

Republican News Item.

VOL. XI. NO 30.

LAPORTE, SULLIVAN COUNTY PA. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1906.

75C PER YEAR

This Is the Place To Buy Your Jewelry

Nothing in Town to Compare With
the Quality that We are Giving
You for the Low Price Asked.

Quality and moderate prices makes a force that irresistibly draws into our store the best patronage of this section. Many years here in business, always with a full line of goods above suspicion; chosen with a care and judgment commensurate with its desirability and adaptability to refine taste, makes our store a safe place to invest.

Repair work done on short notice and guaranteed, by skilled workmen. Your orders appreciated.

RETTENBURY,
DUSHORE, PA. The Jeweler

COLE'S HARDWARE.

No Place Like this Place
For Reliable

STOVES and RANGES, COAL OR WOOD. HEATERS;

ONE OF WINTER'S GREAT DELIGHTS.

House Furnishing Goods, Tools of Every
Description, Guns and Ammunition.

Bargains that bring the buyer back.
Come and test the truth of our talk.

A lot of second hand stoves and ranges for sale cheap.
We can sell you in stoves anything from a fine Jewel Base
Burner to a low priced but satisfactory cook stove.

Hot Air, Steam and Hot Water Heating and
General Repairing, Roofing and Spouting.

Samuel Cole, Dushore, Pa.

The Shopbell Dry Good Co., 313 Pine Street, WILLIAMSPORT, PA.

Table Linen and Napkin.

Linens are like money, there are good and there are counterfeit. We won't take counterfeit linen any more than we would take bad money. Neither will you when you know what you're getting. To be sure about what you're getting in linens come here and get the kind you will be proud to own.

Needn't pay much for them either—not as we sell them. Our linen prices are always fair; now they are very low considering the rise in linen.

Ladies' Suits

Kid Gloves.

Get the suit now, don't wait until the last minute and have to buy in a hurry. Besides the selection is best now and if you wait until later the stocks will all be picked over. Better choose the new suit to day while the stocks are yet complete.

Of course you will want new kid gloves to go with the new costume. We are showing an excellent line of kid gloves in a splendid range of colors for a low price. You can't go far wrong if you spend your glove money here.

Wool Dress Goods

Have you given them their share of attention? Is the winter dress still unthought? Our assortment of plain and fancy mixed fabrics are now at the best. Of course you expect to find the prices right so we will say nothing about them.

Corsets for All Figures.

Knit Underwear.

Every figure has its appropriate corset here. We use the greatest care in giving the customer the right model. Some brands are best for stout figures, others suit slender figures better. We know the brands and we know their limitations. Ask our corset advice on these.

How about your underwear supplies? Have you everything you need? If not let us furnish what you want. You won't find any better values than we are showing in either men's, ladies or children's warm knit undergarments. Some specially good values in ladies' Union suits.

GOOD WARM BLANKETS

either white or colored in all qualities are here and you cannot go wrong in buying them, the prices are very reasonable in view of the conditions of the wool market.

Subscribe for the News Item

Battle of Fredericksburg.

From a Southern Viewpoint.

Dear Editor, forty-four years ago Wednesday, the battle of Fredericksburg was fought, and as the healing influence of time has to a great extent dissipated the bitterness engendered by the fraternal strife, we can, without enmity, if not wholly without prejudice, present our side in the struggle to the fair-minded reader.

After the battle of Antietam, the Confederate army retreated leisurely south, cautiously pursued by the Yankees until the Rappahannock was reached where they crossed in the face of the enemy who were then close behind the rear-guard. The morale of the army was never better. They had received large consignments of heavy winter clothing—thanks to the labor and heroic sacrifice of southern women—and their courage was at high ebb as they dug into their intrenchments on the steep hills that skirted the south bank for several miles. This range of hills is at no point more than a mile and a half from the river and presents narrow and rather uneven valleys. The ridge on the north bank is not quite so steep and is much closer to water line. Here, along the crest of this ridge, the United States army entrenched itself for miles and was presumed to be in winter quarters. They were in large masses, and their dark blue uniforms and glistening bayonets as they moved to their positions appealed to the eye of the distant spectator with terrible grandeur. In nearly the center of this valley is the old town of Fredericksburg, a community known far and near for its generosity and Christian piety. Everything was quiet in this vicinity for many weeks and pickets on both sides of the stream were becoming friendly, when on the morning of the 12th of December the people of the town were surprised almost to frenzy to find the flats on the south bank just below the city literally covered with Federal bayonets. They had crossed during the night under cover of a thick fog. No one would have thought that the Confederate army on the ridge were aware of this formidable movement. There was no indication of preparation from that quarter and the devoted people were alarmed for their safety. They were not long in suspense, however, for the United States soldiers began to advance in heavy masses toward the weakest part of the Confederate position. They were allowed to approach within pistol range, when suddenly the heavy guns began to thunder and great gaps were made in their lines only to be filled in until the Federal line reached the top of the first terrace and engaged the Confederates with bayonet. The momentum of the charge was such that the first line was overwhelmed and broken and the second line coolly opened their ranks and allowed them to pass through; they then promptly closed like an adamant wall and fired volley after volley into the heavy ranks of advancing Federals. The men in blue fell in whole platoons and as they began to waver the Confederates charged them with the bayonet. Three times the brave soldiers in blue charged the Confederates only to be hurled back in disdain. It was sheer murder to urge soldiers to attack such a strong position defended by veterans. When they retreated in the last repulse Gen. Walton refused to train his guns upon them, giving as reason that he hated to kill such brave men when they were trying to get away. After nightfall the United States army sullenly retired across the river unmolested by a brave and generous enemy who seemed to have a feeling of compassion for them. This statement may seem Don Quixotic but I am in a position to know that it is literally true. A series of religious revivals had enthused the Confederate army during its period of inactivity and a Christian spirit pervaded the ranks such as has affected no army since the days of Oliver Cromwell.

