

Jeffersonian Republican.

THE WHOLE ART OF GOVERNMENT CONSISTS IN THE ART OF BEING HONEST.—Jefferson.

[and Publisher]

Richard Nugent, Editor

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JEFFERSONIAN REPUBLICAN.

TERMS.—Two dollars per annum in advance—Two dollars a quarter, half yearly—and if not paid before the end of the year, Two dollars and a half. Those who receive their papers by a carrier or stage drivers employed by the proprietor, will be charged 37 1/2 cts. per year, extra. No papers discontinued until all arrearages are paid, except at the option of the Editor. Advertisements not exceeding one square (sixteen lines) will be inserted three weeks for one dollar; twenty-five cents for every subsequent insertion; larger ones in proportion. A liberal discount will be made to yearly advertisers. All letters addressed to the Editor must be post paid.

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DELAWARE ACADEMY.

The Trustees of this Institution, have the pleasure of announcing to the public, and particularly to the friends of education, that they have engaged IRA B. NEWMAN, as Superintendent and Principal of their Academy.

The Trustees invite the attention of parents and guardians, who have children to send from home, to this Institution. They are fitting up the building in the first style, and its location from its retired nature is peculiarly favorable for a boarding school. It commands a beautiful view of the Delaware river, near which it is situated, and the surrounding scenery such as the lover of nature will admire—it is easily accessible the Eason and Milford Stages pass it daily, and only 8 miles distant from the latter place, and a more salubrious section of country can nowhere be found. No fears need be entertained that pupils will contract pernicious habits, or be seduced into vicious company—it is removed from all places of resort and those inducements to neglect their studies that are furnished in large towns and villages.

Board can be obtained very low and near the Academy. Mr. Daniel W. Dingman, jr. will take several boarders, his house is very convenient, and students will there be under the immediate care of the Principal, whose supervision, department and guardianship over his pupils, afford the best security for their proper conduct, that the Trustees can give or parents and guardians demand.

The course of instruction will be thorough adapted to the age of the pupil and the time he designs to spend in literary pursuits. Young men may qualify themselves for entering upon the study of the learned professions or for an advanced stand at College for mercantile pursuits, for teaching or the business of common life, useful will be preferred to ornamental studies, nevertheless so much of the latter attended to, as the advanced stages of the pupil's education will admit. The male and female department will be under the immediate superintendence of the Principal, aided by a competent male or female Assistant. Lessons in music will be given to young ladies on the Piano Forte at the boarding house of the principal, by an experienced and accomplished Instructress.

Summer Session commences May 4th.

EXPENSES.

Board for Young Gentleman or Ladies with the Principal, per week, \$1 50
Pupils from 10 to 15 years of age from \$1 to \$1 25
Tuition for the Classics, Belles-Lettres, French &c., per quarter, 2 00
Extra for music, per quarter, 5 00
N. B. A particular course of study will be marked out for those who wish to qualify themselves for Common School Teachers with reference to that object; application made for teachers to the trustees or principal will meet immediate attention.

Lectures on the various subjects of study will be delivered by able speakers, through the course of year.

By order of the Board,

DANIEL W. DINGMAN, Pres't
Dingman's Ferry, Pike co., Pa., May 2 1840.

NOTICE.

The Book of Subscription to the Stock of the Upper Lehigh Navigation Company, will be opened at Stoddardsville, on Wednesday, the 15th day of July ensuing, when subscriptions will be received for the balance of stock which remains yet open. At the same time and place the Stockholders will elect a board of Directors.

Charles Trump,
John S. Comfort,
Henry W. Drinker
William P. Clark,
Commissioners

June 16, 1840.

N. B. Proposals will be received at Stoddardsville, on Thursday the 16th day of July ensuing, for doing the work either wholly or in jobs, required by building a lock and inclined plane with the necessary grading, fixtures and machinery for passing rafts descending the Lehigh over the Falls at Stoddardsville. It is expected that the work will be commenced as soon as practicable and be completed with despatch.

Wyoming Sketches.

