city, permit me to say to the public, through your paper, that I have not now, never have had, and do not intend nor expect ever to have, any interest whatever, either directly or indirectly in the Dispatch or in any other newspaper published in the city or county of Erie or elsewhere. And furthermore, that with the exception of some articles prepared from time to time for the Observer and Dispatch on the railroad and other merely business interests of this section, I have written nothing for many years for any of the city or county papers."

Those who know Mr. Galbraith's decided political views did not need this emphatic disclaimer to satisfy them that the imputation that he was in any way concerned in the proprietorship of either of the Radical organs in our city was totally and maliciously false. The story was originated to accomplish a purpose, and it is strange that persons of good judgment should have believed it for a moment.

Some six months ago, Messrs. Southard, Crawford & McCord determined upon the experiment of establishing a wholesale dry goods store in our city. Like almost every other enterprise undertaken in Erie, its success has been far beyond the expectation of its originators. Their store is overrun with customers, and their trade has already assumed so large a scale, that they find their present accommodations too limited. An extensive addition is being made to the building occupied by them, which will soon be ready for use, and which will give them one of the largest and finest sale-rooms in the country. The firm is one of the most enterprising and gentlemanly in the city, and the degree of prosperity that has attended them is a cause of general congratulation.

There has already been much suffering from poverty in Titusville this fall. Many families, the Herald says, are in want of the common necessaries of life, and one death by actual starvation has occurred. A benevolent society has been formed to relieve the cases of distress We are led to fear, from the representations which have been made to us, that the poor in our own city are destined to have a hard winter of it. Scores of families are able only to obtain a bare living at present, and when the cold weather sets in, depriving the male members of employment, their condition will be most deplorable. The charitably disposed should at once arrange some systematic measures of relief.

An exchange publishes the following, which may be of interest to our lady readers: "If geranium branches, taken from luxuriant shrubs, just before the winter sets in, are cut in slips and immersed in soap water, they will, after drooping a few days, shed their leaves, put forth fresh ones and continue in the finest vigor all winter. All the different varieties of the plant being used, the shapes and colors blend into beautiful effect. They require no fresh water.

Most of the sailing vessels on the lake have laid up for the winter, and, with the exception of a propeller now and then, navigation for the season will close with the last day of the month. About twenty schooners and two United States vessels, the war steamer Michigan and revenue cutter Perry, are expected to remain in our harbor over winter. The year has not been as profitable a one as usual for our coal merchants, owing, perhaps, to the additional competition which has sprung up, and the high rates of freight.

Judge Derrickson signalized the last day of his official career by rendering a decision that the Canal company is not bound to build or keep in repair the bridges along its line. The burden of doing so is thus thrown upon the tax-payers of the various communities through which the canal passes, unless the Supreme Court, where the case, we understand, is to be taken for final decision, should reverse Judge Derrickson's opinion.

The Girard *Spectator* says "a good looking, intelligent, well dressed, and prepossessing white girl," of Ashtabula, County, Ohio,—"benighted Ashtabula our next door neighbor—recently married a big Sambo, about seven degrees blacker than a bucket of coal tar. Mated doves are they—

Two souls with but a single thought.
Two colors mixed as one.

It gives us delight to know that our efforts to build up a first class Jobbing Office are meeting with the encouragement we anticipated. During the past year our trade in that branch has more than doubled, and the printing done at the Observer office is generally admitted to be the neatest of any establishment in the Western part of the State.

The two buildings of Mr. Noble, on State street, are progressing very rapidly. When completed they will be the finest structures erected by private means in the city—a credit to the place and an honor to the builder. Erie is to be congratulated on having such a public spirited citizen as Mr. Noble. His location here was the opening of a new era in our community.

Why is it that the pavement on State street, just north of the Postoffice, is allowed to remain in its present neglected state? For nearly two months it has been an eye-sore to the locality, and a source of inexpressible annoyance to travellers. We hope some means can be devised to compel the responsible parties to put it in order without delay.

The Warren *Mail* suggests the name of Hon. G. W. Scofield for United States Senator.—*Chambersburg Repository.*

The *Mail* denied that Mr. Scofield wanted to be Senator, but perhaps that is only a left handed way of saying that he does want to be a candidate. At any rate the *Repository* seems to take it in the same sense that people who know Scofield here do.

