

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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Some of the Sights of Peking--To Say Nothing of the Smells.

The fur market covers several acres, and here in the early morning one may see a thousand almond-eyed merchants in gorgeous silks moving about among masses of furs of all kinds brought in by nomads on their camels and dromedaries from the wild and cold regions of Mongolia. It is one of the most interesting of all the novel spectacles which Peking has to offer to watch the caravans of these nomads and their odd-looking animals with hair nine or twelve inches long passing in single file through the gate. They bring in furs, and carry back brick tea, silk and coal to the Tartars and Russians of the interior. In a peregrination of the city one comes across strange spectacles, and makes acquaintance with strange businesses. Here is a butcher killing a sheep in front of his shop and leaving the blood on the ground before you. Next door, perhaps, is one who sells fish, which he extracts all alive from a tank. In case you wish for less than a whole fish, the dealer will pull one out of the water, lay it on the block and cut a piece of quivering flesh out of the side while you wait, throw the remnant back into a separate pail of water, and wait for another customer to take it. One of the chief meats sold is pork, and you see pigs trotting about through the streets. Close to the pork-shop is a place where they sell nothing but coffins, which the dutiful son invests in as a present for his father long before the old gentleman is dead; and on the opposite side are places whose specialty is incense and joss-sticks, or gold and silver paper to be burned at a funeral to provide the fare from this world into the next, or birds and goldfishes, or coal-dust mixed up with mud and made up into balls. If you are very hard up and in want of a meal, there is a little place round the corner where you can get camel's-meat soup, roast mule and similar luxuries at low prices. There are places for gambling and "dime museum" shows. There are restaurants of every description and opium joints without number. And the streets meanwhile are filled with a stream of yellow individuals of all classes and ages and both sexes.

The Tartar city is in many respects different from the rest of Peking. In it dwell the thousands of Manchu officials, the foreign legations, the Government departments, and all the paraphernalia of this queer Chinese Court. It is the most interesting city on the face of the globe, and its sights really beggar description. From the walls, this portion of Peking looks like an immense orchard, with here and there one-story buildings shining out through the trees. In its centre there is a walled-off inclosure filled with massive buildings, roofed with yellow tiles. This is the Purple Forbidden City, where the Emperor and his Court reside. Closer acquaintance fails to fulfil the promise afforded by a view from the wall. The streets are wider, but they are quite as filthy and foul as in the Chinese section. The roads have no sidewalks, and the rude Chinese carts sink up to their hubs as they move along. The streets are the sewers, and it would be hard to find anywhere a savage with less regard for the exposure of his person than have these pig-tailed, silk-dressed, gaudy, fat Pekingese.

The Father of an Empress.

A German banker, traveling by rail in a first-class carriage toward Vienna, had as a fellow-traveler at one of the intermediate stations an old gentleman, who entered into conversation and proved very pleasant. The banker got out before his companion, and before he did so asked the latter how far he was going. The gentleman replied, "To Vienna." "I have a daughter very well married there," said the banker. "I should like to give you a note of introduction to her." "I have also a daughter very well married there," said the other. "Would it be too great a liberty to ask her name?" "My daughter," the gentleman answered, "is married to the Emperor of Austria." It was the old King of Bavaria.

Iceland's Bottle Post.

The "bottle post" is an old institution on the south coast of Iceland. Letters are put into corked bottles which are wafted by the winds to the opposite coast. They also contain a cigar or other trifle to induce the finder to deliver the letters as addressed.

"Our new pastor, the Rev. Mr. Allwell, preaches a great deal about heaven. You remember the good old Dr. Scarus, his predecessor, was always preaching about the other place."

"Yes; he was blazing the way for Brother Allwell.--Chicago Tribune.

WHIMS OF ENGINES.

AN ENGINEER'S NARRATIVE SHOWING THEIR PECULIARITIES

They Very Often Fall Into Queer Sulky and Balking Spells--The Antics of Some Famous Machines--Old "100" Killed the Engineer in a Fit of Rage.

