

Mountain Sentinel.

"WE GO WHERE DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES POINT THE WAY"—WHEN THEY CEASE TO LEAD, WE CEASE TO FOLLOW."

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TERMS.

The "MOUNTAIN SENTINEL" is published every Thursday morning, at One Dollar and Fifty Cents per annum, if paid in advance or within three months; after three months Two Dollars will be charged.

No subscription will be taken for a shorter period than six months; and no paper will be discontinued until all arrearages are paid. A notice to discontinue at the expiration of the term subscribed for, will be considered as a new engagement.

ADVERTISEMENTS will be inserted at the following rates:—50 cents per square for the first insertion; 75 cents for two insertions; \$1 for three insertions; and 25 cents per square for every subsequent insertion. A liberal reduction will be made to those who advertise by the year. All advertisements handed in must have the proper number of insertions marked thereon, and they will be published until forbidden, and charged in accordance with the above terms.

All letters and communications to insure attention must be paid. A. J. RHEE.

Synopsis of Decisions of the Superintendent of Common Schools.

We copy the following synopsis of decisions made by the Superintendent of the Common Schools, from the Harrisburg Keystone. They are a fund of information and will supersede the necessity of persons interested in our Common School system, from referring every trifling matter to the decision of the Superintendent. The gentleman who has charge of the school desk in the Secretary's office, is one well and abundantly able to furnish information, for he has given the subject his earnest attention, and the highest the Superintendent is a gentleman of the highest legal attainments, and capable of making such decisions as will stand the test of the severest scrutiny. We then shall hereafter publish these decisions as we shall find them in the Keystone believing that our subscribers can obtain no more useful information, or on a subject more intimately connected with their dearest interests.

School directors may establish German Schools under the Common School law, or cause German and English to be taught in the same school, but the Board of Directors cannot be required to cause German to be taught. They should consult the wishes of the people of their district in this regard, and if any considerable number of Germans desire to have their children instructed in their own language, their wishes should be gratified. The directors have exclusive jurisdiction over this subject and from their decision upon it there is no appeal, the Superintendent having only the power to advise. If the voice of the people is not respected by them the only remedy is to elect persons who will respect it.

All acts, or parts of acts, relative to common schools, passed previous to April 7th 1849, which are inconsistent with or are supplied by the act of that date, are repealed. Some acts previous to that date reduced the number of directors in certain districts to three. All those and similar acts are repealed, and every district must elect six directors in the manner provided by law.

A tax levied by the votes of less than four directors is illegal and collections cannot be enforced.

In cases where the Constable refuses to receive the duplicate from the Treasurer, the latter may appoint some other person to collect it, who may or not be a resident of the district, and he should require security from the person so appointed, but he is not required to do so. If he does not take security he is personally responsible for any loss that may be sustained.

Collectors must pay over the tax collected by them to the person who is Treasurer at the time payment is made.

The Treasurer is required to pay all orders upon him which are regularly drawn and signed by the President and Secretary of the School Board, if sufficient funds are in his hands. He has no right to go behind the order to require whether it was drawn for a legal purpose.

If the President and Secretary draw an order without the authority of the Board they are guilty of a misdemeanor, and if the Board direct an order to be drawn for any other than a legitimate purpose they subject themselves to indictment.

At the annual settlement, or soon thereafter, the Treasurer must pay over the balance of school money in his hands to his successor in office.

It is a misdemeanor in office for a collector to purchase warrants, for which he is indictable. The Board of directors can compel him to pay the tax collected by him in the same funds (or in legal currency) he collects, and no other course will meet the approbation of the Department.

School directors have the abstract right to compel scholars to go to either of the schools within the district of their residence, if they go at all, but this right or power should not be arbitrarily exercised. Where a scholar can be more conveniently accommodated in an adjoining district the directors should make such arrangement as is provided for in section eleven of the school law, and this holds good as to sub-districts, though in the latter case the directors are not required to make the arrangement designated by the law, but they should do so.

