

BOLD THIEVES.

Numerous robberies were committed at Greenville by thieves who came to town with a circus. Two men assisted Mr. James Lininger, an aged woman of Jamestown, to board a train for home, and after the train started she found her pocketbook containing \$40 and a promissory note for \$350 missing.

Odd Fellows and Rebekahs.

The 74th annual session of the grand lodge of Pennsylvania, L. O. O. F., opened at Williamsport with 1,000 delegates present, Grand Master Amos H. Hall, of Philadelphia, presiding. Mayor Mansell made an address of welcome, responded to by Grand Master Hall. Reports made show that the present membership of the order in Pennsylvania is 107,573. The total amount disbursed for relief was \$385,376.75, an increase of \$21,272.98.

L. M. and S. M. Cleaver, of Centreville, Pa., are leasing coal land in the townships adjoining Clayville, and paying about \$20 per acre. They will soon have 100,000 acres leased. When this amount is secured the company, composed of capitalists from New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Cleveland, will take charge and open up coal works. An expert mineralogist will shortly be sent to test the land. Ex-Congressman W. A. Shipps is also interested in leasing coal land in the neighborhood.

An east-bound freight on the Buffalo and Susquehanna Railroad ran into an open switch about seven miles east of Austin. The train was going about 25 miles an hour. The engine and six cars were badly demolished. Engineer James Mitchell, of Austin, jumped a tree to save himself, but brakeman John Krebs was instantly killed. Krebs was about 21 years of age, unmarried and a resident of Austin.

Officers of the new borough of Vandergrift were elected Saturday as follows: Burgess, J. M. Nichols; councilmen, U. S. Beck, Wm. E. Helm, Theodore M. Hopke; councilman at large, J. J. Johnson; George E. P. Haer, W. J. E. Shearer; councilmen for two years, Oscar Lindquist, A. E. Young, E. P. Hugh, William Watson, A. B. Cochran, D. H. Townsend; assessor, S. A. Kinard.

The Taxpayers' Association of Schuylkill county filed a bill in equity in Court praying for an injunction to restrain the county commissioners from entering into a contract with the Hammelstown Brownstone Company for repairing the steps and erecting a wall about the prison to cost \$2,500. The complainants aver that reputable local contractors have offered to do the stone work for \$1,000.

William Miller & Sons, with offices in the county building, have about completed the new postoffice building in Beaver Falls and will turn it over to the government officers next Saturday, finishing it in the time specified. It is a fine building, and the Carnegie Steel company gave the firm a contract for erecting a \$50,000 stable at his place in Homestead.

The commission appointed by the Governor to condemn and fix the damages to be paid by the railroad to the owners of property destroyed, for use in the creation of a dam, fixed the value of the property at \$10,000. The commission was composed of James M. Piper, C. C. Townsend, A. T. Anderson, W. S. Moore, Dr. A. T. Shallenzer and P. McLaughlin, all of Beaver Falls.

James S. Fleisher, a prominent real estate broker of Liberty, Pa., was assaulted and robbed by a highwayman in the Lincoln avenue bridge between the office of the attorney and the bridge to the bridge to the bridge. He was then murdered by being thrown from the bridge to the bridge to the bridge. He was found dying, and was unable to give any description of the murderer. An intelligent account of the assault.

A mysterious disease has exterminated a family of Mrs. Mary Wignore, of Homestead. Last Friday two sons, aged 5 and 3 years, fell victims in attendance say the disease is a mysterious nature, somewhat resembling scarlet fever. A daughter died, and a son, Charles is not expected to recover.

Charles Wilder was arrested in Bradford on charge of counterfeiting, and Deputy Marshal Thompson took him to Warren for a hearing. Wilder, a woman who lived in Wilder, swears she saw him making dimes, quarters and dollars. Two nickels were found on Wilder.

Two persons were sentenced to death by the court of a still in Michael McGarrity's distillery at Hazleton. The steam and fluid got out upon Michael McGarrity, the distiller, and a laborer, named Andrew Gartz, who was badly burned in trying to save his husband.

William Thorpe, who was conspicuous in the ranks of the abolitionists, died at his home in Salisbury, aged 81 years. He was a prominent agent in the work of helping runaway slaves into freedom by means of the underground railroad.

