

The North Branch Democrat.

HARVEY SICKLER, Proprietor.

"TO SPEAK HIS THOUGHTS IS EVERY FREEMAN'S RIGHT."—Thomas Jefferson.

TERMS: \$2.00 PER ANNUM

NEW SERIES,

TUNKHANNOCK, PA., WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 7, 1864.

VOL. 4 NO. 5

North Branch Democrat.

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TIME FOR FARMERS, AS A FERTILIZER, MESHOPPEN, SEPT. 18 1864.

J. V. SMITH, M. D., PHYSICIAN & SURGEON, Office on Bridge Street, next door to the Democrat Office, Tunkhannock, Pa.

DR. J. C. BECKER, PHYSICIAN & SURGEON, Would respectfully announce to the citizens of Wyoming that he has located at Tunkhannock where he will promptly attend to all calls in the line of his profession.

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WALL'S HOTEL, LATE AMERICAN HOUSE, TUNKHANNOCK, WYOMING CO., PA.

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T. B. WALL, Owner and Proprietor, Tunkhannock, September 11, 1864.

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HAVING resumed the proprietorship of the above Hotel, the undersigned will spare no effort to render the house an agreeable place of sojourn for all who may favor it with their custom.

Wm. H. CORTRIGHT.

June, 3rd, 1863

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M. GILMAN has permanently located in Tunkhannock, and respectfully tenders his professional services to the citizens of this place and surrounding country.

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Stamp Duty Public, 5 cts. " of search of records, 5 cts. " that certain papers are on file, 5 cts. " that certain papers cannot be found, 5 cts. " of redemption of land sold for taxes, 5 cts. " of birth, marriage, and death of qualification of school teachers, 5 cts. " of profits in an incorporated company for a sum not less than \$10 and not exceeding \$50, 10 cts. " exceeding \$50, and not exceeding 1,000, 25 cts. " exceeding 1,000, for additional 1,000, or fractional part thereof, 25 cts. " of damage, or otherwise, and all other certificates or documents issued by any port warden, marine surveyor or other person acting as such, 25 cts. Certified Transcripts of judgments, and of all papers recorded or on file, 5 cts. [N. B.—As a general rule, every certificate which has, or may have, a legal value in any court of law or equity, will require a stamp duty of 5 cts.] Charter party, or letter, memorandum or other writing between the captain, owner, or agent of any ship, vessel, or steamer, and any other person, relating to the charter of the same, if the registered tonnage of said ship, vessel, or steamer does not exceed one hundred and fifty tons, 10 cts. " exceeding one hundred and fifty tons, and not exceeding three hundred tons, 3 00 " exceeding three hundred tons, and not exceeding six hundred tons, 5 00 " exceeding six hundred tons 10 00 Check, draft, or order for the payment of any sum of money exceeding \$10, drawn upon any person other than a bank, banker, or trust company, at sight or on demand, 2 cts. Contract (See Agreement.) Broker's, 10 cts. Conveyance, deed, instrument or writing, whereby lands, tenements, or other realty sold shall be conveyed, the actual value of which does not exceed \$500, 50 cts. " exceeding \$500, and not exceeding \$1,000, \$1 00 " for every additional \$500, or fractional part thereof in excess of \$1,000, 50 cts. Endorsement of any negotiable instrument, exempt. Entry of any goods, wares, or merchandise at any customhouse, either for consumption or warehousing, not exceeding one hundred dollars in value, 25 cts. " exceeding one hundred dollars, and not exceeding five hundred dollars in value, 50 cts. " exceeding five hundred dollars in value, \$1 00 " for the withdrawal of any goods or merchandise from bonded warehouse, 50 cts. Gaugers' returns, if for quantity not exceeding 500 gallons, gross 10 cts. " exceeding 500 gallons, 25 cts. Justra, (cc. [Marine, Inland, and fire] where the consideration paid for the insurance, in cash, premium notes, or both, does not exceed ten dollars, 10 cts. " [Marine, Inland, and fire] exceeding ten dollars, and not exceeding fifty dollars, 25 cts. " [Marine, Inland and Fire] exceeding 50 dollars, 50 cts. Insurance, (Life) when the amount insured does not exceed \$1,000, 25 cts. " exceeding \$1,000, and not exceeding 5,000 dollars, 50 cts. " exceeding 5,000 dollars, \$1 00 " limited to injury to persons while traveling, exempt. Lease of lands or tenements, where rent does not exceed \$300 per annum, 50 cts. " exceeding \$300, for each additional 200 dollars, or fractional part thereof in excess of 300 dollars, 50 cts. " perpetual, subject to stamp duty as a "conveyance," the stamp duty to be measured by resolving the annual rental into a capital sum. " clause of guaranty of payment of rent, incorporated or indorsed, five cents additional. Manifest for custom house entry or