We to day commence the publication of Historical Sketches of the Valley of Wyoming, from the pen of the author of the "Life of Brant," who last year devoted much time and attention to the collection of materials for an accurate account of the battle of July 3, 1778, usually termed the "Wyoming massacre." It will be seen, that the version of that untoward event, published in the journals of the day, and adopted by Chief Justice Marshall in his first edition of the life of Washington, is entirely incorrect, and the numerous errors therein are here corrected. Owing to the vicinity of this part of the country to the scene of action the most lively interest has always been felt by us in this matter, and in addition, almost every one of our principal inhabitants was formerly interested in claims to lands in the valley, founded either on Pennsylvania or Connecticut titles. We commence with the author's remarks on the first impressions produced by a view of the Valley, from the river bank.

"On Susquehanna's side, fair Wyoming"

Our hotel was upon the margin of the river, the waters of which are as clear as those of Lake St. Sacrament, the Lake George of the English, and the Horicon of the Indians. But a few rods above, a noble bridge spans the river, leading from Wilkesbarre to the opposite town of Kingston. From the observatory of the hotel, a full view of the whole Wyoming valley is obtained—or rather, in a clear atmosphere, the steep wild mountains by which the valley is completely shut in, rise on every hand with a distinctness which accurately defines its dimensions,—while the valley itself, especially on the western, or opposite side of the river, presented a view of several small towns, or scattered villages, planted along, but back from the river, at the distance of a few miles apart,—the whole intervening and contiguous territory being divided into farms, and gardens, with fruit and ornamental trees. Comfortable farmhouses are thickly studded over the valley; among which are not a few more ambitious dwellings, denoting by their air, and the disposition of their grounds, both wealth and taste. Midway through the valley winds the river, its banks for the most part adorned with graceful and luxuriant foliage, and disclosing, at every turn, some bright spot of beauty. On the eastern side, in the rear of the borough, and for a few miles north, the dead level of the valley is rendered still more picturesque by being broken into swelling elevations and lesser valleys, adorned in spots with groves and clumps of trees, with the ivy and other creeping parasites, as upon the river's brink, clinging to their branches. The village, or borough, of Wilkesbarre, so far as the major part of the buildings are to be taken into the account, is less beautiful than it might be. Nevertheless there are a goodly number of well built and genteel houses, to which, and the pleasant gardens attached, the pretty couplet of the poet might be applied:—

Tall trees o'ershade them, creepers fondly grace
Lattice and porch, and sweetest flowers embrace.

The people are the sons and daughters of New-England, and have brought with them into this secluded region the simple manners and habits, and the piety of their fathers. It was the Sabbath morning when we first took the survey we have been attempting to describe, and the stillness and quiet which prevailed, awakened long trains of associations and sympathies in unison with the day, and the holy calmness and beauty of the scene—fit home indeed for holy thoughts. Indeed,

The country here

Seemed God's own country, for the use of man
Intended, and by man's abuses unstained;—
Woods for his hearth, and pastures for his board.
And yet the landscape, in its simple wealth,
Had something of a lonely aspect, too—
A fine New England look.

This valley of Wyoming is rich in its historical associations, even of days long preceding the events of the American revolution, which were the occasion of its consecration in the deathless song of Campbell. The length of the valley from the Lackawannock Gap, where the Susquehanna plunges through between a narrow defile of high rocky mountains at the north, to a like narrow pass called the Nanticoke Gap, at the south, is nearly twenty miles—averaging about three miles in width. As already mentioned, it is walled in by ranges of steep mountains of about one thousand feet in height. These mountains are very irregular in their formation, having elevated points, and deep ravines, or openings, which are called gaps. They are for the most part as wild as when discovered, and are clothed with pines, dwarf oaks and laurels, interspersed with other descriptions of woods—deciduous and evergreen. By the Delaware Indians, its original proprietors, so far as its history is known, the valley was called *Maughawwame*, or the *Large Meadows*. The five nations, who conquered it

from the Delawares, called it *Sgahontawano*, or the *Large Flatts*.

