

Republican News Item.

CHAS. LOREN WING, Editor.

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"FIRST OF ALL--THE NEWS."

The News Item Fights Fair.

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REPUBLICAN NEWS ITEM,
Laporte, Pa.,

Standing, sentinel-like, where the Susquehanna splits itself into the north and south branches, is old Fort Augusta, the veteran fighting stronghold of the United States. Beside a modern fort it would look, in size, like a dog alongside of an elephant. It is now the property of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Gross of Sunbury, Pa., and is located in a field about 165 feet from the river bank, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

It was built in 1756, after plans by Col. Gordon, as a protection against the French and hostile Indians, and was named after the mother of George III. In shape it closely resembles a bakeoven, and its interior is curious and interesting. A small mound of earth marks the spot, with an opening in the ground two and one-half feet wide. Twelve four-inch stone steps lead below. On descending the ground space inside is found to be 10 by 12 feet, and eight feet from the floor to the apex of the arched ceiling. The arch is brick, and commences in an offset purposely made in the wall five feet above the ground floor. The bricks are said to be of English manufacture.

Its location at the forks of the Susquehanna was a strong strategic advantage, as it held the chief passage by waterway from the north of the state. When completed it was regarded as one of the largest, strongest and most important of all the fortifications erected on the frontiers of the province. Its original armament consisted of at least twelve cannon and two swivels, and one of these cannon is still in existence in Sunbury. It is of English make, of about three and one-half inch bore, and weighs nearly 1,000 pounds.

Fort Augusta ranks next in importance to Valley Forge as a factor in the achievement of our liberties, and it is to be hoped that some day public spirit will see that steps are taken for its preservation, and a suitable tablet placed upon it to mark its staunch assistance in the early career of this great country.

Italy's Towers.

Travelers all know how celebrated the bell towers of Italy are. Each important church is made more beautiful architecturally by the campanile, or bell tower, which can be seen for miles away, because the church is always built on the highest point of land.

Italy has church towers and civil towers, the first being the handsomest. They are always attached to a house of worship and in mediaeval days were used as watch towers and for forts. In the sixteenth century bells were introduced in the towers to call the people to prayers. Civil towers arose in the eleventh century, when palaces, with battlemented towers, were built in great numbers. Nearly all the towers in Italy are square; some, however, have six or eight sides and a few are round. The oldest are undecorated and built of massive stone or brick, lighted by mere loopholes of windows. Gradually many changes were made and ornamentation, pillars and large windows were put in the towers.

The leaning tower of Pisa is well known. It was built in the twelfth century and is thirteen feet out of perpendicular. Around a hollow, brick tube are built eight stories of open galleries, supported by slender columns. It is 179 feet high and at its summit is a room where Galileo experimented. There are also six bells, the largest of which weighs 12,000 pounds. One of them, which was tolled when criminals were led to execution, is ornamented with figures of the Virgin and the arms of the city.

The bell tower of Florence is perhaps more beautiful than that of Pisa. Giotto was the architect and no expense was spared. Figures by the greatest sculptors adorn the base and the upper three stories are ornamented with spiral shafts and carved moldings. Black and white marble was the material used and the mellowing hand of time has only added to the beauty of the whole.

The Prince of Wales, when annoyed, winks his left eye rapidly; the Emperor of Austria puffs out his cheeks; the Czar lays his hand flat on the top of his head; Mr. Gladstone turned swiftly on his heels, as if executing a volte face, and the Sultan of Turkey grasps his throat tightly with his hand.

Prevents the Kettle Boiling Dry.

To prevent kettles from boiling dry a water tank is placed in the cover with a float extending into a tube in the kettle below and attached to a pivoted bar which lifts a plug in the cover to allow the water to flow into the kettle when the latter becomes dry.

HOW FELT HATS ARE MADE.

Thousands of Men, Women and Boys Employed in the Industry.

One of the leading industries of this country is the manufacture of hats. At the present time fur-felt hats are made in eleven states—namely, Connecticut, Indiana, Illinois, Maryland, Maine, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island, says the New York Commercial. There are in all more than 200 manufacturing plants producing hats for men, boys, women's and children's wear, composed of the fur of the rabbit, beaver, nutria and other animals. The industry employs upward of 25,000 men, women and boys, and the approximate value of the output is said to be \$20,000,000 annually. Speaking of men's hats and their manufacture, a representative of one of the largest firms in this city said:

"Felt hats include the popular derby and the various other styles of soft hats, all of which are made from animal furs, the natural coats of the cone, hare, nutria, muskrat and beaver. To manipulate the skins of these animals so as to properly prepare the fur for felting purposes is an expert chemical operation; in fact, a trade in itself, entirely distinct from that of hat-making, and is carried on by 'batters' fur-cutters in London, the world's great center for that work. The art of the hat maker includes a knowledge of the particular fur or combination of furs for making a given quality of hats. The proportioning of the different furs requires the utmost exactness. The quality of product having been decided upon, the fur is then cleaned and separated from stray hairs and all unfelted substances. This initial process is accomplished by a windy machine called 'the devil'."