Stamp Duty clearance of the cargo of any ship, vessel, or steamer for a foreign port, if the registered tonnage of such ship, vessel, or steamer does not exceed 300 tons, \$1 00 " exceeding 300 tons, and not 500 tons, 3 00 " exceeding 500 tons, 5 00 Measurers' Returns, if for quantity not exceeding one thousand bushels 10 cts. " exceeding one thousand bushels, 25 cts. Mortgage, trust deed, bill of sale, or personal bond for the payment of money exceeding \$100 and not exceeding \$500, 50 cts. " exceeding \$500, for every additional \$500, or fractional part thereof in excess of 500, 50 cts. Pawners' Checks, 5 cts. Pension Papers.—Powers of attorney and all other papers relating to applications for bounties, arrears of pay, or pensions, or to receipt thereof, exempt. Passage Ticket from the U. S. to a foreign port costing not more than \$35, 50 cts. Passage Ticket from the U. S. to a foreign port, costing not more than \$35, and not exceeding \$50, \$1 00 Passage Ticket for every additional \$50, or fractional part thereof in excess of \$50, \$1 00 Power of Attorney to sell or transfer stock, or collect dividends thereon, 25 cts. Power of Attorney, to vote at election of incorporated company, 10 cts. Power of Attorney to receive or collect rents, 25 cts. Power of Attorney to sell or convey, or rent, or lease real estate, \$1 00 Power of Attorney for any other purpose, 50 cts. Probate of Will, or letter of Administration, where the value of real or personal estate does not exceed \$2,000, \$1 09 " for every additional \$1,000, or fractional part thereof in excess of \$2,000, 50 cts. " bonds of executors, administrators, guardians, and trustees, are each subject to a stamp duty of \$1 00 " certificates of appointment, 5 cts. Protest upon bill, note, check, or draft, 25 cts. Promissory Note.—(See Bills of Exchange, Inland.) " deposit note to mutual insurance companies, when policy subject to duty, exempt " renewal of, subject to same duty as an original note. Quit Claim Deed, to be stamped as a conveyance, except when given as a release of a mortgage by the mortgagee to the mortgagor, in which case it is exempt. Receipt for the payment of any sum of money or debt due exceeding \$50, or for the delivery of any property, 2 cts. " for satisfaction of any mortgage or judgment or decree of any court, exempt. Sheriff's return on writ, or other process, exempt. Trust Deed, made to secure a debt, to be stamped as a mortgage. " conveying estate to uses, to be stamped as a conveyance. Warehouse Receipt for any goods, wares, or merchandise, not otherwise provided for, deposited or stored in any public or private warehouse, not exceeding \$500 in value, 10 cts. " exceeding \$500, and not exceeding \$1,000, 20 cts. " exceeding \$1,000 for every additional \$1,000, or fractional part thereof in excess of \$1,000, 10 cts. " for any goods, &c., not otherwise provided for, stored or deposited in any public or private warehouse or yard, 25 cts. Writs and legal documents: Writ, or other original process by which any suit is commenced in any court of record, either of law or equity, 50 cts. Writ, or other original process issued by a court not of record, where the amount claimed is \$100, or over, 50 cts. Upon every confession of judgment or cognovit for \$100, or over, except increases where the tax for a writ has been paid, 50 cts. Writs, or other process on appeals from justices' courts, or other courts of inferior jurisdiction, to a court of record, 50 cts. Warrant of distress, when the amount of rent claimed does not exceed \$100, 25 cts. Warrant of distress, when the amount exceeds \$100, 50 cts. Writs, summons, and other process issued by a justice of the peace, police or municipal court, if no greater

jurisdiction than a justice of the peace in the same State, exempt. Writs, and other process in any criminal or other suits commenced by the United States in any State, exempt. Official documents, instruments, and papers issued or used by officers of the United States Government, exempt. GENERAL REMARKS.