The Dispatch thinks it would require $100,000 to establish a rival daily in Erie. We don't think ourself it would be a very easy matter, but if any parties were disposed to place one-fourth the sum named in our hands we would be willing to try the experiment, and guarantee its success.

The most independent people in the community that we know of are those who do small jobs of whitewashing, office-cleaning, wood-sawing and such like. The air of gracious condescention with which they accept or refuse applications for their services is interesting to the fullest extent.

Parties wanting Cards, Bill Heads, Letter Heads, Statements, &c., will find it to their interest to patronize our Jobbing Office. With rapid new Presses, the tastiest styles of Type, and careful Workmen, we claim to be unexcelled in that kind of work.

Persons in need of stoves should bear in mind that they can procure almost every style used in this vicinity at Barr, Johnson & Co's. Their stock embraces all kinds of cooking and parlor stoves, for either wood or coal.

There are 3,500 oil wells in Venango Co., of which one half are producing, and of these at least one-fifth average, when worked, five barrels per day. There are forty new oil wells now going down on Pithole creek, and preparations are making for sinking twenty more.

Remember that the Observer Job Printing Office is now fitted up with new presses of the best class, and all the latest styles of type, enabling us to turn out the finest quality of work, in the most prompt and satisfactory manner.

The people of North East have selected Judge Greer and Wm. Griffith as a committee to wait upon the citizens of Erie to solicit subscriptions in aid of the proposed Methodist Seminary at that place.

Hall's *Journal of Health* expresses the opinion that buckwheat cakes contain more nourishment for less money than any other article of food.

If you are in need of Job Printing, give the Observer office a trial. We are turning out work equal to the largest eastern offices.

THE Titusville Herald says:

"The notorious Tom Quirk, of Petroleum Centre, has been penitentiaried by the Criminal Court of Erie Co. The Oil Creekers will breathe free."

In relation to the aforesaid Tom Quirk, it is proper to say that the offence for which he was committed, was for maiming, which was committed about two years ago, which had been adjusted, and by some malicious procedure the case was called on for trial. He, not escaping the charge, the court could not do otherwise than convict him. The reputation of Tom Quirk for the past year and a-half has been vastly improved, and he was becoming a respectable citizen of Petroleum Centre, and would have been eventually in respectable standing. One peculiar trait of his character is honesty, and with so good a quality, he was calculated to make a better citizen than many of greater pretensions.

The above we copy from the Titusville Journal, at the request of several of Quirk's friends. An effort is being made to secure his pardon.

☞ Shattered constitutions restored by Helmbold's Extract Buchu. tf

The Case of Rev. Dr. Prestley.

A Radical Politician Comes to Grief.

[From the Pittsburg Commercial, Nov. 17.]

For some months past the community has been greatly exercised over rumors affecting the character of Rev. James Prestley, D. D., pastor of the Second United Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh. These rumors were as various in their character as numerous, and many of them have no foundation in fact—at least those connecting him with criminal intimacy with females in this vicinity were little better than sheer fabrications. To give the reader a proper understanding of the case, it should be stated that Rev. Dr. Prestley has been twice married, having a son and daughter by his first marriage, who have nearly reached their majority. His second wife was the widow of Dr. William Kerr, who is the mother of four children—three girls and one boy, the eldest being upwards of eighteen years of age. Shortly after the last marriage those "incompatibilities of temper" began to manifest themselves, which culminated in the commission of the offences of which Dr. Prestley has been convicted by the ecclesiastical court. The departure of his step children from his house, soon after marriage, gave rise to much talk, but eventually it subsided. Finally, his wife, unable longer to put up with his conduct, brought it to the attention of her relatives, who immediately asked an investigation by the Presbytery.

THE CHARGES AND SPECIFICATIONS.

On the 29th of October, the Presbytery of Monongahela assembled in the eighth United Presbyterian Church, cor. of Washington and Webster streets, Rev. S. B. Reed, Moderator; Rev. W. H. Andrew, Clerk; and Rev. W. J. Reide, Assistant Clerk. Rev. Drs. Kerr and Graney appeared on behalf of Mrs. Prestley, and Rev. Prestley acted as his own counsel. The charges were three in number, and were to the following effect:

1. Violent, cruel, and abusive treatment of his family.
2. Using profane and vulgar language.
3. Sustaining relations with other females inconsistent with his marriage vows.