The Pittsburgh, Allegheny & Manchester Iron Company, which carried nearly 100 passengers last year, has refused to be absorbed by the Pittsburgh Consolidated company, and will borrow \$20,000 for improvements.

Mr. Morton S. Hartzell, son of Missionary Hartzell, has been appointed pastor of the Beaver Methodist Episcopal church. The remainder of this conference year, will enter upon his duties June 1.

Wm. W. Welch at Beaver has petitioned the court to make permanent the temporary injunction restraining Beaver Falls from making a contract with the Peoples Gas company.

Owing to a disagreement over puddlers' wages, the Eleanor Iron Works, at Hollidaysburg, closed down bringing 200 hands out of work. John D. Shafer was inducted by the Allegheny county bar as a candidate for the judicial vacancy in common pleas court No. 2.

CONGRESSIONAL.

Abstract of the Important Measures in Both Houses. May 18.—There was no abatement of interest in the Cuban question in the Senate to-day, and the galleries were well-filled when the session opened at noon, although the Morgan resolution was not in order until 2 o'clock.

When the business of the morning hour was disposed of the calendar was taken up, and many of the bills upon it were passed, including several bridge bills. May 19.—Mr. Morgan's resolution, declaring that a state of war exists in Cuba, and that the United States will preserve a strict neutrality, was the subject of a notable debate in the Senate to-day.

Mr. Mason, Republican, Illinois, started the discussion with a speech in favor of the resolution. Senator Hoar, criticized Mr. Mason's speech, and opposed the Morgan resolution. He declared that all the talk about outrages and infamies in Cuba was "brass band talk." Senators Gallinger, Hale and Hawley also aided in the discussion, after which the Senate adjourned with the resolution still pending.

May 20.—The long and exciting debate on the joint resolution recognizing the existence of a state of war in Cuba and declaring that strict neutrality shall be maintained by the United States passed the Senate by the decisive vote of 41 to 14 at a late hour this afternoon. The announcement of the vote was received with tumultuous applause, which drew from Senator Hawley an emphatic protest against "mob demonstration." The resolution as passed is as follows:

"Resolved, etc., That a condition of public war exists between the government of Spain and the government proclaimed and for some time maintained by force of arms by the people of Cuba, and that the United States of America shall maintain a strict neutrality between the contending parties, according to each all the rights of belligerents in the ports and territory of the United States."

May 21.—The house galleries were well filled at the hour of meeting to-day in expectation that the senate Cuban resolution would be reported and might lead to some exciting scenes. The attendance was quite large. As soon as the journal was read a motion to correct it was made by Mr. Simpson. He showed that a senate pension bill had been referred to the committee on invalid pensions, and as there was no such committee he moved to strike out that statement.

"Strike it out of what?" the speaker asked. "Out of the record or out of the journal?" "Out of the journal," Mr. Simpson replied. "Suppose it is the same in the record." The speaker put the question on the motion to strike out and it was so declared lost. The journal was then approved. The death of Senator Earle, of South Carolina, was announced by Mr. Johnson, and the house adjourned till Thursday.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

May 18.—The House this morning, after a two-hour debate, adopted the report of its committee on elections, unseating Robt. L. Roberts as the member from the Third Philadelphia district, and seating Oscar P. Saunders, the anti-combines candidate at the fall election. The vote was 103 to 53, just enough.

May 19.—The house killed the Connell bill providing for indemnity bonds to sheriffs. A similar fate was suffered by the Gould poor bill, which was called up by the author and amended to apply to the entire state. The objection to this bill comes from the smaller counties, where the system of farming out the inmates of asylums is in vogue.

There was some debate over the Weller labor bill, which came over from the senate to the house for concurrence in amendments. Bliss, of Delaware, wanted the act amended, saying it was unconstitutional, but the house voted down his proposition to send the bill to committee and concurred in the senate amendments, thus sending the bill to the governor.

After a two hours' session this morning the senate adjourned till Monday night next week. Only routine matters were attended to during the morning session, and no important bills were on the calendar.

May 20.—The early portion of the House session to-day was very quiet. A special calendar of special and local bills was in order and the House disposed of these at a railroad gait, then took up the revenue bills. All the revenue bills, including the beer tax bills and the beer taxing the matured stocks of building and loan associations passed the second reading stage. Then the House went to the regular order of business.

