The Tioga County Agitator
Is published every Wednesday Morning at $2 per year, invariably in advance.
COBB & VAN GELDER.
M. H. COBB. H. C. VAN GELDER.

ADVERTISING RATES.
TEN LINES OF MINION, OR LESS, MAKE ONE SQUARE.

No. of Sq'rs.	1 In.	3 Ins.	4 Ins.	3 Mos.	6 Mos.	1 Year
1 Square.....	$1,00	$2,00	$2,50	$5,00	$7,00	$12,00
2 Squares.....	2,00	3,00	4,00	8,00	12,00	18,00
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One Col.....	18,00	25,00	30,00	40,00	60,00	90,00

Special Notices 15 cents per line; Editorial or Local 20 cents per line.

The Tioga County Agitator.

"The Agitation of Thought is the Beginning of Wisdom."

VOL. XV. WELLSBORO, PA., MAY 27, 1868. NO. 21.

JOBBING DEPARTMENT.
The proprietors have stocked the establishment with a new & varied assortment of
JOB AND CARD TYPE
AND FAST PRESSES,
and are prepared to execute neatly and promptly,
POSTERS, HANDBILLS, CIRCULARS, BILL HEADS, CARDS, PAMPHLETS, &c., &c.
Deeds, Mortgages, Leases, and a full assortment of Constables' and Justices' Blanks on hand.
People living at a distance can depend on having their work done promptly and sent back in return mail.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

W. D. TERBELL & CO.,
WHOLESALE DRUGGISTS, and dealers in Wall Paper, Kerosene Lamps, Window Glass, Perfumery, Paints and Oils, &c., &c. Corning, N. Y., Jan. 1, 1868.–1y.

WILLIAM H. SMITH,
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW. Insurance, Bounty and Pension Agency, Main Street Wellsboro, Pa., Jan. 1, 1868.
S. F. WILSON. J. B. NILES.
WILSON & NILES,
ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW. (First door from Bigoney's, on the Avenue)—Will attend to business entrusted to their care in the counties of Tioga and Potter. Wellsboro, Jan. 1, 1868.

HILLS HOTEL.
WESTFIELD Borough, Tioga Co., Pa., E. G. Hill, Proprietor. A new and commodious building with all the modern improvements. Within easy drives of the best hunting and fishing grounds in Northern Penn'a. Conveyances furnished. Terms moderate. Feb. 5, 1868–1y.

GEORGE WAGNER,
TAILOR. Shop first door north of L. A. Sears's Shoe Shop. ☞ Cutting, Fitting, and Repairing done promptly and well. Wellsboro, Pa., Jan. 1, 1868.–1y.

JOHN B. SHAKSPEARE,
DRAPER AND TAILOR. Shop over John R. Bowen's Store. ☞ Cutting, Fitting, and Repairing done promptly and in best style. Wellsboro, Pa., Jan. 1, 1868–1y.

WM. GARRETSON,
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW, Notary Public and Insurance Agent, Blossburg, Pa., over Caldwell's Store.

JOHN I. MITCHELL
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW, Wellsboro, Tioga Co., Pa. Claim Agent, Notary Public, and Insurance Agent. He will attend promptly to collection of Pensions, Back Pay and Bounty. As Notary Public he takes acknowledgements of deeds, administers oths, and will act as Commissioner to take testimony. ☞ Office over Roy's Drug Store, adjoining Agitator Office.—Oct. 30. 1867

John W. Guernsey,
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW. Having returned to this county with a view of making it his permanent residence, solicits a share of public patronage. All business entrusted to his care will be attended to with promptness and fidelity. Office 2d door south of E. S. Farr's hotel. Tioga, Tioga Co., Pa. sept. 26, '66.–tf.

ISAAK WALTON HOUSE,
Gaines, Tioga County, Pa.
HORACE C. VERMILYEA, Prop'R. This is a new hotel located within easy access of the best fishing and hunting grounds in Northern Pennsylvania. No pains will be spared to the accommodation of pleasure seekers and the traveling public. [Jan. 1, 1868.]

PETROLEUM HOUSE,
WESTFIELD, PA., GEORGE CLOSE, Proprietor. A new Hotel conducted on the principle of live and let live, for the accommodation of the public.—Nov. 14, 1866.–1y.

GEO. W. RYON,
ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR AT LAW, Lawrenceville, Tioga Co., Pa. Bounty, Pension, and Insurance Agent. Collections promptly attended to. Office 2d door below Ford House. Dec. 12, 1867–1y

R. E. OLNEY,
DEALER in CLOCKS & JEWELRY, SILVER & PLATED WARE, Spectacles, Violin Strings, &c., &c., Mansfield, Pa. Watches and Jewelry neatly repaired. Engraving done in plain English and German. 1sept67–1y.