"It sounds queer to say that locomotives have their likes and dislikes," said a veteran engineer, "but it actually does seem sometimes as if they had, and all old-time engineers believe it. I've seen locomotives when they acted as if they were human beings. They get the sulks and have balking streaks, and when they're in such moods you can't make time with them, do what you may. Then, again, they'll be as chipper and willing as a trotting horse, and you actually have to hold 'em in place to keep 'em from running into stopping-places ahead of time. There isn't an engineer of any experience at all who can't tell you of instances by the dozen of engines that positively would not make time with some engineers, but which would get there every time in charge of some other engineer. You might say that it was the fault of the engineer that such engines did not make their time, but I have known as good engineers as ever mounted a footboard who have been transferred from locomotives placed in their hands to run because the locomotives would not make their time, but which, under the hands of another engineer, neither as skillful nor as experienced, would never run behind.

"Take the case of Josh Martin and Gad Lyman, two of the early engineers on the Erie Railroad, and neither of them with a superior in his craft at that day. One time a new locomotive was turned out of a Paterson shop for the Erie, and Josh Martin wanted her the worst way. He ran on the Delaware division, from Port Jervis to Susquehanna. The superintendent, though, wanted the engine for the Eastern division, between Port Jervis and Piermont, and so he put her in charge of Gad Lyman. Gad ran her, or rather he tried to run her, but she had made up her mind about something, and she wouldn't make any kind of time for Gad. She would stall without provocation and acted contrary generally. Gad tried her for a week, and then reported the locomotive 'No good,' and she was condemned to run the gravel train. She worked as balking and sulky as ever, though, and at last the superintendent ordered her to the scrap heap.

"Josh Martin heard of the fate the locomotive had been sentenced to, and he came down the road a-flying. He begged to have the engine, for he liked her, and said he was sure she would do all right with him. The superintendent yielded to Josh's appeal, and told him to take the locomotive and give her a trial. Josh did so. He mounted the cab at Piermont, and when he opened her up she went like a bird. She made the trip to Port Jervis quicker than any locomotive had ever made it before, and Josh Martin ran her for years on the Delaware division after that, and always on time as easy as could be. The locomotive was the old 71, and she is remembered yet by all the old engineers, and is well known to the younger ones by the tradition of the road.

When Gad Lyman gave up that locomotive because she wouldn't work under him, he was put in charge of another new locomotive. This locomotive was a favorite of President Loder of the Erie. She behaved the best kind, and Gad was tickled all but to death with her. When the date came round for the opening of the railroad through to Dunkirk, Gad and his locomotive were chosen for the distinction of pulling the first through-train from the Hudson to Lake Erie. The occasion was to be a historic one, and Gad was proud. But what did that locomotive do but just get the sulks. I don't know why. Neither did Gad. She did, though, and acted up so outrageous that she was an honor behind schedule time when she jogged into Port Jervis with the train only seventy miles from the start. Gad Lyman was the worst feeling man, I suppose, that ever had a locomotive bick with him, and he felt worse when he was ordered to take his balking engine off and saw Josh Martin hook onto the train with old 71 locomotive that Gad had turned in as no good. Josh and old 71 yanked the train through with bells on.

And what do you think Gad Lyman's feelings must have been when he hooked onto another train to run back to Piermont to find the engine that had balked and sulked so outrageously with him on what ought to have been the greatest trip on record, just turn in and let herself out so cheerfully and lively on the way back that it was all Gad could do to hold her in! Now, how do you account for that? It is true, and a matter of record. Gad was so cut up by this conduct of the locomotive that he applied to have her exchanged for some other one, although she worked like a thoroughbred ever since the day she refused to pull the great pioneer through special. The company would not make the change that Gad wanted, and he refused to run that locomotive any longer and quit the road. This locomotive was the 100. When Gad gave her up she was placed in charge of Bill Lyman, Gad's brother. There wasn't a better engineer on the road than Bill, and he knew that make of locomotives particularly, for he had worked in the shops and helped make 'em. But what did this rambunctious locomotive 100 do? She sulked with Bill from the time he took her. Sometimes she'd spurt a little, but if she did she made it for it