There is, and cannot be, a general and unalterable rule laid down in regard to the distribution of school funds among sub-districts. The directors are required by law to pay for the erection, purchase or renting of the necessary

number of school houses for their entire district, and for "all necessary expenses of fuel and repairs," out of the general fund of the district, (and this duty is not in any manner changed or avoided by the formation of sub-districts,) and they are also required by law to appropriate a sufficient sum of money to each sub-district to keep all its schools (such number as is necessary to accommodate all the scholars,) in operation "not less than three months" in each school year. After having made proper provisions for doing these things, the distribution of the balance of the funds in their possession is left entirely to the discretion, judgment and integrity of the directors. It is certainly their plain duty to make the distribution in a manner that is just to all the sub-districts, showing special favor to none, but they are the judges of what is just and proper. For any mal-appropriations of school funds they are indictable, but the Department has no power to punish them.

The directors of some districts appropriate a *pro rata* share, according to the number of scholars, to each sub-district. This plan of distribution may be a very good one in many instances, if the requirements of the law before mentioned are first fulfilled, but will not answer as a general rule. A sub-district of thirty scholars may require a teacher of superior attainments, one whose services cannot be obtained for less than (say) thirty dollars per month, while another having fifty scholars might be as well cared for and its school sufficiently taught for (say) twenty dollars per month, depending upon the attainments of the scholars. The wants of sub-districts must be considered in the distribution of the school funds and not merely the number of scholars.

It is manifestly wrong for the School Directors to appropriate a sufficient amount of money to one sub-district to keep its schools in operation six, eight or ten months, while to another a sum barely sufficient to keep its schools open three months is appropriated. Money can only be rightfully appropriated by the directors with the view to keep the schools of their districts, and of the sub-districts within its bounds, in operation as near as may be, an equal length of time.

The amount of tax paid by any neighborhood or sub-district should not be permitted to influence the amount of school funds appropriated to each school or sub-district to the least possible extent. A sub-district containing only twenty scholars may pay a tax of fifty dollars, while another having one hundred scholars may pay only the same amount. The first would require only one school, and the second at least two. If the scholars were of equal grade it would cost (say) twenty dollars per month to teach the school of the first and forty dollars per month to teach those of the second. Under these circumstances, the directors should appropriate twenty dollars per month to the former and forty dollars to the latter.

While such circumstances exist there can be no general rule to regulate the distribution of school funds to sub-districts, and such distributions can only be properly made by the Directors by complying with the requirement of the law and then distributing the balance of the funds in such manner as to be no positive injustice to any.

The State Lunatic Asylum.

We have been favored with a copy of the First Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the State Lunatic Asylum. The Institution was opened on the last of October last. Since that time, all suitable cases that offered have been promptly received. The wards specially appropriated to the violent and noisy, are still unfinished, and on this account, it has been necessary thus far, to restrict the admissions to those forms of disease that could with propriety and safety be accommodated in the main building. The board for patients supported by their friends, has been fixed at three dollars per week. The price charged to counties and townships for their indigent insane is \$2 per week. The Trustees say—

"There are at the present time in the State penitentiaries and in the different jails of the Commonwealth, a considerable number of insane,—alleged criminals—who ought to be transferred to the State hospital as soon as its buildings are completed. There are also in these institutions a few, who, from their peculiarly dangerous character, and the utter hopelessness of benefitting them by treatment, can never with propriety become inmates of the hospital. To protect the community and the ordinary insane from the dangerous propensities of these individuals, it would be necessary to introduce into our wards, intended for the treatment of disease, all the most repulsive features of a prison, or that a separate building, having strictly a prison character, should be erected upon the grounds. Some legislation will be required before any of these cases can be admitted, and some mode of proceeding should be adopted which will prevent any but proper cases being received from these sources.