Thos. B. Bryden.
SURVEYOR & DRAFTSMAN.—Orders left at his room, Townsend Hotel, Wellsboro, will meet with prompt attention. Jan. 15, 1867.–tf.

FARR'S HOTEL,
TIOGA, TIOGA COUNTY, PA.,
Good stabling, attached, and an attentive hostler always in attendance.
E. S. FARR, Proprietor.

Hairdressing & Shaving.
Saloon over Willcox & Barker's Store, Wellsboro, Pa. Particular attention paid to Ladies' cutting, Shampooing, Dyeing, etc. Braids, Curls, and switches on hand and made to order.
H. W. DORSEY. J. JOHNSON.

DR. BACON, M. D., late of the 2d Pa. Cavalry, after nearly four years of army service, with a large experience in field and hospital practice, has opened an office for the practice of medicine and surgery, in all its branches. Persons from a distance can find good board at the Pennsylvania Hotel when desired.—Client may part of the State in consultation, or to undergo surgical operations. No. 4, Union Block, up stairs. Wellsboro, Pa., May 2, 1866.–1y.

NEW PICTURE GALLERY.—
FRANK SPENCER
takes the pleasure to inform the citizens of Tioga and county that he has completed his
NEW PHOTOGRAPH GALLERY,
and has on hand to take all kinds of Sun Pictures, such as Ambrotypes, Ferrotypes, Vignettes, Cartes de Visite, the Surprise and Eureka Pictures; also particular attention paid to copying and enlarging pictures. Instructions given in the Art on reasonable terms. Elmira St., Mansfield, Oct. 1,

Wm. B. Smith,
CONNEAUT VILLE, Pa., Pension, Bounty, and Insurance Agent. Communications sent to the above address will receive prompt attention. Charges moderate. [Jan 8, 1868–1y]

U. S. CLAIM AGENCY,
For the Collection of
Army and Navy Claims and Pensions.
THE NEW BOUNTY LAW passed July 28, 1866, gives two and three years' soldiers extra bounty. Send your discharges.
OFFICERS' EXTRA PAY.
Three months' extra pay proper to volunteer officers who were in service March 3, 1865.
PENSIONS INCREASED
to those who have lost a limb and who have been permanently and totally disabled.
All other Government claims prosecuted.
JEROME B. NILES.
Wellsboro, October 10, 1866–tf

NORMAN STRAIT,
AGENT for the National Series of Standard School Books; published by A. S. Barnes & Co. 111 & 113 Madison, corner of John Street, N. Y., keeps constantly on hand a full supply. All orders promptly filled. Call on or address by mail. NORMAN STRAIT. Mansfield, Pa., June 19, 1867–1y.

BLACKSMITHING.
THE undersigned having returned to Wellsboro and opened his shop, on Water street, solicits a share of patronage. He proposes to do
WORK CHEAP FOR CASH.
Shoeing horses $3,50 and other work in proportion. Wellsboro, Jan. 15, 1868.—6m. J. W. RITTER.

J. G. PUTNAM,
AGENT, WRIGHT—Agent for all the best TURBINE WATER WHEELS. Also Pelton's Oscillating Movement for Gang and Mill Saws. Corning, Pa., Aug. 7, 1867–1y.

Bounty and Pension Agency.
I have received definite instructions in regard to the extra bounty allowed by the act approved July 28, 1866, and having on hand a large supply of all the blanks, I am prepared to prosecute all pension and bounty claims which may be placed in my hands, residing at a distance can communicate by mail as well as if living near by, and their communications will be promptly answered. ATTENTION GIVEN TO CONTESTED CLAIMS. WM. H. SMITH. Wellsboro, October 24, 1866.

C. L. WILCOX,
DEALER IN DRY GOODS of all kinds, Hardware, Boots and Shoes, Notions. Our assortment is large and prices low. Store in Union Block. Call and see us.—may 20 1868–1y.

CITY BOOK BINDERY
AND
BLANK BOOK MANUFACTORY,
8 Baldwin Street,
(SIGN OF THE BIG BOOK, 2D FLOOR,)
ELMIRA, N. Y.
OUR MOTTO:
GOOD AS THE BEST, CHEAP AS THE CHEAPEST.
BLANK BOOKS
Of every description, in all styles of Binding, and as low for quality of Stock, as any Bindery in the State. Volumes of every description Bound in the best manner and in any style ordered.
ALL KINDS OF GILT WORK
Executed in the best manner. Old Books rebound and made good as new.
MAGAZINE READERS!
COMPLETE YOUR SETS!
I am prepared to furnish back numbers of all Reviews or Magazines published in the United States or Great Britain, at a low price.
BLANK BOOK & OTHER PAPER,
Of all sizes and qualities, on hand, ruled or plain.
BILL HEAD PAPER,
Of any quality or size, on hand and cut up ready for printing. Also, BILL PAPER, and CARD BOARD of all colors and quality, in boards or cut to any size.
STATIONERY,
Cap, Letter, Note Paper, Envelopes, Pens, Pencils, &c.
I am sole agent for
Prof. SHEPARD'S NON-CORROSIVE STEEL PENS, OF VARIOUS SIZES, FOR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
Which I will warrant equal to Gold Pens. The best in use and no mistake.
The above stock I will sell at the Lowest Rates at all times, at a small advance on New York prices, and in quantities to suit purchasers. All work and stock warranted as represented.
I respectfully solicit a share of public patronage. Orders by mail promptly attended to.—
Address, LOUIS KIES,
Advertiser Building,
Sept. 28, 1867.–1y. Elmira, N. Y.