by lagging worse than ever. Bill worried along with her for nearly a year, but she wouldn't work under him at all. One day in the spring of 1862 she balked for certain at Chester station, just as she was pulling out with a train. Bill pounded her, for he was mad, but it seemed as if she actually shook her head like an ugly horse. Bill socked it right on to her, and suddenly she gave a spurt ahead exactly like the quick start of a balking horse. Then everything roared and shook around the place for a second or two. The vicious old 100 had exploded her boiler. She tore and riddled herself frightfully, but the horror of it all was that she had killed poor Bill Lyman and his fireman. Gad Lyman lived many years after that, but he always regretted his abandoning of that locomotive, for he said that if he had stayed by her there was no doubt that she would have ended her days usefully and in peace and the awful tragedy of her ending would not have been."

How England Took Gibraltar.

Gibraltar was taken by the English in 1704, during the war of the Spanish succession, a war which was provoked by the aggressive policy of France in endeavoring to place a monarch of the French family upon the Spanish throne, and thus consolidate the two kingdoms into one. The fortress was then captured, almost by surprise, though the Spaniards and French, appreciating the strategic value of the place, made desperate efforts to recover it, but were repulsed at every point. Between the date of its capture and 1779 repeated efforts were made by Spain to recover the fortress, and in the latter year the greatest armament that was ever brought to bear upon a besieged place lay before Gibraltar. The siege lasted, off and on, for many months. The investing force comprised 12,000 troops of France, over twice as many of the best infantry of Spain, and the fleet consisted of forty-seven ships, all three-deckers; ten great floating batteries, esteemed invincibles, carrying 212 guns; innumerable frigates, bomb-ketches, cutters, gun and mortar boats. For weeks together over 6,000 shells a day were thrown into the town and repeated attempts were made to storm the works, but the little garrison of only 7,000 men repelled every assault and finally succeeded in beating off the allied fleet. The blockade began June 21, 1779, and lasted until February, 1783, when the garrison was finally relieved by the arrival of a British fleet and army. Since that time the fortifications of Gibraltar have been so improved and increased that it is regarded as the strongest fortress in the world. The British government maintains there a garrison of from 5,000 to 10,000 men, with provisions for six months, and it is said the supply of military material is sufficient to enable the fortress to stand a siege of indefinite length.

Glass Replacing Granite.

Glass bricks are gradually coming into use, and it is said that glass will soon be used for making statues for public squares, as it resists the corroding effect of the weather much better than marble or granite.

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 Register, W. C. GRETZINGER, Lewisburg, Pa.

FOR SALE.

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. DOWNS, Atty-at-Law,
LaPorte, Pa.

Everybody Says So.

Cascarets Candy Cathartic, the most wonderful medical discovery of the age, pleasant and refreshing to the taste, act gently and positively on kidneys, liver and bowels, cleansing the entire system, dispel colds, cure headache, fever, habitual constipation and biliousness. Please buy and try a box of C. C. C. today, 10, 25, 50 cents. Sold and guaranteed to cure by all druggists.

For flags, bunting and 4th of July necessities go to John W. Buck Sonestown, Pa.

Forks, rakes, scythes etc go to J. W. Buck.

Sores.

"Running sores appeared on my leg and spread over the entire lower portion of the limb. I got no help from medicine till I tried yours. I was cured by one bottle of

Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

ISAAC ACKER, Cowans, Va.

A Horrible Railroad Accident

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. Buck, Sonestown.

No-To-Bac for \$1.50. Guaranteed tobacco habit cure, makes weak men strong, blood pure. 50c. \$1. All druggists.

To Cure Constipation Forever. Take Cascarets Candy Cathartic. 10c or 25c. If C. C. C. fail to cure, druggists refund money.

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We step forward, not backward. We are opening up new ways for the public to attain just as good bargains in

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 25c
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.

Spring and Summer

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.

Spring Weight Underwear

for Men, Women and Children.

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

Grocery Department

A new and fresh supply of Groceries 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.

CORSETS Selling at Corset Prices.

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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Hemlock Flooring any width desired,
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Hardwood Flooring both Beech, Birch or Maple,
The same woods in 3-8 ceiling.
CORRESPONDENCE 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. Our 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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