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Burnside, the Federal commander, chagrined at his defeat, heartlessly

bombarded the little town. The city was full of non-combatants, old men, women and children, who were compelled to take refuge in cellars. This was a wanton act which even the circumstance of being a defeated commander cannot palliate. It is gratifying to know that he was so despised by the brave men under him who clamored so for his removal that the War Department retired him.

The Federal loss at Fredericksburg was something over 12,000 killed and wounded, the Confederate loss, owing to their strong position, was inconsiderable. The Confederate army numbered 63,000 seasoned soldiers, while the United States army has been variously estimated at from 140,000 to 160,000. Perhaps not more than half of them were engaged in this battle.

William Fitzpatrick.

Death of D. W. Darling.

Daniel W. Darling who for 37 years had been a resident of Sonestown, died at Dr. Koser's Sanitarium at Williamsport, Sunday morning at two o'clock of strangulation of the bowels. He was taken ill on Tuesday of last week and his condition soon became so serious that it was evident to the attending physician that the only chance of recovery would be through an operation. He was taken to the hospital on Thursday and the operation was performed which was at first thought to be successful, but on Saturday he became worse and sank rapidly until the end came.

Mr. Darling was a veteran of the Civil war, having served two years and nine months in the Union army, and at the time of his death he was aged 71 years, 3 months and 4 days. His body was taken to the home of his daughter Mrs. N. E. Weed, in Williamsport, where impressive services were held by the Sons of Veterans, before being taken to Sonestown on Tuesday where a short service was conducted by Rev. Stover, who took for his text these words, "Ye All Must Die," after which interment was made in the Sonestown cemetery.

He is survived by a widow; two sons and three daughters; two sons were killed in railroad wrecks several years ago.

The floral tributes were many and beautiful.

Michael Donovan Dead.

After a lingering illness of eight months, Michael Donovan of Muncy Valley, fell into the sleep that knows no waking, on Monday December 10. In April of 1905 Mr. Donovan was stricken with paralysis since which time he had been practically helpless. On Saturday last he suffered another stroke and it was then seen that the end was near and which came early Monday morning when surrounded by his family he passed away.

He was born in Ireland and came to America when he was 18 years of age, and for many years had been a resident of this county.

He leaves a widow, one son William of Sonestown, and four daughters, Mrs. J. H. Fries of this place, and Misses May, Celia and Katie Donovan, all at home. Mr. Donovan was aged 63 years, 11 months and 15 days. The funeral was held Wednesday, and he was laid at rest in Sacred Heart cemetery at this place.

It cost Edwin S. Stewart, Republican candidate for Governor, \$6,194.99 to be elected at the last election, as per his statement filed in the State Department at Harrisburg. Lewis Emery Jr., spent the snug sum of \$25,561.48 to run for Governor on the Democratic-Lincoln ticket and defeated.

A case unique in criminal courts was called for trial at Scranton before Judge Terry, in the Superior Court room. Alfred Rodway of West Scranton, is charged with manslaughter. Rodway and several other men were in a saloon. A dispute arose over the strike of 1902, and developed into a quarrel. In the mixup Rodney bit William T. James through the lip. Blood poisoning developed and James died a week later.

Mails by Private Contract.

W. D. Boyce, a Chicago publisher, several times a millionaire, and connected with many big commercial affairs, comes forward with the proposition to have the Government turn over to a syndicate of which he is head the entire postal business of the country. He proposes to manage it as a private enterprise, bearing all the cost of mail transportation, clerk hire, office rent and everything else connected with the business, depending upon the receipts for the money to pay these costs and afford satisfactory profits.

Mr. Boyce thinks he can cut postal rates in two and still make money out of the business. He would cut out all sinecures, such as franking privileges for high officials, he would make short shift of the "political postmaster," and the mail service from top to bottom would be handled by men who were there because of business efficiency, and not because of political pull. He would pay rent to the Government for all its postoffice buildings and other equipment and would charge it for all service rendered. He believes that the postal deficit could be wiped out and good profits accrue, and agrees to turn over to the Government all profits above seven per cent. on the capital required to conduct the business. As the postal business is all cash in advance, he thinks \$50,000,000 would be sufficient. He would have a postal commission appointed with full power to regulate matters in case they were not satisfactory.