JOHN SUHR,
WOULD announce to the citizens of Wellsboro and surrounding country, that he has opened a shop on the corner of Water and Crafton streets, for the purpose of manufacturing all kinds of
CABINET FURNITURE,
REPAIRING AND TURNING DONE
to order. COFFINS of all kinds furnished on short notice. ☞ Work done promptly and warranted. Wellsboro, June 27, 1866.

UNION HOTEL.
MINER WATKINS, PROPRIETOR.
HAVING fitted up a new hotel building on the site of the old Union Hotel, lately destroyed by fire, I am now ready to receive and entertain guests. The Union Hotel was intended for a Temperance House, and the Proprietor believes it can be sustained without grog. All attentive hostler in attendance. Wellsboro, June 26, 1867.

JOHN ETNER,
TAILOR AND CUTTER, has opened a shop on Crafton street, rear of Sears & Derby's shoe shop, where he is prepared to manufacture garments to order in the most substantial manner, and with dispatch. Particular attention paid to Cutting and Fitting. March 26, 1868–1y

HAMILTON HOUSE,
On strictly Temperance principles, Morris Run, Pa. R. C. BAILEY, Proprietor. Horses and Carriages to let.—March 8, 1868—1y.

E. R. KIMBALL,
GROCERY AND RESTAURANT,
One door above the Meat Market,
WELLSBORO, PENN'A,
RESPECTFULLY announces to the trading public that he has a desirable stock of Groceries, comprising, Teas, Coffees, Spices, Sugars, Molasses, Syrups, and all that constitutes a first-class stock. Oysters in every style at all reasonable hours. Wellsboro, Jan. 2, 1867–tf.

Boots & Shoes.
Great Excitement! Johnson impeached, and Empire's Boots and Shoes triumphant! The subscriber would say to the people of Westfield and vicinity that he is manufacturing a Patent Boot which he believes to possess the following advantage over all others: 1st, *there is no crimping*; 2d, no *wrinkling*, saves the break to the feet; 3d, no ripping. In short, they are just the thing for everybody. Samples on hand and orders solicited. Shoemaker of Westfield township and Boro' secured. He has also just received a splendid set of balmoral patterns, latest styles. Come one, come all! We are booked to sell cheap for cash or ready pay. Shop one door south of Snyder's Clothing Store.
Westfield Boro', Feb. 13 1868. H. H. EMPIRE.

WELLSBORO HOTEL.
C. H. GOLDSMITH, Proprietor.—Having leased this popular Hotel, the proprietor respectfully solicits a fair share of patronage. Every attention given to guests. The best hostler in the county always in attendance. April 29, 1868.—1y.

TIOGA GALLERY OF ART.
I would respectfully inform the citizens of Tioga and vicinity, that I have built a new
PHOTOGRAPH GALLERY,
in the Borough of Tioga, and having a good Photographic Artist in my employ, I am now prepared to furnish all kinds of Pictures known to the Photographic Art. Also having in my employ a number of first class Painters, I am prepared to answer all calls for house, sign, carriage, ornamental and scenery painting. Address A. B. MEADE. May 6, 1868—6m. Tioga, Pa.

THE PLACE TO BUY DRUGS,
AT the Lawrenceville Drug Store, where you will find every thing properly belonging to the Drug Trade
CHEAP, CHEAPER, CHEAPEST,
and of the best quality for Cash. Also, Paints, Oils, Varnishes, Lamps, Fancy Notions, Violin Strings, Fishing Tackle, Window Glass, &c. Cash paid for Flax Seed. C. P. LEONARD. Lawrenceville, May 8, 1867.

