

# 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, JAN. 9, 1867

VOL. 6 NO. 22,

A weekly Democratic paper, devoted to Politics, News, the Arts and Sciences. Published every Wednesday, at Tunkhannock, Wyoming County, Pa. BY HARVEY SICKLER

Terms—1 copy 1 year, (in advance) \$2.00 if not paid within six months, \$2.75 will be charged. No paper will be discontinued, until all arrearages are paid; unless at the option of publisher.

ADVERTISING.

10 lines or less, make one square	three weeks	four weeks	two months	three months	six months	one year
1 Square	1.00	1.25	2.25	2.87	3.00	5.00
2 do.	2.00	2.50	3.25	3.50	4.00	6.00
3 do.	3.00	3.75	4.75	5.50	7.00	9.00
1 Column.	4.00	4.50	6.50	8.00	10.00	15.00
1 do.	6.00	6.50	10.00	12.00	17.00	25.00
1 do.	8.00	7.00	14.00	18.00	25.00	35.00
1 do.	10.00	12.00	17.00	22.00	28.00	40.00

EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS and AUDITORS' NOTICES, of the usual length, \$2.50. OBITUARIES, exceeding ten lines, each; RELIGIOUS and LITERARY NOTICES, not of general interest, one half the regular rates.

Business Cards of one square, with paper, \$5.

JOB WORK of all kinds neatly executed, and at prices to suit the times.

Business Notices.

H. S. COOPER, PHYSICIAN & SURGEON

R. R. & W. E. LITTLE, ATTORNEYS AT LAW

W. M. PIATT, ATTORNEY AT LAW

The Buehler House, HARRISBURG, PENNA.

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

NORTH BRANCH HOTEL, MESHOPPO, WYOMING COUNTY, PA.

Means Hotel, TOWANDA, PA.

LADIES', MISSES' & GENTS' Silk and Cassimere Hats

M. GILMAN, DENTIST.

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

TAILORING SHOP



## Select Story.

### ROOMS TO LET.

THE RECORD OF A LITTLE MISTAKE.

"I believe it was No. 99 Mellon street," said Harry St. Cliffe as he ascended the stately flight of steps that led up to the carved doorway of what he supposed was the boarding house of which he was in search. Almost before his hand touched the bell wire, the portals swung noiselessly open.

"I suppose," he began, slightly embarrassed how to unfold his errand, "the lady is at home—"

"Oh, yes, sir—it's all right—just walk in, sir," said the portly black servant, with a broad grin upon his polished countenance. "I'll talk up stairs sir—shall I take your valise?"

St. Cliffe followed his guide up a velvet carpeted staircase, painfully conscious of being watched the while by two pretty heads stretched over a balustrade a story higher up.

"The landlady's daughters I suppose," he said to himself. "I wonder if they play the piano and keep photographic albums."

At this moment the son of Africa threw open a door, and ushered him into an elegantly furnished apartment, where folds of gleaming blue silk at the windows almost excluded the genial sun-line, and wreaths of pictured forget-me-nots blossomed upon a carpet of dark blue velvet.

"Is this the room?" inquired Harry, staring blankly at him?

"This is de room, sir," rejoined the negro, bowing low.

"And when can I see your mistress, to arrange you know, about—"

"Presently, sir—she isn't quite ready yet—it's all right sir—just make yourself at home, missis says."

The African withdrew, leaving Mr. St. Cliffe in a state of high gratification. "This is something like it," he soliloquized. "I suppose I shall have to pay roundly for all this velvet and silk upholstery, but who cares?"

He opened the door and looked out into the hall, to see if his subtle acquaintance was visible. Not a sign of him; but Harry's sensitive ear caught the dulcet intonations of female voices on the landing above.

"No luggage out a valise?" ejaculated one. "Well if that isn't curious. How does he look Minnie?"

"Oh, splendid!" answered a musical voice. "Such black eyes and whiskers!" St. Cliffe involuntarily bit of his lip at the decoration, and experienced a curious sensation of heat upon his cheeks, akin to blushing.

"How I wish I had seen him," rejoined the first speaker. "How nervous Annie must feel! What time is it, Minnie?"—Five minutes to twelve?

A momentary silence followed, then a flutter of feminine drapery.

"How do you like my dress, Kate?"—questioned the dandy with the voice like small bells. "White muslin and blue ribbons isn't so very unbecoming to me, is it?"

Kissing and giggling succeeded. Harry St. Cliffe wished he could see the countenance of the sweet-voiced Miss Minnie.

"However, I shall probably meet her at lunch," he thought, "and she will be red haired and freckled, and the vision will be dispelled!"