According to the traditions of the Delawares, when they came from toward the setting sun, they found this country in the possession of a powerful nation of Indians, who had strong fortifications, and means of defence previously unknown to them. These Indians, after many sanguinary battles, were vanquished by the Delawares. Whether there be any just foundation for this legend or not, it is certain from the character and extent of the tumuli existing in the valley when taken possession of by the pale faces, and from the fact that large oaks were growing upon some of the mounds, that the country, centuries before, had been in the possession of a race of men far in advance of the Delawares in the arts of civilization and war.

There was a time when the Shawanese Indians occupied a portion of territory at the forks of the Delaware, (formed by the junction of the Lehigh, at Easton,) but finding them to be troublesome neighbors, the Delawares, then residing farther down the river, compelled them to remove—assigning to their use the valley of Wyoming and a portion of the territory farther down the Susquehanna, at Shamokin. Thither the Shawanese removed—planting themselves anew at both points. In Wyoming they built their town upon the west side of the river, below the present town of Kingston, upon what are to this day called the Shawanese Flats. In 1742, at an Indian Council held with the proprietors of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia, to adjust a question of disputed territory, the chiefs of the Six Nations charged the Delawares with having sold certain territory which was not their own, and old Cannasseegeo sternly ordered the Delawares to remove from their own river to the valley of Wyoming. This order they dared not resist; and as the Shawanese were in possession of the west bank of the river, they planted themselves down on the east side—locating their town on the spot where Wilkesbarre now stands. Meantime the Nanticoke had removed from the eastern shore of Maryland, to the lower part of Wyoming, which yet retains their name.

It was during the same year the celebrated Moravian Missionary, Count Zinzendorf, visited the Indians of this valley, and for a season pitched his tent therein. The tradition of his life having been saved by the interposition of a serpent, is well known. Becoming jealous of him, the Indians had determined upon his assassination. The count had kindled a fire, and was in his tent, deep in meditation, when the Indians stole upon him to execute their bloody commission. Warned by the fire, a large rattlesnake had crept forth, and approaching the fire for its greater enjoyment, the serpent glided harmlessly over one of the legs of the holy man, unperceived by him. The Indians, however, were at the very moment looking stealthily into the tent, and saw the movement of the serpent. Awed by the aspect and the attitude of the count, and imbibing the notion from the harmless movements of the poisonous reptile, that their intended victim enjoyed the special protection of the Great Spirit, the executioners desisted from their purpose, and retired. The story was related, though not written, by the count himself.

Soon after this incident, a war arose between the Delawares of Wyoming and their Shawanese neighbors, which resulted in the expulsion of the latter.—No cause so trifling ever before produced a war. It was this: On a certain day, the warriors of both clans being engaged in chase upon the mountains, a party of the Shawanese women and children crossed to the Delaware side to gather wild fruit. In this occupation they were joined by some of the Delaware squaws, with their children. In the course of the day, the harmony of the children was interrupted by a dispute respecting the possession of a large grass hopper, probably with parti-colored wings. A quarrel ensued, in which the mothers took part with their children respectively. The Delaware women being the most numerous, the Shawanese were driven home, several being killed upon both sides. On the return of their husbands from hunting, the Shawanese instantly espoused the cause of their wives and arming themselves, crossed the river to give the Delawares battle. The latter were not unprepared, and a battle ensued, which was long and obstinately contested, and which, after great slaughter upon both sides, ended in the defeat of the Shawanese, and their expulsion from that valley. They retired among their more powerful brethren on the Ohio.