Glen's Falls Insurance Company,
GLEN'S FALLS, N. Y.
Capital and Surplus $373,637.66.
FARM RISKS, only, taken.
No Premium Notes required.
It is LIBERAL. It pays damages by Lightning, whether Fire ensues or not.
It pays for live stock killed by Lightning, in barns or in the field.
The rates are lower than other Companies of equal responsibility. I. G. PRICE, Agent,
Farmington Centre, Tioga Co. Pa.
May 29, 1867–1y

WALKER & LATHROP,
DEALERS IN
HARDWARE, IRON, STEEL, NAILS,
STOVES, TIN-WARE,
BELTING, SAWS, CUTLERY,
WATER LIME,
AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS,
Carriage and Harness Trimmings,
HARNESSES, SADDLES, &c.
Corning, N. Y., Jan. 2, 1867–1y.

CHOICE LOT OF GRAIN BAGS for sale cheap at WRIGHT & BAILEY'S. Wellsboro, June 5, 1867.

CALENDERS, French, Marine and Church Clocks, at [dec10] FOLEY'S.

INTRODUCED INTO AMERICA, FROM GERMANY, in 1825.
HOOFLAND'S GERMAN BITTERS,
and
HOOFLAND'S GERMAN TONIC,
PREPARED BY DR. C. M. JACKSON, PHILADELPHIA, PA.
The greatest known remedies for
Liver Complaint,
DYSPEPSIA,
Nervous Debility,
JAUNDICE,
Diseases of the Kidneys,
ERUPTIONS of the SKIN,
and all Diseases arising from a Disordered Liver, Stomach or Impure Blood.
IMPURITY OF THE BLOOD.
Read the following symptoms, and if you find that your system is affected by any of them, you may rest assured that disease has commenced its attack on the most important organs of your body, and unless soon checked by the use of powerful remedies, a miserable life, soon terminating in death, will be the result.
Constipation, Flatulence, Inward Piles, Fullness of Blood to the Head, Acidity of the Stomach, Nausea, Heartburn, Disgust for Food, Fullness or Weight in the Stomach, Sour Eructations, Sinking or Fluttering at the Pit of the Stomach, Swimming of the Head, Hurried or Difficult Breathing, Fluttering at the Heart, Choking or Suffocating Sensations when in a Lying Posture, Dimness of Vision, Dots or Webs before the Sight, Dull Pain in the Head, Deficiency of Perspiration, Yellowness of the Skin and Eyes, Pain in the Side, Back, Chest, Limbs, etc., Sudden Flushes of Heat, Burning in the Flesh, Constant Imaginings of Evil, and Great Depression of Spirits.
All these indicate disease of the Liver or Digestive Organs, combined with impure blood.
Hoofland's German Bitters
is entirely vegetable, and contains no liquor. It is a compound of Fluid Extracts. The Roots, Herbs, and Barks from which these extracts are made are gathered in Germany. All the medicinal virtues are extracted from them by a scientific chemist. These extracts are then forwarded to this country to be used exclusively in the manufacture of these Bitters. There is no alcoholic substance of any kind used in compounding these Bitters; hence it is the only bitters that can be used in cases where alcoholic stimulants are not advisable.
Hoofland's German Tonic
is a combination of all the ingredients of the Bitters, with PURE Santa Cruz Rum, Orange, etc. It is used for the same diseases as the Bitters, in cases where some pure alcoholic stimulus is required. You will bear in mind that these remedies are entirely different from any others advertised for the cure of the diseases named, these being scientific preparations of medicinal extracts, while the others are mere decoctions of rum in some form. The TONIC is decidedly the most pleasant and agreeable remedy ever offered to the public. Its taste is exquisite. It is a pleasure to take it, while its invigorating, exhilarating, and medicinal qualities have caused it to be unanswerable the greatest of all tonics.
CONSUMPTION.
Thousands of cases, which the patient supposed he was afflicted with this terrible disease, have been cured by the use of these remedies. Extreme emaciation, debility, and cough, the usual attendants upon severe cases of dyspepsia or disease of the digestive organs. Even in cases of genuine Consumption, these remedies will be found of the greatest benefit, strengthening and invigorating.
DEBILITY.
There is no Medicine equal to Hoofland's German Bitters as a tonic in the whole system, strengthen the appetite, cause an enjoyment of the food, enable the stomach to digest it fairly, the blood, give it good, healthy, healthy blood, eradicate the yellow tinge from the eye, impart a bloom to the cheek, and change the patient from a short-breathed, emaciated, weak, and nervous invalid, to a robust, stout, and vigorous and person.
Price of the Bitters, $1.00 per bottle;
Or, a half dozen for $5.00.
Price of the Tonic, $1.50 per bottle;
Or, a half dozen for $7.50.
The Tonic is put up in quart bottles.
Recollect that it is Dr. Hoofland's German Remedies that are so universally used and so highly recommended; and do not allow the Druggist to induce you to take any thing else that he may say is just as good, because he makes a larger profit on it. These Remedies will be sent by express to any locality upon application to the
PRINCIPAL OFFICE,
AT THE GERMAN MEDICINE STORE,
No. 631 ARCH STREET, Philadelphia.
CHAS. M. EVANS, Proprietor,
Formerly C. M. JACKSON & CO.
These Remedies are for sale by Druggists, Storekeepers, and Medicine Dealers everywhere.
Do not forget to examine well the article you buy, in order to get the genuine.
Weak and Delicate Children
are made Strong by using the Bitters or Tonic. In fact, they are Family Medicines. They can be administered with perfect safety to a child three months old, the most delicate female, or a man of ninety.
Testimonials.
Philadelphia, March 10th, 1867.
I find "Hoofland's German Bitters" is not an intoxicating beverage, but is a good tonic, useful in disorders of the digestive organs, and of great benefit in cases of debility and want of nervous action in the system. Yours truly, GEO. W. WOODWARD, Chief Justice of Pennsylvania.
FROM HON. JAMES THOMPSON, Judge of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.
PHILADELPHIA, April 29th, 1866.
I consider "Hoofland's German Bitters" a valuable medicine in case of attacks of Indigestion or Dyspepsia. I can certify this from my experience of it. Yours, with respect, JAMES THOMPSON, Jr.
FROM REV. JOSEPH H. KENNARD, D.D., Pastor of the Tenth Baptist Church, Philadelphia.
DR. JACKSON—DEAR SIR:—I have been frequently requested to connect my name with recommendations of different kinds of medicines, but regarding the practice as out of my appropriate sphere, I have in all cases declined; but with a clear proof in various instances, and particularly in my own family, of the usefulness of Dr. Hoofland's German Bitters, I depart for once from my usual course, to express my full conviction that for general debility of the system, and especially for Liver Complaint, it is a safe and valuable preparation. In some cases it may fail; but usually, I doubt not, it will be very beneficial to those who suffer from the above causes. Yours, very respectfully, E. D. KENNARD, Eighth, below Coates St.
THE COMPLEXION.
Ladies who wish to have a fair skin and good complexion, free from a yellow or sallow tinge which disfigurements, should use these remedies occasionally. The Liver in perfect order, and the blood pure, will result in sparkling eyes and blushing cheeks.
CAUTION.
Hoofland's German Remedies are counterfeited. The genuine have the signature of C. M. Jackson on the front of the outside wrapper of each bottle, and the name of the article blown in each bottle. All others are counterfeit.
Thousands of letters have been received, testifying to the virtue of these remedies.
READ THE RECOMMENDATIONS.
FROM HON. GEO. W. WOODWARD, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.
PHILADELPHIA, March 10th, 1867.
I find "Hoofland's German Bitters" is not an intoxicating beverage, but is a good tonic, useful in disorders of the digestive organs, and of great benefit in cases of debility and want of nervous action in the system. Yours truly, GEO. W. WOODWARD.
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The above Remedies are for sale by Druggists, Storekeepers, and Medicine dealers everywhere throughout the United States, Canadas, South America, and the West Indies.—Mar. 11, '68–1y.