To Pennsylvania belongs the high honor of having just a century ago, established the first institution for the cure and treatment of the insane in America. That original provision, and all subsequent to it up to the opening of the

State hospital, were the offspring of the efforts of her benevolent and public spirited citizens, and were endowed by their own private means, almost without any aid from the public treasury. Although the regulations then made for the admission and custody of patients have given great satisfaction, and tended in a high degree to promote the best interests of the insane, and been recognised on many important occasions as based on "the great law of humanity,"—still it may be worthy of consideration, whether now, that a State provision is being made for those thus afflicted, it may not be expedient to have a revision of the various laws on the subject, and the legal relations of the insane plainly established by special legislative enactments which, while securing to patients the inestimable advantages of prompt and judicious treatment, and affording a full guarantee that no legal right has been trifled with, will, at the same time, protect those to whose care they are committed, from unjust and vexatious proceedings for a proper performance of their onerous duties.

The board of trustees cannot refrain from seconding the judicious remarks of the superintendent, in reference to the importance of the early treatment of the insane, and also to urge upon the friends of the patients the necessity of a steady perseverance in such a course, as long as there seems to be any prospect of their recovery. No argument can be required at this day to prove the great saving it must be to the community, promptly to submit every case of insanity to a liberal system of treatment, which, in a few months, is sure to restore a large proportion to health and society, instead of, by neglect and ill treatment, confirming a malady, which, more than all others, makes the sufferer, and often those dependent on him, a burden to their friends or the public for life."

From October 6 to December 31, as we learn from the Report of the Superintendent, thirty-seven patients were admitted, of whom twenty-four were males, and thirteen females. The duration of insanity before admission, as near as it could be ascertained, was—

Less than one year	17
Two years,	2
Three "	3
Four "	4
Five "	6
Six "	1
Ten "	2
Twelve "	1
Sixteen "	1
The causes, so far as ascertained, were as follows:—	

	Males.	Females.
Ill health,	2	1
Domestic trouble,	8	1
Grief,	—	8
Melancholia,	—	1
Excessive study,	1	—
Disappointment,	1	—
Over-exertion,	1	—
Epilepsy,	2	2
Intemperance,	1	—
Religious excitement,	1	—
Puerperal,	—	2
Unknown,	11	8
Ill treatment,	1	—

Social Condition.		
Married,	5	6
Widowed,	1	1
Single,	18	6

The following table will show the occupations of those admitted:	
Males,	Females.
Sailor,	1
Student,	1
Farmer,	1
Tailor,	1
Laborer,	2
Apprentice,	1
Brickmaker,	1
Cooper,	1
Lumberman,	1
Umbrella maker	1
Dyer,	1
None,	1

Dr. Curwen, the Superintendent, says that insanity, according to the best authorities, is a deranged manifestation of the mental and moral faculties, caused by a disorder of the organs, by means of which the faculties act. He therefore thinks that the earlier remedial measures are applied, the sooner, in all probability, will such derangements be corrected and removed. He adds—

"An impression is very generally prevalent in certain classes of the community that a few weeks' hospital treatment is sufficient to effect a decided change or restoration in any case, no matter how long it may have existed; and disappointment and dissatisfaction are expressed by friends if this result be not perceived. To this impression we would oppose the recorded and oft-repeated result of observation and experience, that insanity is a disorder which requires considerable time before any decided effect is produced by any system of treatment; that under the most favorable auspices, and the most judicious system, very few cases entirely recover in less than from three to six months; that, in every case, the amendment is very gradual, and that the longer a case exists, the less probability will there be of restoration."

Ancient Literature.

The art of writing, we are assured by Mr. Gliddon, is of very remote antiquity. It was in existence before history had a being. The older portions of the Bible were compiled from more ancient documents. The book of Job, for example, was an Arabian production, and composed among a literary people. This is evident from these expressions, "Oh, that my words were written! Oh, that they were printed in a book!" He undoubtedly meant engraved like the Chinese works, not by modern typographers. Again:—"My desire is that my adversary had written a book." Long before Moses was born, written chronicles and the sublimest poetry were extant.

"The Book of Genesis is divided into two perfectly separate histories. The first part is an account of the CREATION, and the general history of mankind up to the building of the Tower of Babel. The second part is the history of Abraham and his descendants." Swedenborg and Dr. Lamb, from whom Mr. Gliddon made this quotation, divide this book at precisely the same point, and include ten chapters and nine verses of the eleventh, in the first part.