Nevertheless he brushed his hair with great particularity, and replaced his crumpled black silk cravat with one of delicate blue satin, fastened by an amethyst pin. Mr. St. Cliffe wasn't a dandy by any means, but still he had a very pardonable ambition to look as well as possible in the eyes of the sweet voice who had pronounced so favorable an opinion upon his *tout ensemble*.

holding a radiant young bride to his yet unsundered heart! "He found it exceedingly agreeable, but a little uncomfortable; he couldn't very well drop the young lady, and yet he felt that he had no manner of business with her pretty head on his breast!"

"Dear Frank, did you get tired of waiting?" whispered a tremulous little voice. "But my name isn't Frank!" stammered the young man nervously, "and besides—"

"Not Frank!" shrieked a chorus of voices, and in the same breath he felt himself jerked away as if he had been a straw in the grasp of a giant.

"Halloo!" ejaculated a bass voice, in accents of mingled astonishment and indignation, as a tall six-footer interposed. "I'd like to know what you are doing with my bride, young man? What does it mean, Annie?"

But Annie had gone gracefully into hysterics.

"I'm a little late, I know," said the stranger apologetically, "but the train from Philadelphia was delayed, and—don't cry, Annie, bye—my little jewel! It's some mistake—depend upon it."

What spell he used to dry the tears on Annie's rosy cheeks, and bring back the triumphant smiles, we know not, but it must have been something very potent, to judge by its effects.

"Now then, sir," said Frank Tyndale, the genuine bridegroom, turning in an off-hand sort of way to St. Cliffe, who had been standing in a resigned attitude by the door, under full fire from two pairs of eyes, one dewy hazel, the other roguish blue—the possessors being respectively Minnie Dale, and Kate Willoughby, bridesmaids off to marry "just let me understand this strange business."

"I have no explanation to offer, sir, except I am quite conscious of having made a fool of myself," replied St. Cliffe, calmly. Kate giggled, but Minnie, a delicious little brunette, neither red haired nor freckled, looked interested. "It is simply the result of a mistake. I saw in the morning paper, apartments advertised to let. I supposed this house was the place—I was in error, it seems, for coming here to engage board, I found myself when it was too late to retreat, an unwelcome guest to a wedding!"

"Hi," interposed the negro, whose white teeth were glittering in gusts of scarcely suppressed laughter, "and we all supposed the gentleman was Miss Hume's western beau; you'd ought to go to de boardin' house next door, sir! we's a private family, we is."

"To convince you that I am a gentleman, and a reckless adventurer, sir," said Harry, addressing the bridegroom, who could not contain his mischievous amusement. "I will refer you to any number of friends."

"Indeed, sir, it is entirely unnecessary," was the frank reply of the genial Westcott—"I am already convinced of that fact. But you are not going?"

"Well," said Mr. St. Cliffe, with rather a comical smile, "considering that I have received no invitation to be present at the forthcoming ceremony, I thought I might as well take leave."

"By no means," said his new acquaintance. "Stay and see Miss Annie become Mrs. Tyndale. My love will you not add your persuasions?"

"Stay," said Annie, softly, and with a pretty blush of confusion overspreading her face.

And St. Cliffe stated and accompanied the bridal party to church and afterwards heard divers explanations to the effect that Tyndale being momentarily expected to his own wedding, and none of the family save the young lady most interested having ever seen him before, he (St. Cliffe) had very naturally been mistaken for the favored individual on his abrupt appearance. And they all had a good laugh over it, and became familiar friends straightway.

"Tyndale," whispered St. Cliffe, when the bride had withdrawn to put her traveling bonnet on, "that pretty little bridesmaid with her sweet voice—"

"Well, what of her?"

"You are sure she isn't engaged to any young miscreant—I mean gentleman?"

"Quite sure—at least Annie says so—Why?"

"Noting," said St. Cliffe, trying to look uninterested and at that moment Mr. Tyndale was called away, gently to his relief. When the happy pair returned from their wedding tour, six months afterward, they discovered much to their astonishment, that Miss Minnie Dale had become "engaged" during their absence, and that Mr. St. Cliffe, waxing weary of boarding house life, was in full search of a mansion big enough to hold himself and—one other person!