Poets' Corner.

[For the Agitator.]

SO OLD TO-NIGHT.

So old to-night! so old, ah me!
And yet I gaze among these locks
And scarce find one thread silvery,
Still I am old; the cold world mocks.

So old to-night! Oh better thought,
That I must bear these added years,
Old friends stand back, and set me straight
The love which from my heart still flows.

So old to-night! the years have passed
And I have lived, and yet for what?
My heart, the verdict's soon to be!
Thou'rt old to-night, oh, smile thou not!

Oh, cruel words, which sink so deep,
Into this wounded heart of mine,
I fain would turn aside and weep,
That I should live this truth to find.

I've lived so long, I've grown too old
To join in scenes which once I loved,
I've lived to learn this world is cold
The joys of youth are now removed.

And yet, no line upon this brow
I find, to mark the years gone flown,
Tears fraught with joy, and sorrow too
They've left me how to walk alone.

And yet, I know the words fell not
From one who scorns the love I give,
'Twas one who'd grieve the pain it brought
One who's had many years to live.

So old to-night! so old, thank God!
I may not tread adown the years,
That bring me farther on the road
Nearer the world which knows no tears.

So old, so old! Oh blessed thought!
I'm nearer to my home above;
There, age and sorrow ne'er shall mark
The (illegible) offering, or loss of love.

Miscellaneous Reading.

WIDOW BROWN'S OIL WELL.

Mrs. Anastasia Brown, better known as the Widow Brown, owned and cultivated a small farm often acres in a little Pennsylvania town. The humble homestead correspondent in size to the farm, being a one story cottage, comprising but three rooms. The land was not very productive, but Mrs. Brown had only herself to provide for, and though her income would hardly warrant her living luxuriously, on the other hand there was no danger of the almshouse. On the whole the widow might be considered comfortably provided for though her farm and house together would have been dear at a thousand dollars.