During the morning session the bill creating the office of receiver of taxes in the cities of the third class, the measure being vigorously attacked from many quarters. May 21.—Three Quay reform bills passed first reading today in the House. They are the non-assessment, non-political interference and the poll-tax measures. They were brought out of committee and a special order was secured for them by Mr. McClelland of Venango. They will be considered next Tuesday on second reading and Wednesday on third reading and final passage.

A concurrent resolution authorizing the State printer to publish 7,500 additional copies of the volume "Pennsylvania at Gettysburg" was defeated. After being in session about an hour the House adjourned until next Monday night.

May 24.—In the House to-night the bill to prevent the playing of football and baseball on Sunday was reported favorably from committee. The House took up bills on second reading, the first passed being one to make it compulsory on the mayor of Philadelphia to issue licenses for public lodging houses. The bill requiring the state treasurer to pay to the chairman of legislative investigating committees the expenses of such committees was killed.

AN AMERICAN FACTORY IN CHINA.

A Cotton Mill Dedicated Amid Bunting and Patriotic Aids. The first American factory in China is the International Cotton Mill, recently established at Pootung, a small town near Shanghai, under the auspices of the American Trading Company of New York. It is the third cotton mill erected in China. It has 40,000 spindles and two engines of 1600 horse-power now in motion, and a number of looms will be added soon. The machinery was started early in April with considerable ceremony. The building was handsomely decorated with American and Chinese flags, the band played "Hail Columbia," "Yankee Doodle" and other patriotic airs, and Mrs. James Jones and Mrs. Seaman, the wives of the managers, pulled the lever that started the machinery for the first time. It is an interesting fact that all the women operatives of this mill are Roman Catholics from the Pootung villages, where there are about 40,000 native adherents of that church. Many of their ancestors were converted to Christianity several centuries ago.

To Study Oriental Finances. Former Senator Dubois and Senators Cannon and Pettigrew will sail July 2 for China and Japan. It is understood they go to study the financial question from the Oriental standpoint. J. L. M. W.

SELECT RELIGIOUS READING.

PREGNANT THOUGHTS FROM THE WORLD'S GREATEST AUTHORS.

Love Will Perfect—Sowing of Light—How Habit Grows—God's Presence Desired—A Prayer—To Rebuke Sin—Before the Cross—All Pervading Love of Christ.

O mighty Potter, to whose steadfast eyes A thousand years lie open as one day, Thy patient hand set firm on life's great wheel This heavy, shapeless clay,

Rough and imperfect, yet it owns Thy touch; Spare not, nor stay, the pressure of Thine hand; Make known Thy power; and, soon or late, let love Perfect what love hath planned.

—L. H. Hammond, in Outlook.

Sowing Light in Sorrow. God will not always be causing grief. He traverses the dull brown acres with His plow, sowing the yielding earth that He may be able to cast in the precious grain. Believe that in days of sorrow He is sowing light for the righteous and gladness for the upright in heart. Look forward to the reaping. Anticipate the joy which is set before you, and shall flood your heart with minstrel notes when patience has had her perfect work. You will live to recognize the wisdom of God's choice for you. You will one day see that the thing you wanted was only second best. You will be surprised to remember that you once nearly broke your heart and split the wine of your life for what would never have satisfied you if you had caught it, as the child the butterfly or soap-bubble. You will meet again your beloved. You will have again the depth of character, a breadth of sympathy, a fund of patience, an ability to understand and help others, which, as you lay them at Christ's feet for Him to use, will make you glad that you were afflicted. You will see God's plan and purpose; you will reap His harvest; you will behold His face, and be satisfied.—Rev. F. B. Meyer.

How Habit Grows and Strangles. Mr. Spurgeon says that he saw, while on a visit to the gardens of Hampton Court, many trees almost entirely covered and well-nigh strangled by the huge coils of ivy which were wound about them like the snakes about the folds; they, in their giant grip are fast fixed, and the rootlets of the climbers are constantly sucking the life of the trees. There was a day when the ivy was a tiny aspirant, only asking a little aid in climbing; had it been denied, then the tree would not have become its victim, but by degrees the huge coils, with their strength and arrogance, were weakling grew in the mastery and became the destroyer. Just the same with the beginning or sin; the least little act of disobedience, if it may be, then another, then something else, and they become alarmingly frequent, and each time a little more wicked, until they gain the mastery over us, and overwhelm us, and at last drag our souls down to hell. "Every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lusts, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."—C. W. Bibb.