These three charges contained several specifications. Under the first charge—cruel treatment—the defendant was accused of having choked his wife on one occasion at Hookstown. He was also charged with having kicked her, with beating her with a stick, and hitting her with his boot.

The specifications under the second charge, using vulgar and profane language, set forth that on different occasions he called his wife all manner of foul names, and called down upon her and her family the most impious imprecations, for instance, "Oh, Lord! crush my wife and her family as deep into hell as a pigeon could fly in five thousand years," or words to that effect.

The specifications of the third charge were that he maintained relations with females which were inconsistent with his duty as a husband.

To all these charges and specifications the defendant made a general denial.

THE TRIAL.

Some twenty witnesses were subpœnaed on each side of the case, though all did not attend. Mrs. Prestley was, of course, the principal witness, and her statements, in the main, were corroborated by her children and the servants of the family. The evidence as to cruelty was clear, although the accused produced a number of friends of the family to prove that in their presence his conduct to his wife and children was kind.

The testimony as to his use of vulgar and profane language was by his wife and family. The language attributed to him by the witnesses was of a shocking character—so shocking, indeed, as to create serious doubts in the minds of a number of the members of the Presbytery that any sane man would use it.

On the third charge the evidence of his familiarity with a young lady of Alleghany was not of a character to affect adversely the standing of either as to morality, although it was held that both were imprudent in their behavior. Another specification alleged an improper correspondence with a widow lady of New York, to whom he was once affianced. In proof of this specification a number of letters from this New York lady—which had been intercepted by Mrs. Prestley—were produced. These letters were inclosed in envelopes, directed to "James Peterson, care of Rev. Prestley," the directions being in the handwriting of the defendant. These contained many endearing expressions, such as unsophisticated lovers are wont to use in their epistles to one another. In one letter she says: "Oh, how I would like to meet you in R——, that we might be one night alone," or words to that effect. In another she speaks of going to Europe, and suggests that she would announce her departure prematurely in order that he might visit her between the time of her feigned and real departure. Another letter covered a returned letter from the defendant, the latter having ventured some very good advice to the fair correspondent, which was not palatable to her. Besides these letters sent to James Peterson, the New York widow kept up an open correspondence with Rev. Prestley and his wife, all of which was proper in its language and seeming purpose.

THE DEFENCE.

For his defence, Dr. Prestly called his family physician, Dr. Coffey, his father, brothers and other members of his family, to prove his nervous temperament; that he was easily irritated, the slightest cause sufficing to put him out of temper. Witnesses also testified to his pleasant relations with his family when they were present. In his argument, he attempted to show that his wife and her children and his own children had conspired against him to annoy him, and that a regular system of espionage was established in his house. He took the evidence of his wife, and claimed that under the Church Discipline, her testimony should be taken with great allowance. The rule is, we believe, that two witnesses must testify to a fact, neither of whom are interested in the result of the investigation. With reference to some points in the testimony that bore hard upon him, the defendant attempted explanations, his own versions in some instances almost corroborating those of the witnesses against him. His argument consumed all of the sessions of Wednesday and part of Thursday morning.

THE JUDGMENT.

After the case was closed on both sides, the court proceeded calmly to discuss the evidence, in order that their judgment might be impartial. Not a single member of the twenty-six Presbyteris who voted had any doubt of the defendant's guilt on all the general charges, there being some slight difference of opinion on some of the specifications.

THE SENTENCE.

On Thursday evening, on the reassembling of the Court, the Moderator announced the verdict of guilty. Dr. Prestley was then brought to the bar of the Court, when the Moderator, Rev. S B. Reed, with deep feeling, read the sentence, which was in substance that Rev. James Prestley was deposed from the ministry and excommunicated from the Church.

When the sentence was pronounced, Dr. Prestley rose and said:

"Mr. Moderator—am I to understand that I am to be denied the privileges of the Church."

The Moderator said, "You are."

As soon as this answer was given, Dr. Prestley sank into his seat as if driven there by a blow. He covered his face with his hands and gave vent to his feelings in audible tears.

A member of the court moved an adjournment with prayer, suggesting that the erring brother should be especially remembered therein.