## WHAT MAKES "BLUE WATER."

Any one who has made a veritable sea-voyage, says *Chambers' Journal*, cannot have failed to notice the intensely blue colors of the water in certain parts of the ocean. In the vicinity of land, he will have seen the water of a bright green color, which will be found to prevail until soundings cease to be struck. In the deep unfathomable parts of the ocean, he will have seen the water of so deep a blue as to be fully as dark as the strongest solution of blue vitrol, and even in the regions where deep blue water is the general color of the sea, he may have seen, if he has been in the Gulf Stream, or gone "down the Trades," a deeper blue than the deepest in certain localities. There is a current in the China Seas that washes the Alouatta Islands, and is so dark as compared with the other waters of the ocean that the Japanese call it the Black Stream. Other ocean streams there are and part of our portions of the ocean itself, which are more blue than their neighbors. Every West India voyager knows the marvelous blue of the Trade wind waters. The true cause of this blue color of the ocean is to be found in the saltness of the ocean; and in the case of the West India waters, in the absence of those causes which are in full operation in more northern latitudes, and which clearly mark the seas of those regions to be different from those more southerly, as their respective climates are distinguished by different degrees of heat and cold. It is observed in the pools or bays of salt works that the more concentrated the water the bluer the color of it, the saltiest of all being a fine nearly as deep as that of the intertropical waters. The light green color of the North Sea and the Polar sea is to be traced to the more southerly waters that the middle breeze drives to the north, where evaporation takes place; and the Gulf Stream off the coast of the Carolinas, and the waters of the Trade wind region, are to the other waters of the Atlantic what the last is to the penultimate, that is to say, the dark blue is saltier than the light green sea, and the deeper the blue the saltier the water.

FASHION.—Fashion rules the world, and a most tyrannical mistress she is—compelling a people to submit to the most inconceivable things imaginable, for her sake.

She pinches our feet with tight shoes, or chokes us with a tight neckerchief, or squeezes the breath out of our body by tight being.

She makes it vulgar to wait upon one's self, and genteel to beg and to be begged.

She makes a people vain when they had rather starve, and when they are not hungry, and drink when they are not thirsty.

She invades our pleasures and interrupts our business.

She compels us to dress gaily, whether upon our own property or that of others.

She ruins health, and produces sickness; destroys life, and occasions premature death.

She makes fools of parents, invalids of children, and servants of all.

She is a tormentor of conscience, a depositor of morality, and an enemy of true religion; and no one can be her companion and enjoy either.

She is a depot of the highest grade, full of fatigue and cunning, and yet husbands, wives, sons and daughters and servants have voluntarily become her subjects and slaves, and vie with one another to see who shall be most obsequious.

CORRECT SPEAKING.—We advise all young people to acquire in early life the habit of using good language, both in speaking and writing, and to abandon as early as possible the use of slang words and phrases. The longer they take the more difficult the acquisition of good language will be; and if the golden age of youth, the proper season for the acquisition of language, be passed in its abuse, the unfortunate victim of neglect of education is very probably doomed to talk slang for life. Money is not necessary to procure this education. Every man has it in his power. He has merely to use the language which he reads instead of the slang which he hears; to reform his taste from the best speakers and poets of the country; to treasure up choice phrases to his memory and habituate himself to their use, according at the same time that pedantic precision and bombast which show rather the weakness of a vain ambition than the polish of an educated mind.

BEAUTIFUL SENTIMENT.—When the Hindu priest is about to baptize a infant, he utters the following beautiful sentiment: "Little babe, thou enterest the world weeping, while all around smile; contrive so to live, that you may depart in smiles while all around you weep."

Some letter puzzles are made quite curious by a diacronimatic arrangement. Such a one is:

CC  
SI

The answer,—"The season is backward," (the Cs on "is" backward.)

The clock is said to have the least self-esteem of any article of manufacture, as it is constantly running itself down, and holding its hands before its face, however good it works.

## MESSAGE OF GOV. CURTIN.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

We have reason to be thankful to God for the blessings of peace, abundant crops, that industry has been rewarded, and that thus the Commonwealth has been able to do her full duty to herself, to the country and to posterity.

The condition of our finances is as follows:

Balance in Treasury, November 30, 1865, \$2,373,668 14

Receipts during fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1866, 5,829,668 54

Total in Treasury for fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1866, 8,203,336 68

Payments for same period have been 6,462,303 41

Balance in Treasury, December 1, 1866, 1,741,033 27

Amount of the public debt as it stood on the first day of December, 1865, \$38,476,258 06

Amount reduced at the State Treasury during the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1865, 5 percent loan, \$1,828,553 25

4 1/2 percent loan, 25,000 00

Ref. of notes, 626 00

Domestic creditors' certificates, 20 65

Public debt Dec 1, 1866, \$35,622,052 16

To wit, funded debt:

6 percent loan, \$300,000 00

5 percent loan, 22,073,162 59

4 1/2 percent loan, 213,200 00

6 percent loan, military, per act May 15, 1861, 2,820,750 00

Unfunded debt, relief notes in circulation, \$96,625 00

Interest certificates outstanding, 13,086 52

Interest certificates unclaimed, 4,448 38

Domestic creditors' certificates, 119 67

\$35,622,052 16

Assets in Treasury:

