

HOT ON POLITICS.

CARDINAL GIBBONS has done good service to society by calling attention anew to the scandal, common to all our States, of permitting so wide an interval to elapse between the commission of a crime and the execution of a sentence.

The Cambria Herald of this week contains thirteen short original articles on its editorial page, nine of which are exhortations, most of them as frantically as they are stupid, to vote the Republican ticket.

AN AUTOMATON DETECTIVE.

That is what a "drop-a-nickel-in-the-slot" machine proved itself to be in London the other day. It was taken into an English court, and secured the conviction of a man who had palmed a counterfeit coin on it.

May not the machine, therefore, become an important factor in the business world, by superseding a good many salaried clerks? The detection of the impostor in the above named case indicates that it is more careful of its owner's interests than some clerks are.

MARRIAGE LICENSES.

The Following Have Been Granted Since Our Last Report: Lawrence L. Hoover, Allegheny twp (Mary A. Sherry) Allegheny twp (Stephen A. Myers) Derby, Pa (James W. Wolfert) Somerset twp (Mary Susan Gault) Altoona, Blair co (Cyrus J. Myers) Mountandale (Mollie L. Edmiston) Mountandale (Frank Cain) Munster twp (Alice McKim) Munster twp (Andrew S. Kirsch) Barr twp (Aurelia M. Eger) Barr twp (Peter W. Rattigan) Summerhill (Maggie Wright) Summerhill (Henry Holtzman) Cambria City (Rose Fischer) Cambria City (Thomas Miller) Barr twp (Maggie Farabaugh) Blacklick twp (Paul A. Srittmatter) Carroll twp (Mary Sophia Hoover) Carroll twp (Harry E. Campbell) East Conemaugh (Theodosia Roland) Blacklick twp (Cornelius Hunt) East Conemaugh (Sarah A. Funk) East Conemaugh (Joseph Wyland) White twp (Arlene P. Elder) Susquehanna twp (George Wessell) Cambria City (Susanna Fregier) Gallitzia

Killed a Black Bear.

Samuel Boucher and his brother, William, killed a large black bear near the former's residence in Green township, on Sunday evening last. Mr. Boucher's daughter saw the bear in the barnyard and informed her father, who armed himself with a rifle and axe, and started with a dog in pursuit of bruin.

Many Days Before it is Forgotten.

No man knows just how much suffering the Johnstown flood has caused and it will be many days before the dread effects of this catastrophe will all have been forgotten. Each week some new horror is brought to sight and instead of time decreasing the records of destruction it is increasing it.

Should Not Deprive His Family of Pleasure.

No man should deprive his wife and family of a good local newspaper. They do not get out from home to learn the news as does the husband and father, and the paper serves to relieve the otherwise lonely hours of his absence.

Two Ribs Fractured.

Saturday afternoon Jacob Zipp, who was engaged in putting the electric light wires in Morris Newman's store, Clinton street, fell twelve feet to the pavement, striking a store-box on the way, and fracturing two of his ribs.

The issuing of checks will hereafter not proceed in any definite order. The alphabetical method has been dispensed with. The smaller claims, however, will be paid first.

CONSOLIDATION.

The Biggest Guns of the Anti-Consolidationists Spiked—Meetings in

CONEMAUGH AND MILLVILLE.

Col. Linton and A. J. Moxham, Esq., the Speakers—No Injustice to Any One—Each Borough Would Have to Pay the Debts It Had Contracted Prior to Consolidation—Our Opportunity Here—The Question Can Not be Voted on A203 for Three Years.

Meetings to discuss the advisability of consolidation were held on Saturday in Conemaugh borough and Millville, in the former place at 3 o'clock P. M. and in the latter at 7 o'clock. At both places Col. Linton and A. J. Moxham, Esq., spoke.

In Conemaugh borough, acting-Burgess Peter S. Freidhoff presided, and M. I. Carroll was made Secretary. A list of Vice Presidents was named, but upon calling their names none of them were found to be present.

In Millville, Burgess Thos. P. Keedy presided and Justice W. C. Bland acted as Secretary. The meeting was held in the office of the latter.

At both places Col. Linton spoke first, his remarks being substantially as follows:

"Mr. President and fellow citizens, we are not here to day so much to advocate any views of our own or to try to persuade the people of these different boroughs to vote any certain way as is often done in a political canvass. But we meet together to consider the advisability and the propriety of having all these different boroughs consolidate into a city. I have my views on the subject, some one else may have altogether different opinions about the matter. We are here to compare views, and to arrive at the truth, which can not be on both sides, but must be on one side or the other. For my part I have always been in favor of consolidation, but I may be wrong, and am here open to conviction. If when I have talked anyone can show any objections to our becoming a city, which we can not answer, the advocates of consolidation must be in the wrong and should vote against it. Every citizen who votes on this subject should get all the light on it possible. His vote should be cast intelligently, and not at the dictation of some one else. It is a question for each man himself.