Revenue stamps may be used indiscriminately upon any of the matters or things enumerated in Schedule B, except proprietary and playing card stamps, for which a special use has been provided. Postage stamps cannot be used in payment of the duty chargeable on instruments. It is the duty of the maker of an instrument to affix and cancel the stamp required thereon. If he neglects to do so, the party for whose use it is made may stamp it before it is used; but in no case can it be legally used without a stamp; and if issued after the 30th of June, 1864, and used without a stamp, it cannot be afterwards effectually stamped. Any failure upon the part of the maker of an instrument to appropriately stamp it renders him liable to a penalty of two hundred dollars.

Suits are commenced in many States by other process, than writ, viz: summons, warrant, publication, petition, &c., in which cases these, as the original processes, severally require stamps. Writs of scire facias are subject to stamp duty as original processes. The Jurat of an affidavit, taken before a Justice of the Peace, Notary Public, or other officer duly authorized to take affidavits, is held to be a certificate, and subject to stamp duty or five cents, except when taken in suits or legal proceedings. Certificates of loan, in which here shall appear any written or printed evidence of an amount of money to be paid on demand, or at a time designated, are subject to stamp duty as "Promissory notes."

The assignment of a mortgage is subject to a stamp duty as that imposed upon the original instrument; that is to say, for every sum of five hundred dollars, or any fractional part thereof of the amount secured by the mortgage at the time of its assignment, there must be affixed a stamp or stamps denoting a duty of fifty cents. When two or more persons join in the execution of an instrument, the stamp to which the instrument is liable under the law may be affixed and cancelled by any one of the parties. In conveyance of real estate, the law provides that the stamp affixed must answer to the value of the estate or interest conveyed. No stamp is required on any warrant of attorney accompanying a bond or note, when such bond or note has affixed thereto the stamp or stamps denoting the duty required; and whenever any bond or note is secured by mortgage, but one stamp duty is required on such papers, such stamp duty being the highest rate required for such instruments, or either of them. In such case, a note or memorandum of the value or denomination of the stamp affixed should be made upon the margin or in the acknowledgment of the instrument which is not stamped.

LETTER FROM CLINT.

ARTILLERY BRIGADE, IN FRONT OF PETERSBURG, Aug. 26 '64. FRIEND SICKLER:—I have not received a copy of the Democrat for some weeks now; and, indeed, it has been anything but a regular visitor for a long time. I know how these papers, straggling to the four quarters of the globe, are often missed in making up the mail, on publication day; and how, when the edition happens to be short, they (those going in "single wrappers") are the first to be cut; but it often happens that they are more impatiently expected and more eagerly read than any of those going in larger packages. I am not, by any means, making a paragraph of this topic for the benefit of others; and have only to say send me the first readable paper that comes from the press, and by the first direct mail that travels from the Post Office, and I will not lose sleep by wondering whether other people, who get their papers in "single wrappers," do or do not get them. Most of the men who belong to the 3d N. Y. Independent Battery, having followed the fortunes of Gen. Geo. B. McClellan, through the successes and vicissitudes of his military career, and never having had cause to question or doubt his valor, patriotism and ability, are disposed to look upon his pretensions to the Presidential chair with an eye of great favor. Clearly two thirds of the men in the Battery have the warmest admiration for the man, and would support his election with heartfelt zeal. Thus the North Branch Democrat has frequent inquiries made for it by those who have no local interest in its columns, and their political cravings are held in abeyance quite as much as are my local longings.