Bonds Pennsylvania Railroad Company, \$6,600,000 00

Bonds Philadelphia and Erie Railroad Company, 3,500,000 00

Interest on bonds of Philadelphia and Erie Railroad Company, 1,225,000 00

Cash in Treasury, 1,741,033 27

13,086,033 27

Liabilities in excess of assets, 22,536,018 89

35,622,052 16

Liabilities in excess of assets, November 30, 1861, \$28,148,060 36

Liabilities in excess of assets, November 30, 1866, 22,536,018 89

Improvement in Treasury since 1861, 5,615,041 47

The extraordinary expenditures, during the war and since its close, in payments growing out of it by authority of acts of Assembly, have amounted to upwards of five millions of dollars, which, added to the actual payment of the indebtedness of the State, and money in the Treasury for that purpose, shows the revenues, above the ordinary expenditures, to have amounted to \$10,612,000, which would all have been applied to the payment of the debt of the Commonwealth in the last six years. A careful attention to the revenues of the Commonwealth, with such just and prudent changes as may be required in the future, and a wise economy in expenditure will, in my judgment, insure the entire payment of the public debt, within the period of fifteen years.

the general election, in October last. By the election of a large majority of members openly favoring and advocating the amendments, that opinion seems to me to have been abundantly expressed. Indeed, the amendments are so moderate and reasonable in their character, that it would have been astonishing if the people had failed to approve them. That every person, born in the United States, and free, whether by birth or manumission, is a citizen of the United States, and that no State has a right to abridge the privileges of citizens of the United States—these are principles which were never seriously doubted anywhere, until after the insane crusade in favor of slavery had been for some time in progress. What is called the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, in the Dred Scott case, has made it expedient and proper to re assert these vital principles in an authoritative manner, and this is done in the first clause of the proposed amendments.

The right of prescribing the equalizations of voters is exercised by the respective States, under the Constitution of 1789; three-fifths of the slaves were counted in ascertaining the representative population of the several States. The amendment to the constitution abolished slavery in all the States and Territories. Though it was formerly otherwise in most, if not all, of the old Southern States, yet for many years past free Negroes have not, in any of these, been permitted to vote. At present, therefore, the late slave States would be entitled to count the whole of their former slave population, as a basis for representation, instead of three-fifths thereof. That is to say, they would have in the existing ratio about twenty more members of Congress than they had before slavery was abolished, and the free States would lose the same number, making a difference of about forty members of Congress, or, say, one sixth of the whole body. In other words, the treason of the rebellious States, the suppression of which has cost us many hundreds of thousands of precious lives, and so many thousands of millions of treasure, would be rewarded by giving them a vast increase of political power. This absurdity, the second clause of the proposed amendments, designs to prevent, by the just, equal and moderate provisions that in future, the representative population of each State shall be ascertained by making a proportionate deduction from the whole population thereof, if its laws exclude from the privilege of voting, any male citizens, not criminals of the age of twenty one years. I have yet to learn that any plausible objection can be offered to such a provision.

The third clause of the proposed amendments excludes from Congress, and from the College of Electors, and from all offices, civil and military of the United States, or of any State, persons who, as functionaries of the United States, or as Executive or Judicial officers of any State, have heretofore sworn to support the Constitution of the United States, and afterwards violated their oath by engaging in rebellion against the same, unless Congress, by a vote of two-thirds, shall have removed the disability of any such persons.

The fourth clause affirms the validity of the debt of the United States, and prohibits the assumption or payment of the rebel debt, or of any claims for the loss or emancipation of any slave.

The fifth clause provides that Congress shall have power to enforce the provisions of the other clause by appropriate legislation.

That these wise and moderate provisions will meet the hearty approbation of the Legislature, I cannot doubt. If proposed by two-thirds of each House of Congress and ratified by three-fourths of the Legislatures of the States, the Constitution provides that they should stand as adopted amendments of that instrument.

A question has been raised whether the States lately in rebellion, and not yet restored to their privileges by Congress, are to be counted on this vote—in other words, whether those who have rebelled and been subdued shall be entitled to a potential voice in the question of the guarantee to be required of them for future obedience to the laws. So monstrous a proposition it is, it appears to me, not supported by the words or spirit of the Constitution. The power to suppress insurrection, includes the power of making provisions against its breaking out afresh. These States have made an unjust war upon our Common Government and their sister States, and the power given by the Constitution to make war on our part, includes the power to dictate, after our success, the terms of peace and restoration.

The power of Congress to guarantee to every State a Republican form of Government, would cover much more cogent action that has yet been had.

The duty imposed upon Congress, to provide and maintain republican governments for the States, is to be accepted in the broadest meaning of the term. It is not a mere formal or unnecessary provision. The power was conferred, and the duty enjoined, to preserve free institutions against all encroachment, or the more violent elements of despotism and anarchy. And now that treason has, by rebellion, subverted the governments of a number of States, forfeiting for the rights guaranteed by the Constitution, including even those of property and life, the work of restoration for these States rests with the National Government, and it should be faithfully and fearlessly performed.

By their passage by Congress, and the declaration of the people at the late elections, the faith of the nation is pledged to