But fanaticism, accident, and casualties have destroyed the great mass of ancient literary productions. We can allude to "the various instances of the annihilation of ancient archives in Asia Minor, Greece and Syria;" the destruction of the Ptolemaic Library, also of the Alexandrian collection; the destruction of the Chinese annals by the Tartars, and likewise of the Indian and Central Asiatic libraries by other hordes of the same nation; the Turkish devastations, the perishing of Tyrian literature at the conquest by Alexander, and of Rome annals when Brennus entered that city; the conflagration of Phoenician manuscripts by Marius at Carthage, and of the Hebrew archives by Titus Vespasian. "Mahomed Ali has permitted the destruction of more historical legends in forty years than had been compassed by eighteen centuries of Roman, Byzantine, Arab, or Ottoman misrule." The history of Hecateus, and the annals of Manetho, Berosus, and Eratosthenes are lost, all but a few mutilated fragments. So are also the records of a still earlier period, "save such as Champollion has pointed out on the monuments and papyri of Egypt." That there was a vast number of books is shown by the enumeration now extant. At the date of 625, B. C. above twenty thousand volumes were "in constant, universal and popular use among the inhabitants of Egypt, the productions of a Sophis, Athothis, Necho and Ptolemais, all Egyptian Pharaohs; no less than of priests and other philosophers, who lived, nearly all of them, ages before Moses." Poems, especially epics, were common, and Homer, who visited that country eight hundred years before our present era, stands charged by the Egyptian poet Naucratis, "with gleanings from Egyptian bards the ideas which, with such sublimity of thought and diction, he perpetuated in his Iliad and Odyssey."

But the original documents are lost forever; the glories of ancient Nile have perished; and the prediction of the Hermetic books is fulfilled: "Oh, Egypt! Egypt! the time will come, when instead of a pure religion and a pure belief, thou shalt possess nothing but ridiculous fables incredible to posterity; and nothing shall remain to thee but words engraven on stones—the only monument that will attest thy piety." The Chaldeans from whom the Hebrews originated were literary at a very early period.—Their astronomical observations date as far back as 2234, B. C., or seven hundred years before Moses. "Yet Diodorus distinctly avers that the Babylonians learned astronomy from the Egyptians, being themselves an Egyptian colony." Mesopotamia also was at that same time tributary to Pharaonic rule. "Berosus gives a Chaldean history of the ten antediluvian generations, that differs but in names from the Hebrew account." To Xisuthrus (or Noah) he gives the credit of compiling the memoirs of the preceding ages. Many centuries must have elapsed before those nations could possess the requisite mental discipline to enable them to attain such perfection in science and letters. But it should be noted that these dates extend back to the popular era of the Flood, without alluding to any such catastrophe! A significant omission.

Mr. Gliddon himself remarks: "I cannot reconcile with scriptural chronology, however extended, the lapse of time adequate for the rude uneducated savage to acquire among the myriads of progressive steps towards civilization, the art of writing, whether by symbolic or alphabetic signs. Writing may be forever unnecessary to vast tribes of human beings who are far above the savage in the scale of civilization, and would, assuredly, not have been the art which for many generations, a savage community would strive to acquire, or to which their first efforts would be directed. Centuries would elapse before the hypothetical savage could reach that wonderful process, attested by Egyptian monuments, still erect on Nilotic shores, whose construction precedes Abraham by unnumbered generations." He therefore concludes that civilization was not attained at first by long ages or discipline; but was of heavenly origin.

Grecian philosophy as well as poetry grew

from the Egyptian stock. The sages of Hellas resorted to that country for those lessons which at home they reproduced in their writings, made sacred in their mysteries, and taught in their schools. All the world went thither. Solon, the "wisest of mankind," was a student in Egypt. "The Egyptians had intercourse with Hindostan, the Spice Islands, and China, long before that period." Their ships doubled the Cape of Good Hope; and they made other important explorations.