A variety of Indian troubles continued to agitate the valley during the whole of the French war of 1755-63, at the close of which the valley was purchased by the colonists. But the departure of the Indians brought not peace to a country that might have been rendered a little paradise by their successors. The territory of Wyoming was claimed by the colony of Connecticut, under a patent granted by James I. to the Earls of Arundel, Warwick, and their associates. Under this patent, an association, called the *Susquehanna company*, was formed in Connecticut, in the year 1753, for the pur-

pose of settling this beautiful section of country; and for the object of rendering their title the more secure, they purchased the valley of the Six Nations in July of the following year. This Connecticut, or Susquehanna company, as it was called, was very numerous, embracing more than six hundred persons. They attempted to plant a settlement in Wyoming in 1754, but the Indian troubles incident to the French war, frustrated the design. Meantime the proprietors of Pennsylvania interposed a claim to the same territory, under the grant of the crown to William Penn, and also under an alleged purchase of the Indians, and a rival company was formed, called the *Delaware company*, by whom a settlement was begun, at a place called the Coshehunk, on the Delaware, but within the territory claimed by the Susquehanna company. The Indian war having been hushed in 1762, about two hundred people from Connecticut entered the Wyoming valley, and began preparations for a settlement, by clearing land, erecting log houses, sowing wheat, &c. returning to Connecticut for the winter.

In the following year these adventurers returned to the valley with their families, and resumed their labors—their location being on the west side of the river, about four miles above the Indian town, which had not been evacuated—the Indians remaining, appearing to be perfectly friendly. The principal Delaware chief at this time was the celebrated Tadeuscund, who was deservedly a favorite with his people, but who had incurred the enmity of the Six Nations. A party of the latter, during this year, stole into the valley and murdered Tadeuscund, by setting fire to his dwelling, in which he was consumed, and charged the deed upon the Connecticut settlers. The latter, unconscious of the charge, and trusting to the friendly disposition thus far manifested by the Indians, apprehending no danger, were entirely unprovided with arms. But on the 15th of October, while at work in their fields, the friends of Tadeuscund suddenly fell upon them, with misdirected vengeance, killed about twenty, and entirely broke up the settlement—the surviving men, women and children being obliged to fly across the dismal mountains, heretofore described, by the light of their own dwellings, which were plundered and burnt.

Six years now intervened, before the Connecticut company attempted to resume the settlement of the valley. Meantime the proprietaries of Pennsylvania anticipated them, by granting the lands of the valley to sundry individuals, among whom were Charles Stewart, Amos Ogden, and John Jennings. Mr. Stewart was a surveyor, and he repaired to the valley and laid out the whole in two manors. One of which, on the East side of the river, was called the manor of Stoke, and the other, on the West side, the manor of Sunbury. They also took possession of the old Connecticut improvements. This was in January, 1769. In the following month, a detachment of forty settlers from Connecticut arrived in the valley, and finding their locality occupied by the representatives of the antagonist company, they planted themselves down upon other lands in the neighborhood. Stewart and his party had prepared defences as though apprehensive of an attack. The Connecticut people did likewise.

And now commenced a bitter civil war, which lasted, with the alternate success of the different parties, for upward of six years. In vain were the two colonial governments of Connecticut and Pennsylvania engaged in negotiations, to adjust the question of jurisdiction. In vain had the crown been appealed to for the same purpose. And in vain was the interposition of other colonial authorities invoked for that object. Now the colonists from Connecticut were increased by fresh arrivals, and obtained the mastery; and now again, either by numbers or stratagem, did the Pennsylvanians become lords of the manor. Forts, block-houses and redoubts were built upon both sides, some of which sustained regular sieges. The settlements of both parties were alternately broke up—the men led off to prison—the women and children driven away, and other outrages committed. Blood was several times shed in this straggling civil strife; but considering the temper that was exhibited, in far less quantities than might have been anticipated. Deeds of valor, and of surprising stratagem, were performed. But, strange to relate, notwithstanding these troubles, the population of the valley rapidly increased, and as the Connecticut people waged the contest with the most indomitable resolution, they in the long run came the nearest to success. The Pennsylvanians having sent a large force against the settlement under Col. Plunkitt, which was ingloriously defeated, no farther military operations against it were attempted from that quarter. Meantime the settlements had been greatly extended, and several towns designated and surveyed.

Until the year 1774, the people had lived under laws of their own enacting. But their population had now become so considerable that a more efficient government was judged expedient. An application to be taken under the immediate government of Connecticut was attended with success, and under the general

name of Westmoreland, the valley of Wyoming was annexed to the county of Litchfield, in the state of Connecticut. Zebulon Butler, Esq. a gentleman of character, who had served with credit in the French war, and Nathan Dennison, Esq., also a gentleman of character, were appointed justices of the peace.