But Mrs. Anastasia was not contented. She was an ambitious woman, and bent on bettering herself if the opportunity ever presented itself. To a lady under her circumstances, a second marriage with an eligible party seemed to be the readiest road to higherstation. But the widow's personal advantages were hardly of a character to inspire very lively hopes in that direction. She was tall and gaunt, and her share of the perishable but rather desirable gift of beauty, had been below the average. Besides she was now forty-five, and therefore of rather doubtful juvenility.

It chanced that the wealthiest man in town was a certain Squire Ebenezer Pogram, who, in addition to a good comfortable sum invested in stock and bonds. He was a widower, and in the market. His wife would be the foremost lady in the village. For this position there was more than one aspirant, but among them all none apparently stood so good a chance as Mrs. Anastasia Brown. But none the less the widow laid her plan to capture the citadel, and circumstances and her shrewdness, assisted her to accomplish it.

About this time the petroleum fever was at its height. There was a wild excitement general not only in the districts where petroleum had been discovered, but speculation was rife in the commercial capital, and companies with flaming prospectuses were daily springing into existence. Farms which would have been considered dear at twenty dollars an acre, all at once enhanced in value fifty, or even an hundred fold, and the owners who had hitherto found it difficult to earn a scanty subsistence all at once found themselves rich beyond their wildest dreams.

Among those who cherished hopes of wealth from this source was Squire Pogram. He saw no reason why his own acres might not prove to be flowing with oil, and he had instituted some preliminary investigations which had only resulted in disappointment. Though already a man of abundant means, he was inclined to be grasping, and had no objection to doubling or trebling his present property. In fact, the love of money was the ruling passion with the Squire, and this was not unknown to his townsmen.

Mrs. Brown, aware of this fact, determined upon a *coup d' etat* if we may so call it, with a view of taking by assault the hand of the squire—for his heart she cared little.

One morning the expressman brought to Mrs. Brown's cottage a barrel which was evidently full of some liquid.

"Fifty cents, widder," he said, as he lugged it into the back room, and deposited it in the corner. "It's rather heffty."

"Yes," said the widow, "molasses is heavier'n most anything else."

"Molasses, is it?" "Well, now, I reckon I'll take you a mighty long time to use up a keg full of molasses."

"I'm fond of it," said the widow, shortly.

"Yes, but there ain't but one on yer. I don't know, but I'll take a border or two if I can get them," said Mrs. Brown, improvising a fib on the spur of the moment.

"Then you'll have to piece out your house I reckon."

The widow was glad when the expressman with his intrusive curiosity was gone. In the country it is very common to comment with the utmost freedom upon the plans and proceedings of one's neighbors, and this sometimes has its advantages.

The widow did not open the keg till the next day. Then, instead of molasses, she found the contents to be petroleum oil. It might have been supposed that the substitution would have proved vexatious, but the widow took it very coolly. She managed to get the keg down the cellar stairs, where she locked it up in a closet. First, however, she filled a common water pail with the precious liquid, and going to the well, deliberately poured it down. After this rather singular proceeding, she looked carefully up the road until she saw a horse and buggy approaching, which she well knew belonged to Squire Pogram, who always came over the road about that time, to visit a small house which he was building for tenants a mile beyond.

The Squire was abreast of the cottage, when the widow ran out and hailed him.

"O Squire Pogram," she said, "won't you just drive into the yard a minute? The water in my well tastes so strangely. I do believe it's petroleum."

Petroleum! The Squire picked up his ears, and made all haste to do as requested.

"You don't say so, widder!" he exclaimed, when did you notice it fust?"

"I didn't really notice much till to-day, said Mrs. Brown, 'It might have tested a little queer maybe, but to-day it's very strong!'"

"Let me taste, said the Squire. 'I can tell if it's that, or something else. It may be some dead critter that's got drowned in the well and poisoned the water.'

"O, I hope not," said the widow in a tone of alarm. "I wouldn't have my well spoiled for a good deal."

"Except by petroleum," suggested the Squire. "I spose you'd be reconciled to that."

"Well, yes, owned the widow, 'I wouldn't mind that.'

By this time they had reached the well, and the Squire had already commenced lowering the bucket.

The widow was quite confident of the result, the oil having been so recently in. Still she felt a momentary alarm lest it had become so diffused that the portion of water drawn up would show scant traces of admixture. But when the bucket came again to the top, she was reassured. On the surface of the water was a coating of oil. That was clear enough.

The Squire looked at it eagerly. "His recent experiments qualified him to judge in the matter. He was silent a moment.

"Well, Squire Pogram, what do you think?" asked Mrs. Brown eagerly.

"I do believe you're right, widder, said the Squire. "I'm inclined to the opinion that it's genuine petroleum."