A Prayer for God's Presence. O Lord, I have come into my closet and shut the door, that I may be alone with thee for a little. O wilt thou meet me and give me a sweet sense of thy presence, and let me know thou art near to hear the petitions I bring thee. I thank thee for thy love, so rich and abounding, which years over me unceasingly. I thank thee for the tender sympathy, which reaches down to all the trying circumstances of my daily life, bringing needed help and peace. I thank thee that thou dost understand the desires and longings of my heart before I have ventured to express them in words, and that sometimes thou dost answer before I call. Bless me in my home, and in the conduct of my family duties. Bless the dear children thou hast given me, and lead them in unerring ways of obedience and love, and hold them in right paths. May they love thee and count thee as their best friend and strive to please thee in all they do, day by day. So may our entire household rejoice in thee, and find in our supreme joy to follow thee in ways of praise and service for Christ's sake. Amen.

A Prayer for the Spirit. Most holy God! let not the largeness of our sins and errors make us forget the largeness of thy mercy; our great need the greatness of thy supply. Teach us to trust in thy love. Help us when we seem to be orphaned in this world that grinds on with such sternness of unbroken law. Comfort us in the midst of the vastness of thy kingdom we cannot help thinking we are forgotten. If our poor cry seems unable to pierce through the rolling majesty of thy worlds. In the hours of our pain and passion and sorrow, in our lonely and forsaken days, let thy Good Shepherd come unto us, for he knoweth his sheep by name. Forgive our sins, and let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us; such beauty as we can bear, not the burning beauty of thy brightness and thy majesty, for we are all too weak and feeble for that, but the gentle beauty of thy holiness and purity. Hear our prayers through thy dear Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Christ's All Pervading Love. The love of Jesus Christ is to be seen in that warm affection for him which leads the faithful to wish that his soul may become almost a part of that of Christ, and that the living principle in the Lord may be reproduced in himself, not in the way of an external image but as an inward and divine inspiration. This love is omnipotent, uniting the creature with the Creator. Man, in fact, rises continually from humanity to something divine when he is animated by this love, which is the sweetest of affections, penetrates the soul, and causes the faithful to walk on earth, rapt as it were in the spirit.—Savonarola.

God Wants the Perfect Gift. Penitence for your half-hearted life is not giving up; it is not the "gift" He wants; that is not consecration. Repentance is only giving up the bad; it is only sending it back to the devil where it belongs. Giving up the "good"—time, talent, tongue, pen, money, will—that is the gift Christ wants today. This gift of consecration is your work; the accepting it is God's. When our gift is a perfect gift, no sham about it, but genuine all the way through, then comes God's gift of light and power and peace and rest and joy.—Mrs. C. E. Wilder.

Choose With a Whole Heart. A halting, hesitating disciple is no disciple. There stands the plow. Either leave it alone, or if you take hold of it at all, put your eye on the line before you and give your whole heart and thought to the furrow you are about to plow. Your choice of Christ, your love for Christ, your consecration to Christ, must settle all questions, or it is no choice, no love, no consecration at all. There are crises in life in which a halting, wavering, irresolute love is none at all. This is one of them.—Lyman Abbott, D. D.

Thy Will Be Done. This crust of selfishness and sin That shuts my better self within— If thou canst make it soft and fine, So bloom and fragrance there may shine In answer to Thy dew and sun, I can but say: Thy will be done! For where the deepest evers Thy plow, And all is bare and broken now, Faith sees the tender grain-runs spring, The teeming valleys laugh and sing! —J. L. M. W.

Rebuke Sin by Righteousness.

We may not all be called upon to speak; we are all called upon to be. You can shine, and by shining show how dark the darkness is. The obligation is laid upon us all; the commandment still comes to every Christian which was given to the old prophet, "Debate unto My people their transgression, and to the house of Jacob their sin." We can all rebuke sin by our righteousness, and by our shining reveal the darkness to itself. We do not walk as children of the light unless we keep ourselves from all connivance with works of darkness, and by all means at our disposal reprove and convict them. "Come out from among them, and be ye separate, and touch no unclean thing, saith the Lord."—Alexander MacLaren, D. D.