The causes of the American revolution were plain and palpable to all. The first consequence was that every man became a volunteer in the conflict. But in desultory sketches like these, it is no part of our duty to inquire into causes. Come we then at once to effects—one of the saddest of which was that this beautiful natural paradise was doomed to become the scene of one of the deepest and darkest tragedies attending that momentous revolution.

For a season after the breaking out of the war of the revolution, the valley of Wyoming was allowed a state of comparative repose. The government of Pennsylvania was changed by the removal of the proprietaries, or successors of Penn, and both Connecticut and Pennsylvania had other and more important demands upon their attention than the disputes of rival claimants for a remote and sequestered territory. A census was taken, and the whole population of the several towns of the valley now acknowledging the jurisdiction of Connecticut, was computed at about five thousand souls. Thus it is stated in Chapman's history, and by Marshall; but in a recent appeal to the legislature by a committee from Wyoming, only half that number is allowed.—But this estimate seems by far too small, inasmuch as the Wyoming militia, in 1776, numbered eleven hundred men capable of bearing arms, from which number two companies of regular troops were raised, under resolutions, commanded by Captains Ransom and Durkee, of eighty-two men each. These companies were mustered and counted as part of the Connecticut levies, and attached to the Connecticut line. They were, moreover, efficient soldiers, having been engaged in the brilliant affairs of Millstone, the bloody and untoward battles of Brandywine and Germantown, and in the terrible cannonade of Muddbank.

Notwithstanding the remoteness of its position, and its peculiar exposure to the attacks of the enemy, rendered more perilous from its contiguity to the territory of the Six Nations, and the readiness with which a descent could be made upon them by the way of the Susquehanna, the people were prompt to espouse the cause of their country, and as early as the first of August, 1775, in town meeting, they voted "that we will unanimously join our brethren of America in the common cause of defending our country." In the month of August in the following year, it was voted "that the people be called upon to work on the forts, without either fee or reward from the town." And in 1777, the people passed a vote empowering a committee of inspectors "to supply the soldiers' wives, and the soldiers' widows and their families, with the necessaries of life." These old, and curious, and precious records of the isolated and patriotic democracy of Wyoming, were shown to us by our estimable friend Charles Miner, of whom we shall have more to say hereafter.

But the unanimity asserted in the first resolution cited above, must have been a figurative expression, since, unhappily, there were loyalists in Wyoming, as elsewhere. The civil wars, moreover, at which a rapid glance has been cast, had left many bitter feelings to rankle in the bosoms of those who had been actively engaged in those feuds. Added to which in the exuberance of their patriotism, between twenty and thirty suspected citizens were seized by the Whigs, and dragged over the woods and mountains into Connecticut, for imprisonment. These men were ultimately discharged, and speedily thereafter found their way into the ranks of the enemy in Canada—among the Tory rangers of Sir John Johnson and Colonel John Butler. These points are stated thus minutely, because they are essential to a just understanding of the darker features of the history that is to follow.

The Indians of the Six Nations were not brought actively into the field against the colonies until the summer of 1777. From that moment, the whole extended frontiers of the colonies, reaching from Lake Champlain round the Northwest and South to the Floridas, were harassed by the savage foe. There was a conventional understanding with the people of Wyoming, that the regular troops enlisted among them should be stationed there, for the defence of the valley; but the exigencies of the service required their action elsewhere, and not only were they ordered away, but other enlistments were made, to the number, in all, of about three hundred. The only means of defence remaining consisted of militia men, the greater proportion of whom were too old or too young for the regular service. And yet upon these men devolved the duties of cultivating the lands to obtain subsistence for the settlements, and likewise of performing regular garrison duty in the little stockade defences which were dignified by the name of forts, and of patrolling the outskirts of the settlements, and exploring the thickets, in order to guard against surprise from the wily Indians, and their yet more vindictive ally.