The motion prevailed, and the Moderator appointed an intimate friend of long standing of the deposed to make the prayer. At that point of the supplication where the unfortunate man was specially remembered the scene was one of deep interest, all present being in tears.

At the conclusion of the prayer the long protracted and extremely painful proceedings, covering a period of over two weeks, were ended.

The case will now go to the civil Court on an application for a divorce by Mrs. Prestley.

The Crawford *Democrat*, whose editor is well acquainted in Pittsburg, says of this individual, Prestley:

"He was notorious for the bitterness and vituperative slang with which he pursued *Democrats*, or as he was wont to term them, "Copperheads," and whom he considered unworthy of membership in a Christian church. He preached and prayed that all who did not "support the administration of Abraham Lincoln" might be anathematized; and, yet, at the same time this "wolf in sheep's clothing" was habitually living in violation of almost every known duty."

Our readers needing Boots or Shoes will do well to call at the store of S. Z. Smith, Empire Block, State Street, before making their purchases. His stock of goods is one of the largest in the city, and his prices as low as any. Boots and shoes made to order in the best style. Repairing done promptly and satisfactorily. nov1-1m.

☞ The cheapest, safest, simplest and pleasantest stove to use is the Morning Glory, for sale by Himrod & Company, 605 French street. oct.25-tf.

FOR sixteen years I was sorely distressed with the Asthma. A great portion of the time I was unable to work, and frequently for weeks at a time. I could obtain sleep only by setting up in a chair, being unable to breathe in a lying posture. In my long search after relief, I, of course, tried many medicines, but all to little or no purpose, until I used Carter's Compound Extract of Smart Weed. This met my case at once, and the very great relief I have experienced by using it convinces me that it is no more than my duty to make the fact public, that others now suffering as I used to suffer, may know where and how I obtained my relief. I have also used the same preparation as a liniment and in Colds with great satisfaction, and consider it a very useful article and one that every family would do well to keep about them. ALFRED EDDY,
North Java, N. Y., Aug. 21st.—oct25-tf.

MARRIED.

TRACY—KELLEY—In St. Paul's church, Steubenville, Ohio, on Tuesday evening, November 20th, by the Rev. Charles Gillette, Rector, Mr. Daniel D. Tracy, of Erie, to Elizabeth, daughter of Wm. Kelley, formerly of Erie.

TAYLOR—THICKSTUN—At the residence of the bride's father, Nov. 19th, by Elder G. W. Snyder, Dr. L. N. Taylor, of Girard, to Miss N. M. Thickstun, of Cussewago.

STARBIRD—CLARK—In Corry, on the 20th inst., at the residence of the bride's father, by Rev. J S Little, Mr. Isaac S. Starbird, and Miss Mary E. Clark, all of Corry.

COWDEN—SHEPARD—On the 20th inst., at the residence of the bride's father, by Wm. C. Jackson, Esq., Mr. James S. Cowden and Miss Rebecca J. Shepard, both of Union Tp.

DIED.

SHEPARD—In Union Township, on the 11th ult., Jacob Shepard, in the 94th year of his age.

BARR—In Millcreek, on Nov. 23d, Jessie, daughter of G. W. and Julia A. Barr, aged one month and ten days.

CROSBY ART ASSOCIATION.—The Committee of leading citizens of Chicago, appointed to supervise the Crosby Art Association scheme, have issued the following card to the public:

CARD.—We, the undersigned, a Committee appointed to conduct the awarding of premiums to the members of the Crosby Opera House Association, have been authorized by the management to announce Monday, Jan. 21st, 1867, as the day when the final award of all the premiums shall be made without further postponement.

In order that Mr. Crosby may realize the full benefit of his enterprise—and the tickets may be held by bona fide purchasers, and not by him—it is necessary that the remaining certificates should be speedily disposed of.

The Committee assure all parties interested that every care will be taken to secure perfect fairness in awarding the premiums.

W. F. COOLBAUGH, President Union National Bank.
JAS. H. BOWEN, President Third National Bank.
J. C. DORR, President of the Board of Trade.
JAS. C. FARGO, Manager American Express.
I. Y. HUNT, Munn & Scott, Elevator.
J. A. ELLIS, President Second National Bank.
CLINTON BRIGGS, Ewing, Briggs & Co.
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