The discovery of America must undoubtedly be placed to their credit. We admit the testimony of the Norwegian and Icelandic skalds, who have chronicled in their sagas the adventures of Eric, who some nine centuries ago sailed to a country west of Greenland and going down its coast found a region heavily covered with forest, and spent a winter where there was no snow. Runic characters on New-England rocks have also shown that this land has been visited by the bold Scandinavian. Columbus spent a season in Iceland before he projected the discovery of the western continent.—But we are now dealing with a remote antiquity.

Authors have appealed to the religious ceremonies of the Aztecs and Peruvians to prove that their origin was similar to that of the Phenicians and other Oriental nations. In social customs and refined civilization they did not contrast very unfavorably with their Spanish conquerors. But we suppose that another circumstance precludes this hypothesis. The Egyptians, Phenicians, Carthaginians, Persians and other ancient people were of the Caucasian race; which was not the case with the Southern aborigines.

Plato relates that Solon was informed by Sonchis, an Egyptian priest, "of the existence of the Atlantic Isles; which Sonchis said were larger than Africa and Asia united." He returning home the Athenian statesman wrote a poem in which he made mention of the "VAST ISLAND, which had sunk into the Atlantic Ocean."—*Anglo-American, N. C. Repository.*

Washington's Courtship and Marriage.

Beautifully situated on the banks of the Pamunkey, is the mansion known as "the White House." It stands on the site of the one in which Washington was married. From Custis's Life of Mrs. Martha Washington, we extract the account of his courtship and marriage:—

It was in 1758 that Washington, attired in a military undress, and attended by a body servant, tall and military as his chief, crossed the ferry called the Williams's, over the Pamunkey, a branch of the York River. On the boat touching the southern or New Kent side, the soldier's progress was arrested by one of those personages who give the beau ideal of the Virginia gentlemen of the old regime, the very soul of kindness and hospitality. It was in vain the soldier urged his business at Williamsburg, important communications to the governor, &c. Mr. Chamberlayne, on whose domain the militia had just landed, would hear of no excuse. Col. Washington was a name and character so dear to all Virginians, that his passing by one of the castles of Virginia, without calling and partaking of the hospitalities of the host, was entirely out of the question. The colonel, however, did not surrender at discretion, but stoutly maintained his ground till Chamberlayne, bringing up his reserve, in the intimation that he would introduce his friend to a young and charming widow, then beneath his roof, the soldier capitulated, on condition that he should dine—only dine—and then, by pressing his charger and borrowing of the night, he would reach Williamsburg before his excellency could shake off his morning slumbers. Orders were accordingly issued to Bishop, the colonel's body servant and faithful follower, who, together with the English charger, had been bequeathed by the dying Braddock to Major Washington, on the famed and fated field of Monongahela. Bishop, bred in the school of European discipline, raised his hand to his cap, as much as to say, "Your orders shall be obeyed."

The colonel now proceeded to the mansion, and was introduced to various guests, (for when was a Virginia domicile of the olden time without guests?) and, above all, to the charming widow. Tradition relates that they were mutually pleased, on this, their first interview—nor is it remarkable; they were of an age when impressions are strongest. The lady was fair to behold, of fascinating manners, and splendidly endowed with worldly benefits. The hero was fresh from his early fields, redolent of fame, and with a form on which "every god did seem to set his seal, to give the world assurance of a man."

The morning passed pleasantly away, evening came, with Bishop, true to his orders and firm at his post, holding the favorite charger with one hand, while the other was waiting to offer the ready stirrup. The sun sunk in the horizon, and yet the colonel appeared not. "Twas strange, 'twas passing strange;" surely he was not wanted to be a single moment behind his appointment—for he was the most punctual of all men.

Meantime, the host enjoyed the scene of the veteran at the gate, while the colonel was so agreeably employed in the parlor: and proclaiming that no visitor ever left his home at sunset,

his military guest was, without much difficulty, persuaded to order Bishop to put up the horses for the night. The sun rode high in the heavens the ensuing day, when the enamored soldier pressed with his spur his charger's side, and speeded on his way to the seat of government, where, having dispatched his public business, he retraced his steps, and, at the White House, the engagement took place, with preparations for marriage.