Active operations having been resumed upon this line, we have had some rare knocking about lately—hurried marches from point to point, fierce assaults, desperate defenses and much desultory fighting—all without any apparent result, with the exception of the immense advantages gained by Warren's (5th) corps, in its demonstration upon the enemy's right on Saturday and Sunday last. Our forces not only took possession of the Weldon Railroad, but have fortified some three miles beyond it, and held their position, with comparatively trifling loss up to the present time. The Rebels have made desperate efforts to recover possession of this important line of communication, but with no measure of success that would justify the immense sacrifice it has cost them. During yesterday afternoon and last night they made seven successive charges against our first line, and finally succeeded in taking it, and with it 12 to 14 pieces of artillery; but the success was dearly purchased, and will result in no permanent advantage, as all the force in the Rebel army, will not be sufficient to wrest from Grant the immense advantage the possession of this important line of Railroad will give to him. It is the main artery through which the Rebel army in and about Petersburg and Richmond draws its supplies from the south.

There now remains to them but the Lynchburg Road; and another successful flank movement would put that in our possession; but unfortunately we have not the men to spare, and have resorted to rather questionable means to keep up the appearance of strength, when our weakness would otherwise be too apparent. It is a very easy matter to spread canvass over fields, but it is not so easy to people it or give it the appearance of being peopled. Everything has been brought up from the rear for the purpose of making a show wherewith to quell the rebels. Their lines are, no doubt, weaker than our own, and if we only had our own glorious old Corps here, we could walk into Petersburg before sundown. Rat, alas! we have only a skirmish line, and one line of battle composed of 10th Corps niggers. We have most beautiful Pyrotechnic displays here, every night, and those to whom the sight would be new, might find much in them to admire; but when you have had your rest disturbed night after night by the incessant booming of cannon and rattle of small arms with the occasional bursting of a shell in too close proximity to be safe or amusing, these displays become entirely too common to be novel or desirable. Sometimes there are as many as 12 to 14 shells in the air at the same time, and you can trace their line of flight, by the burning fuse, which looks not unlike a shooting star, from the time they leave the mortars, until they strike the ground or explode in mid-air. I have the inclination, but not the time, to write you a long letter, as I am quite busy with Pay-Rolls and other company writing and expect to be kept so for a week or two. Our Captain, William A. Harn, being the senior, is now in command of that portion of the brigade remaining here. He is a most excellent and experienced officer—having served under Anderson in the ever memorable defence of Fort Sumpter—and is in every way well fitted for the position. This leaves the Battery in command of senior 1st Lieut. A. S. McClain, who has proved himself a most excellent executive officer, and will, undoubtedly, make quite as able a commander. 1st Lieut. Harry Fitz Gerald is Brigade Ordnance Officer, and will soon earn for himself the reputation of being prompt and efficient—the two qualities most necessary and desirable in his position. 2d Lieut. Geo. P. FitzGerald was a former 1st Lieut. in the Battery, when it was known as Mott's, has had command of it in some of its periods of greatest trouble, but was forced to resign on account of ill health. A few sea voyages, however, restored him, and he again enlisted—coming out as a private, but attaining his present promotion rapidly. He has an innate love for the profession of arms and is a promising young officer. 2d Lieut. Geo. W. Kellogg is more of a book soldier than a practical one, but will soon become accustomed to the routine of actual field duty and make a very useful officer. The 1st or Orderly Sergeant of a Battery, after the commanding officer, is by far the most important personage, in point of fact, in it. Upon him devolves the care of company property, the dress, discipline and well-ordering of the command. All the minor details are dependent upon his sagacity and discretion. He is required to know everything and a little more. Our Battery is fortunate in the possession of just the man for the place—Isaac Rheims, from the vine-climbers and soldiers—though, indeed, his merits are deserving a much more exalted position.

But I meant merely a deserved complimentary word for Capt. Harn, and I find I have, unconsciously almost, given you a brief of all our officers. Hoping to have time and opportunity to write you a more generally interesting letter soon, I remain Truly your friend

CLINT.

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CLINT.

The King of Bavaria is coming to America. As he is coming in, he will doubtless be invited to enlist within thirty-five seconds after landing—provided, that he lands at Boston.

Truly your friend