The proposition is a revolutionary one and not to be accepted without due consideration. As it proposes to cut off the Congressman's frank, and would rob him of a valuable political asset in the appointment of postmasters, there is no probability that it will be accepted after consideration, but it may lead to discussion whereby the present postal system may be greatly improved.

It cannot be too often reiterated that the only social and economic conditions which threaten the permanence of American institutions have their origin and growth either among the men who have no land or among men who have too much. The greatest security then, will come from the multiplication of small farms and homesteads, and the cutting up of over-grown estates into small ones. Persuade every city worker to become a homesteader, and threatening conditions are attacked at the root. Tax the big estates out of existence or provide for their division into small ones on the death of the owners, and each of the parts, separately owned, becomes a bulwark of liberty, equality and prosperity.

Compulsory Voting Law.

The poor will be well provided for, at least until many of the residents wake up, if a law suggested by Brigadier General John A. Wiley, of Franklin, is passed by the next legislature. He now comes forward with a compulsory voting law which he wants passed by the assembly, and under certain modifications would doubtless remedy some evils.

"A fine of five or ten dollars, collectable as taxes, should be assessed for failure to perform this duty of citizenship," he says, "the money to go to the county poor fund."

The great advantage of such a law, the general asserts, would be that then a correct expression of the voters could be had on candidates and issues, and men knowing they had to vote, would take more interest in the election than they now do.

General Wiley answers the objection that such a law would encroach on a man's individual liberties by citing the payment of taxes, service on jury, compulsory education and drafting for the army. He admits that a great deal of time and thought would be required to frame a suitable law of this kind, but thinks it could be done.

BERNICE ITEMS.

Ralph Moyer left for Philadelphia on Thursday.

Mrs. J. Connors, of Mildred, was visiting town friends last week.

Mrs. Rex Tellers of Mildred, is under the doctor's care.

James Bowles of Athens, spent Saturday and Sunday with his parents on Sugar Hill.

Agnes Collins of Lopez, spent Sunday with her parents at Mildred.

There is some talk of the County Commissioners wanting to hold to the old system of holding the primaries, but we should say if that is the new law is a good one, let us have it; it is time that the old system was laid away for good. Why should the voters of Sullivan be deprived of the new ballot law? If it is good for the other counties it is good enough for us. So by all means let us have it. There is no use of the people sending a member to Harrisburg to make laws if we cannot get the benefit of the laws he helps to make.

We raise our hat to the editor for his timely article on the triennial assessment and hope that the assessors will do their duty as far as it is possible for them to do so.

Our new school will be opened on Tuesday night when the Hon. Wm. Collins of Williamsport, will give a lecture, and there will be singing and addresses by the people. We will try and give a full report in the next issue.

Needn't be Over-Fastidious.

It is to be hoped that the exclusion of Japanese children from the public schools of San Francisco will not create any serious international complications, nevertheless President Roosevelt thought the matter of enough importance to make it necessary to send Victor L. Metcalf, Secretary of Commerce and Labor, out there to make an investigation.

The antipathy to Japanese children is very strongly akin to the objection to the Chinese. The two nations resemble each other more than they do other races. The San Franciscans may have been well within their rights when they decided to eject these foreigners from their schools, but they should remember that some things are lawful that are not expedient. Japan has been among our warmest friends for years, the tie being more firmly cemented since the Russo-Jap war. They are exceedingly sensitive people, however, and very keenly resent anything that reflects unfavorably upon them, especially if it be unfair. If the San Francisco people had a modicum of common sense they would not exclude from their schools children who are as cleanly and well behaved as their own simply because of their nationality.

Hahs—Essick.

A pretty home wedding was solemnized at the home of Dr. Essicks, of Picture Rocks, when his daughter, Mary E. was married to Harry B. Hahs of Philadelphia, on Tuesday, Dec. 4, at high noon. Dr. Barbe of the Lutheran church of Hughesville, officiating. The members of the families of the contracting parties were the only guests present. After a sumptuous wedding dinner, the newly married couple left for New York, Philadelphia and other cities. After Christmas Mr. and Mrs. Hahs will go to Palm Beach, Florida, where they will spend the winter.

Dr. E. W. Samuel of Mt. Carmel, the defeated candidate for Congress in this district, has filed his account of expenses with Prothonotary Lawyer of Northumberland county. The total of Dr. Samuel's expenses was \$3,261.73 and is itemized as follows:

Contributions to the Northumberland county committee, \$435; Columbia county, \$300; Montour county \$200; Sullivan, \$200; Sullivan county Prohibition committee, \$25; postage, \$27; typewriting, \$91.75; traveling expenses, \$11.57; advertising, \$638.26; printing, \$378.15; personal expenses, \$160; transportation of voters \$75; dissemination of information, \$620.73. Total, \$3261.73.