"The next process, 'forming,' consists of distributing by means of air currents a light coating of fur upon the outer surface of a revolving perpendicular cone, perforated with small holes. When fur covers the cone sufficient for one hat, it is wrapped in wet cloths and given a brief hot bath, then stripped from the cone, and after the 'stopping' process of adding a little fur to weak spots, is wrapped with other cloths inside a wooden cloth to 'harden' it for handling. By a process called 'sizing,' which consists of repeated immersions in hot water, together with rolling and unrolling, folding and unfolding, the cone-shaped mass is reduced to one-third its original size. It is wonderful how each fiber will twist and intertwine, basket-fashion, with the other, until the product is a closely woven mass."

"The 'body' is then 'shaved' to remove stray hairs in the fur, and then it is stiffened with a coating of shellac, thoroughly dried and then subjected to steam, which softens the shellac and draws it into the fabric. When dried it is immersed in a hot alkaline solution to free the surface from shellac, and then cold water to remove the alkali."

"Blocking' succeeds stiffening. The fabric is dipped in boiling water and placed on a block patterned for the final shape of the hat. After the dyeing process comes that of finishing, which consists of steaming, blocking to shape the crown, drying, coating with a stiffening solution, drying again, ironing out wrinkles, after which it is pounced with emery paper and singed to remove the long nap, and oil applied to smooth the surface. The 'curling' department cuts the brim to the desired width, rolls up the sides and pitches the front and rear as the style demands. With the process of trimming, consisting of sewing on the binding and band and cementing the lining, the derby is finished. If a soft hat is desired the stiffening process is omitted."

A Horse That SnORES.

Snoring men are as plentiful as whiskey in Kentucky; they are nearly as numerous as women with cold feet. However, while these two evils are predominant with the human race, yet it is indeed seldom that a member of the animal kingdom becomes afflicted with the snoring habit. There is just one case of the kind known to exist, in Kansas City, Kan., and while there is no question about the existence of this one case the afflicted animal contracted the habit from man.

Prince, the oldest horse on the Kansas City, Kan., Fire Department, has the snoring habit, and he's got it bad. All of the "laddies" at Fire Headquarters have good records as snorers, but Prince can allow them all a bad cold and then beat them out, pulled up. Snoring Prince, or the prince snorer, is the horse driven by Assistant Chief William McConnell. He generally mingles away at his food until after 12 o'clock each night, providing there are no alarms.

At about this hour he lies down in his stall and in a few minutes his eyes close and soon thereafter the snoring begins. The noise produced by the sleeping horse is similar to that of a snoring man. Before it became known that Prince actually snored several of the firemen, who take turn about watching at night, were accused of going to sleep on duty. The only foundation for the accusation was the snoring. In order to prove their innocence it became necessary for them to peach on Prince.

How Ibsen Looks.

Ibsen, the Norwegian dramatist, is an extraordinary looking man. Almost a dwarf in height, the upper part of the body is immense, compared with his lower limbs. He has a huge head, covered with bushy white hair, and his keen blue eyes glare at his interlocutor with a piercing glance.

It is impossible to run at an altitude of 17,000 feet above the sea.

TELEGRAPHING IN SPAIN.

It is Generally Attended With Much Difficulty and Uncertainty.

The Spanish ceremonies which accompany the handling of a telegram would be amusing were they not so irksome and time-killing. You approach a little window in the one office in the city, and, when your turn comes, hand in your message. The clerk counts the words a couple of times over, adds up the result of each page, refers to the written tariff, and finds out what the cost is in francs. Then he takes another slip of paper, finds out what the rate of exchange is at the moment, and reduces the francs to Spanish pesetas. Finally, he reads out the result—say, 597 pesetas, 35 centimes. You engrave these figures in your memory, and leaving the hall, go out to another widow in a passage outside, and there await your turn, repeating always the number 597,35 till the clerk asks you what you want. Then you explain that you are come to purchase Spanish stamps for the sum of 597 pesetas and 35 centimes, and then you take out a note for 1,000 pesetas. The passage is dark on the brightest day, and you accept the stamps and your change in spirit of true religious faith, for you see not even darkly as in a glass. When you return to the inner sanctuary and help to make a queue, awaiting your turn again, the chances are that you find yourself short of stamps, in consequence of a mistake on the part of clerk outside. This happened twice to me, but I am bound to say the individual discovered and rectified his error, so that my only loss was of about thirty-five minutes more.

What "Sing a Song of Six Pence" Means.

You all know the rhyme, but have you ever heard what it really means? The four-and-twenty blackbirds represented the twenty-four hours. The bottom of the pie is the world, while the top crust is the sky that over-arches it. The opening of the pie is the day dawn, when the birds begin to sing, and surely such a sight is fit for a King.

The King, who is represented as sitting in his parlor counting out his money, is the sun, while the gold pieces that slip through his fingers, as he counts them, are the golden sunbeams.

The Queen, who sits in the dark kitchen, is the moon, and the honey with which she regales herself is the moonlight.