And much hath the biographer heard of that marriage, from the gray-haired domestics who waited at the board where love made the feast and Washington the guest. And rare and high was the revelry at that palmy period of Virginia's feudal age; for many were gathered to that marriage, of the good, the great, the gifted, and they, with joyous acclamations, hailed in Virginia's youthful hero a happy and prosperous bridegroom.

"And so you remember when Col. Washington came a courting of your young mistress?" said the biographer to old Cully, in his hundredth year. "Ay, master, that I do," replied the ancient family servant, who had lived to see five generations; "great times, sir, great times—shall never see the like again!" "And Washington looked something like a man—a proper man—hey, Cuffy?"

"Never seed the like, sir—never the like of him, though I have seen many in my day—so tall, so straight! and then he sat on a horse and rode with such an air! Ah, sir, he was like no one else. Many of the grandest gentlemen, in the gold lace, were at the wedding; but none looked like the man himself."

Strong, indeed, must have been the impression which the person and manner of Washington made upon the "rude, untutored mind" of this poor negro, since the lapse of three-quarters of a century had not sufficed to efface it.

The precise date of the marriage the biographer has been unable to discover, having in vain searched among the records of the vestry of St. Peter's church, New Kent, of which the Rev'd Mr. Munson, a Cambridge scholar, was the rector, and performed the ceremony, it is believed, about 1759. A short time after their marriage, Colonel and Mrs. Washington removed to Mount Vernon, on the Potomac, and permanently settled there.

"This union," says Sparks, "was in every respect felicitous. It continued forty years. To her intimate acquaintances and to the nation, the character of Mrs. Washington was ever a theme of praise. Affable and courteous, exemplary in her deportment, remarkable for deeds of charity and piety, unostentatious, and without vanity, she adorned by her domestic virtues the sphere of private life, and filled with dignity every station in which she was placed."

Previous to his acquaintance with Mrs. Custis, Washington had been pleased with other ladies. The author above quoted on this point says, that in 1756, "While in New York, he was lodged and kindly entertained at the house of Mr. Beverly Robinson, between whom and himself an intimacy of friendship subsisted, which, indeed, continued without change, till severed by their opposite fortunes twenty years afterwards in the revolution. It happened that Miss Mary Phillips, a sister of Mrs. Robinson, and a young lady of rare accomplishments, was an inmate in the family. The charms of this lady made a deep impression upon the heart of the Virginia colonel. He went to Boston, returned, and was again welcomed to the hospitality of Mr. Robinson. He lingered there till duty called him away; but he was careful to intrust his secret to a confidential friend, whose letters kept him informed of every important event. In a few months intelligence came, that a rival was in the field, and that the consequences could not be answered for, if he delayed to renew his visits to New York. Whether time, the bustle of a camp, or the scenes of war had moderated his admiration, or whether he despaired of success, is not known. He never saw the lady again till she was married to that same rival, Captain Morris, his former associate in arms, and one of Braddock's aids-de-camp."

"He had before felt the influence of the tender passion. At the age of seventeen, he was smitten by the graces of a fair one, whom he called a 'lowland beauty,' and whose praises he recorded in glowing strains, while wandering with his surveyor's compass among the Alleghany mountains. On that occasion he wrote deploring letters to a friend, and indicted plaintive verses, but never ventured to reveal his emotions to the lady who was unconsciously the cause of his pains."

Mr. Buchanan in Maryland. The State Capital Gazette, a sound and reliable Democratic paper published at Annapolis, Md., has in its issue of Wednesday last, a very able communication in favor of Mr. Buchanan for President. The writer says:

"The people of the South with remarkable unanimity, have fixed their hopes upon this gentleman. [Mr. B.] In the National Convention, which will soon assemble at Baltimore, he will receive, it is believed, the undivided vote of every Southern State with the exception, perhaps, of our own."

And the writer goes on to say that he has very strong hopes that Maryland will cast her vote in the National Convention for Mr. Buchanan.