"You don't say so, Squire? Well, I'm in luck for once in a way."

"I ain't certain. Suppose you give me a dipper, and I'll taste on't."

The dipper was brought, and Squire Pogram nibbled taste. The taste produced some contortions of the face, for petroleum oil as a beverage can scarcely be regarded as pleasant, even when largely diluted with fresh well water.

"Well Squire?"

"Mrs. Brown, there ain't a doubt of it. There's a petroleum spring on your farm, and it has broken out in your well."

"Land sakes, Squire, who would have thought it! And there ain't another petroleum well in town?"

"No, that is, none has appeared yet, though I have reason to think some may be found on my farm."

"It's so unexpected Squire," said the widow meditatively. "I really do not know what to do about it. What would you advise? You've always been a friend, and I can depend on your advice."

"Well, said the Squire, clearing his throat and speaking in a cautious tone, I think I'd sell the farm."

"Sell, the farm!" ejaculated the widow.

"Yes, continued her adviser, more confidently. "Being a lone woman, you can't sink wells, and work the petroleum yourself."

"But Squire Pogram, I'd ought to get the benefit of it."

"Certainly the farm is worth more than it was. I shouldn't mind giving two, well, three thousand dollars for it, and that is more'n three times what it would have fetched before."

"I don't think I want to sell it for that, Squire. I get my livin' off it."

"Yes, widder, but consider what would be the interest of three thousand dollars invested in government bonds—seven thirties for insurance. Why it would be more'n two hundred dollars a year."

"Yes, Squire, but that wouldn't hardly support me."

"I'll tell you what, widder. I'll give you three thousand dollars and you can live on your farm as you choose. Come, that's sayin' fair isn't it?"

"On the whole, Squire, said the wily widow, 'I don't think I'll decide just yet.' Seems to me the farm ought to bring more than three thousand dollars. I'm much obliged to you for your friendly offer, but I guess I'd better take time to consider, and perhaps consult some other friends."

"Widder, said Squire Pogram, feeling that the rich prize was in danger of slipping from his grasp, 'I'll tell you what, I know it's foolish, but, as you're an old friend, I won't mind saying four thousand dollars. It may be my loss, but I'll be your gain."

"I'm sure, you're very kind, Squire Pogram, and I hope I'm properly grateful for your kind interest, but I hope you won't be offended if I don't decide just yet. I think I'd better go and see lawyer Norcross."

"Don't go and see *him* whatever you do," said Squire Pogram hastily, for he feared that the lawyer would overbid him. "Promise me to consider my offer till this afternoon, and until then not to tell a living soul about what you've found in the well."

"Very well, Squire, I'll agree to that. Tisn't long to wait till then."

"I'll call again at three," said the Squire. "Don't forget your promise."

"I won't," said the widow.

The Squire drove out of the yard, and the widow, with a smile of triumph, looked after him.

"I'm pretty sure of being Mrs. Pogram. I work my cards right, she thought.

Meanwhile the Squire drove away in a brown study. "To think that the prize for which he had sought should after all have fallen to the lot of the widow with her ten poor acres. It was certainly strange. Now how should he find his own profit in it? If he could buy the farm even at five thousand dollars, he could readily make it pay him fifty thousand. The indications were that the oil spring was a rich one. At any rate the water he drank smacked strongly enough of the oil.

"But would the widow sell? That was an important question. The more time she had for thought, the higher probably would her price advance. If she consulted Norcross he might as well give it up as a lost chance, for the lawyer would be as anxious to secure it as himself. This was not to be thought of for a moment. But what if Mrs. Brown declined his offer! Was there no other way?

It was just at this moment that the other way suggested itself. He was a widower, Mrs. Brown was a widow. By marrying he would secure the farm, and not be compelled to pay down a dollar, beyond the Minister's fee for uniting them. Mrs. Brown was not exactly the woman he had intended to marry for his second wife; she certainly was not handsome, but Squire Pogram was a practical man, and he knew that she was a smart, practical woman, and would keep his household in good order. Perhaps it would not be a bad plan. At any rate he could hold it in reserve.

Punctually at three the Squire rode up at the door of the cottage.

"How about the well, widder?" he asked. "Does it taste as ever?"

"Wuss and wuss, Squire. Here's some water I just drawed up."

The Squire did not need to taste it. He could see for himself that the proportion of oil was greater than in the morning.

"Well, widder," he said, "have you decided to take the four thousand dollars I offered you? You see that will save you all trouble, and you can live comfortable the rest of your days."

"Thank you, Squire, said the widow, but I've made up my mind to send for some man that knows about these things, and get him to attend to it for me. I'll see Mr. Norcross first, and—"

This was enough. The Squire had made up his mind.