Before the Cross. O, what a load of struggle and distress Falls off before the cross! The feverish care, The wish that we were other than we are, The sick regrets, the yearnings numberless, The thought, "This might have been," so apt to press On the reluctant soul, even past despair, Past sin itself, all, all is turned to fair, Aye, to a scheme of ordered happiness, So soon as we love God, or, rather, know That God loves us! —C. H. Townsend.

This Life a Preparation. I take it that a great part of this earthly tuition and discipline is not more to work out the evil that is in us than to prepare us to receive what God has in readiness to give us. I cannot otherwise interpret the great and terrible withholding seen in the vast majority of lives; this fearful negative must mean a gracious positive.—T. T. Munger.

God Ever Higher. Thank God that we shall never come to any level, however high, where we can rest in ourselves and feel him no longer above us who is himself our heaven. We know that we shall be seeking him and finding him forever and forever, growing into his infinity as it heightens and broadens and deepens beyond us.—Lucy Larcom.

Do not hesitate to take all the revelation of love that shines softly through this one word, "cherisheth," for your own self; for the more you feel yourself to be the weakest imaginable member of Christ, unworthy to be a member at all of His glorious body, the more closely and sweetly will it apply to you.—Frances B. Havergal.

Although we turn us from Thy face, And wander wide and long, Thou holdest us still in Thy embrace, O love of God most strong! —Eliza Scudder.

We know not, verily, that which is laid up for us. There are such beautiful things put by. In God's house and in God's time are such treasures.—Mrs. A. D. T. Whitney.

Your life needs days of retirement, when it shuts the gates upon the noisy whirl of action and is alone with God.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR TOPICS.

TOPIC FOR SUNDAY, MAY 30. "That Ye Bear Much Fruit" John xv. 1-14.

FRUIT-BEARING. May 24. The fruits. Gal. v. 16-26. May 25. The soil. Matt. xiii. 18-23. May 26. No fruit. Matt. xxi. 17-22. May 27. Fruit time. Matt. xxi. 33-41. May 28. Slow fruit. Luke xiii. 1-9. May 29. Known by their fruits. Matt. vii. 15-23.

SCRIPTURE VERSES.—Isa. xlviii. 10; I Pet. i. 7, 9; Rom. viii. 28; I Cor. iii. 13; 2 Cor. v. 17; Heb. xii. 11; 1 Thes. i. 3; Matt. vi. 28; 1a. i. 16; Matt. vii. 17.

LESSON THOUGHTS. Have you any doubts of your true connection with Jesus Christ? Your own life must answer. He is the true vine, and if you are a true branch you will be bearing fruit. This is the test; then ask yourself if you are bearing the fruits of the Holy Spirit, love, joy, peace, gentleness, meekness, temperance.

Without Christ we can no more bear good fruit than the branch separated from the vine can bring to maturity the luscious grapes; even the fruit it already bears must wither and fall when it leaves the vine and depend upon itself for nourishment and strength.

There is a counterfeit olive tree in Palestine. It is called the wild-olive, or the planter. It is in all points like the genuine tree, except that it yields no fruit. Alas! how many wild olives are there in the church! When I see a man taking up a large space in Christ's spiritual orchard, and absorbing a vast deal of sunlight and soil, and yielding no fruit, I say, "Ah! there is an olive!"

If a tree is not growing, it is sure to be dying. And so are our souls. If they are not growing, they are dying; if they are not getting better, they are getting worse. This is why the Bible compares our souls to trees; not out of a mere pretty fancy of poetry, but for a great, awful, deep, world-wide lesson, that every tree in the field may be a pattern, a warning to us thoughtless men, that as that tree is meant to grow, so our souls are meant to grow. As that tree dies unless it grows, so our souls die unless they grow.

Nature abhors sterility. From the humid climate and fertile soil of the tropics, to the rugged lava-fields and frigid atmosphere of higher latitudes, we find the garment of vegetation covering all. This teaches the reason of Christian faithfulness and progress.

A young man who washed canceled postage stamps and used them again has been sent to jail in Maine for 31 days—the minimum penalty being inflicted because he was poor and ignorant.

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