The industrious maid, who is in the garden at work before the King—the sun—has risen, is day-dawn, and the clothes she hangs out are the clouds. The birds who, so tragically, end the song by "nipping off her nose" is the sunset. So we have the whole day, if not in a nutshell, in a pie.

Wearing Hats in Parliament.

In the English House of Parliament it is customary for the members to take off their hats when they walk to their seats, or when they rise to leave, but to wear them when they are seated.

Excellent wheat flour from \$1.10 to \$1.25 at A. T. Armstrong, Sonestown, Pa.

Card of Thanks.

I am very thankful to my friends and neighbors for their kindness shown me during the sickness and death of my wife.

D. M. SPEARY.

Notice of Dissolution.

The partnership heretofore existing between M. E. Reeder and E. F. Ives, doing business under the firm name of Reeder & Ives, has been dissolved this 14th day of July, by mutual consent. All debts of said firm to be presented to M. E. Reeder for payment, and all parties owing said firm to make payment to same.

M. E. REEDER.
E. F. IVES.

BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY, JOHN HOWARD HARRIS, President. College, leading to degrees in Art, Philosophy and Science. Academy, a preparatory school for young men and boys. Institute, a refined boarding school for young ladies. School of Music, with graduating courses.

For catalogue, address the Registrar,
W. C. GRETZINGER, Lewisburg, Pa.

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I offer the following properties: 70 acres, hemlock timber, near Ringdale; 373 acres, virgin timber, Elk Run, North Mountain, close to railroad; 326 acres, coal lands, at Bernice, adjoining present workings; 8 lots (one entire section) at Eagles Mere, each lot 75 feet front on Pennsylvania Ave., with "Bradford" privileges and title; 1 lot 75 ft. front on LaPorte Ave.; several choice lots in LaPorte Boro.; also several warrants of stripped lands in LaPorte, Colley and Fox townships suitable for farming or grazing purposes.

H. T. Downes, Atty-at-Law,
LaPorte, Pa.

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is a daily chronicle in our papers; also the death of some dear friend, who had died with Consumption, whereas, if he or she had taken Otto's Cure for Throat and Lung diseases in time, life would have been rendered happier and perhaps saved. Heed the warning! If you have a cough or any affection of the Throat and Lungs

Call on T. J. Keeler, Laporte; W. L. Hoffman, Hills Grove; B. S. Lancaster, Forksville; C. B. Jennings, Agt. Estella; Jno. W. Buck, Sonestown, and get a trial package free. Large size 50c and 25c.

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New lot of timothy and clover seeds and onion sets at John W. Bucks, Sonestown.

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LAPORTE, PA.

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General Merchandise

at Laporte as in Williamsport or elsewhere. We are planning each week to that end. This week it is

Soap, 12 bars for Three cans of corn for 25c Six pounds of oat meal

Business at the store is getting busier each week. The newness of the goods and the littleness of price tends to turn the stream of trade our way. A call will convince you that you can do the best at

E. L. PLACE'S NEW GROCERY.

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Every corner of the store is bright, with the newest things for Women's wear and Men's wear and Children's wear.

We are glad to have you come in and see the new life of the old store and look at its excellent line of goods.

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for Men, Women and Children.

In conjunction with the inviting varieties, all prices will be found more than ordinarily small.

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A new and fresh supply of Groceries have have just arrived.

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Three Big Stores-- MUNCY VALLEY,
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They are the kind women want, and our prices will cause lively selling.

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No other line in these stores has such decided growth as that of Corsets. Augmented sales each month demonstrates the superiority of brands.

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Remember the Place.

JENNINGS BROS.

We keep in stock at our mills a complete line of dressed lumber in hemlock and hardwood.

MANUFACTURERS OF

Gang Sawed and Trimmed Lumber.

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The same woods in 3-8 ceiling.
CORRESPONDENCY SOLICITED.

Buy Good Goods! And you will be surprised how cheap they are in the end.

We have just unpacked such a stock of coats and capes to which we are pleased to call your special attention. We do not pretend to handle the cheapest coats in the market, but we do say we have the BEST and neatest fitting garments made. Our coats and capes are made to order, and in the latest styles with prices to suit everybody.

IN DRESS GOODS WE WERE NEVER BETTER PREPARED TO PLEASE YOU THAN AT THE PRESENT, AS WE HAVE THE LARGEST ASSORTMENT IN THAT LINE EVER DISPLAYED IN THE COUNTY.

Ladies and Misses, Boys and Men, you need not go half frozen 'this winter for we have plenty of underwear for you all, both in cotton or wool, red or gray and the prices are very low, so low that when you see the goods you will be astonished that we are able to give you such bargains.

One word in regard to foot wear:

Our shoe department was never more complete and if you will favor us with your attention for a few minutes when in town we will convince you that we have the most carefully selected line of fine and heavy boots and shoes ever brought before the public. On crockery we have just received some very pretty designs in Decorated Dinner Sets to which we invite your attention. The buying of country produce has always been a special feature of our business, and we still continue in paying the highest cash prices for Butter Eggs and Wool.

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