"Widder, said he 'I've got another plan to propose. It may seem kind of sudden to you but I've been thinkin' of it for some time, (how long Squire?) and that is, that I need a wife. Things is gettin' slack at home, and it needs a woman to straighten 'em out. I ain't a man of words. Widder, will you become Mrs. Pogram?"

"O, Squire, said the widow, 'it's so unexpected that it quite frustrates me. But I'm free to say that I've always respected your character, and thought you a man that any woman might be proud to marry."

"You consent then?"

"I do, said the widow promptly, 'and I'm glad to have this new burden off my shoulders."

"Yes, widder, it ought to be attended to at once, I think we'd better marry to-morrow as to lose no time."

"Just as you say, Squire, I'll be ready."

The next day the clergyman's services were called in requisition, and to the astonishment and anger of all the aspirants to Squire Pogram's hand, the prize was carried off by the widow Brown, who's as ugly as sin, goodness knows what he saw in her."

The day after there was another surprise. A company of workmen were seen busily engaged in sinking deeper the new Mrs. Pogram's old well, and the rumor spread that petroleum had been discovered there. But for some incomprehensible reason the first strong indications were not borne out by subsequent discoveries. The water regained all its old purity, and after sinking several hundred dollars the Squire was obliged to abandon the attempt in disgust. Mrs. Pogram now installed in the great farm house as mistress, bore the disappointment with equanimity. She at least had got what she bargained for, and she was satisfied. Whether her husband ever supected her complicity is not clearly known. It may be confidently stated however, that any gentleman desirous of starting a Petroleum Company may obtain the Brown farm on reasonable terms, with no extra charge for one oil well already sunk.

A Romance in Real Life.

One of those little romances of which the French are so fond, has taken place in Paris, and is thus described in a journal: M. Robert, an immensely wealthy and highly accomplished *elegant*, well-known not only for his valuable collections of paintings and mediæval relics, but for his rare skill as a designer and painter, hearing that one of his tenants, a Mr. B., whom he had never seen, kept one of the most extensive ateliers of fancy boxes and ornamental objects in France, called on him with the desire of making his acquaintance.

Entering the counting-room he found a good-natured, eccentric gentleman of middle age, who greeted him and exclaimed:

"I suppose that you also have seen my advertisement, and come to apply for that situation as designer?"

For a joke M. Robert replied that he had. M. B. supplied him with paints and brushes, and requested him to produce a design for a casket. M. Robert soon found that what M. B. really wanted was an artist who would strictly carry out his own ideas, and that these were pure, and formed on an extensive knowledge of art. In a short time he produced a sketch which suited the employer to a dot—"*a point.*"

M. Robert very gravely engaged himself, exacted good wages, and insist furniture placed in the room which was assigned him. But when he was introduced to the work-rooms and found one hundred and fifty girls, many of them young and beautiful, busily employed, and was informed that he would be required to supply them with designs and show the young ladies how they were to be carried out, the young artist began to feel as if he should have to be carried out himself—being very susceptible.

"Working for a living," said he to himself, "is not entirely devoid of attractions. Let us work."

M. Robert, being an accomplished artist, delighted his employer, and he soon found a remarkable fascination in seeing his designs realized in steel, silver, enamel, or wood. He took a pleasure hitherto unknown in seeing his works in shop windows and finding them in the boudoirs of his friends.—This workshop life was of course carefully concealed from "society," nor did his employer suspect that his artist was his landlord. But M. Robert soon found a more intense object of fascination in the daughter of M. B., a young lady who also took part in the duties of the atelier. This damsel was as remarkable for her accomplishments as for her extraordinary beauty, and M. Robert soon found that as regarded taste and culture in all matters which specially interested him he had never met with any one like her. Step by step the pair fell in love, and little by little the artist so ingratiated himself with the father that the latter, after due deliberation, consented to their union.

Previous to the marriage the old gentleman one day spoke of a dowry. "I shall give Maria fifty thousand francs," said he, with a little air of boasting.—"Eh, *mon garcon?*"

"And I suppose," added M. Robert, gravely, "that I, too, must settle something on my wife. Well—I will."

This caused a peal of laughter, which was redoubled when the artist added:

"And I will settle this piece of property, house and all, with the building adjoining, on her."

But what was their amazement when M. Robert drew forth the title deeds, and said:

"You seem to forget that I am your landlord? Isn't my name Robert?"

The young lady did not faint, but papa nearly died of astonishment and joy. There was a magnificent wedding, but the bridegroom has not given up business. He declares that there is as much amusement in being useful as in amusing one's self.

A Kansas paper has a story of the late State election. In some of the counties the question of a hog law was submitted to the voters, at the time the Constitutional amendments were. In one of these counties a day or two after election, an Irishman called at the house of a neighbor lady who had been deeply interested in the question of woman suffrage. The lady took occasion to ask