"The first argument in favor of consolidation that occurs to me is, that it would enable us to get industries here that would not otherwise locate in our midst. Some ten years ago I was talking with Mr. Randolph, chief engineer of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, and he told me of the difficulty into which he got by reason of Johnstown's not showing up in the census to be what it really is. Mr. Randolph had been sent to Johnstown from Somerset to see what kind of place it was and to report whether, considering the cost, it would be good business management to extend the Somerset branch of that railroad to Johnstown. He came here, looked around the place, asked about our population, which he was told was nearly 25,000 and made so favorable a report to the directors of the road that they forthwith ordered the branch to be extended to Johnstown, and the work of construction was soon in progress. Before the work had gone very far, however, Mr. Randolph was hastily summoned before the Vice President of the road, Mr. King, and charged with misrepresenting matters to the Board of Directors, for, upon writing to Superintendent Walker, of the Census Bureau, he had learned that Johnstown was a place of a little over 8,000 people. Mr. Randolph was at first dumfounded, and it was only after a good deal of trouble that he was able to find out and report to the Vice-President that 'Johnstown' really meant the ten or more towns in the Conemaugh Valley, of which Johnstown borough was only the central part. It is so with other enterprises seeking a place to establish themselves. We are lashed, as it were, by the census report. Capitalists would pass by a town of 8,000 people, but a city of 30,000 would attract attention everywhere.

"Another point in favor of consolidation is that we could have better sanitary regulations. We could have better sewerage and a Board of Health. Litigation about outlets for sewers, such as we have had, would be a thing of the past. There would be economy in this. Suits about river boundaries between the different boroughs would be at an end, and much expense saved.

"We could better, were we a city, resist the encroachments of corporations. Some years ago I had the honor to be the Counsel of Conemaugh borough, when it attempted to restrain the Pennsylvania Railroad from narrowing the bed of the Conemaugh along its boundaries. But we soon found that, while we could prevent any encroachments on the river on to the Conemaugh borough side, we had no power to prevent the filling in on the opposite side, and thus the money spent in the litigation was lost. A city would have absolute power over the streams within its

boundaries, could say how wide they should be, and would be much better able, to grapple with the corporation and enforce its ordinance than any or all of the boroughs.

"The tax problem seems to give some people trouble. The laws providing for the incorporation of cities of the third class are very specific on that point. There is a limit to the amount of tax the city would be allowed to levy. By request the Colonel read the law on that subject. It is found in Laws of Pennsylvania, 1889, page 290, Section 3d, and reads as follows:

Every city of the third class in its corporate capacity, is authorized and empowered to enact ordinances for the following purposes, in addition to the other powers granted by this act:

- 1. To levy and collect, for general revenue purposes, not to exceed ten mills on the dollar in any one year, on all persons, real, personal and mixed property within the limits of said city (taxable according to the laws of the state of Pennsylvania for county purposes); the valuation of such property to be assessed as hereinafter provided.
- 2. To provide for the assessment and collection of taxes, in addition to the above, not exceeding one percentum on the dollar upon the assessed valuation in any one year, on all persons, real and personal property and all other matters and things within said city, taxable for county purposes, for the payment of interest on bonded indebtedness and for the payment of loans to support the government and to make it necessary in its operations in said city.

"The fact that some of our boroughs are much more heavily in debt than the others, and that, if we were to become a city, those having little or no debts would have to help pay the debts of the others, has always been a favorite argument against consolidation with some. Such a thing, would, of course, be an injustice, and I am happy that such is not the fact. The principle of right and justice, which pervades all our laws, would permit no such outrage.

Here the Colonel was again called upon to read the law and read from the same source mentioned above, page 279, part of section 3d, which provides:

- That where two or more towns or boroughs shall, under the provisions of this act, be consolidated into a city, the debt or debts of each of said towns or boroughs contracted prior to such consolidation shall be paid by such towns or boroughs, respectively, and for the liquidation of such debts the authorities of such city shall have power to adjust and provide for the same and to levy separate rates of taxation on all property subject to taxation within the boundaries of the said towns or boroughs respectively.

"The question of self," continued Col. Linton, "is not the question upon which this matter of consolidation should hinge. It is a question of common good. I do not see how my own pecuniary interests are to be advanced by consolidation. I am now and have often been the counsel for some of the boroughs. Were we to become a city I should lose that much at least. But when it comes to a question of common public good, I can see how we all have much to gain. In fact there has never occurred to me one good, sound legitimate reason why we should not consolidate. Some of the local political leaders may be afraid of losing their notoriety, but they would still have their wards to look after, and perhaps would be able to gain as much notoriety as by the present system.

"It is argued that, were we to consolidate the centre of the city, Johnstown, would be the convenience of its councilmen get most of the improvements, and the outlying portions would have to wait. Let us examine this objection in the light of our past experience.

"The same objection was raised when Kernville was about to become a part of Johnstown borough. What has been the history of Kernville since? Her streets have all been paved, even up the hill in places, and the lights have been extended almost into the woods. She has sewerage also, in fact, is much better improved than she could have been had she become a borough by herself. Then such thing would be unfair and contrary to the spirit of right. And if it were attempted to do such injustice, the outlying wards would be able to out-vote the central portion of the city. Johnstown borough would furnish much less than half the population should the whole valley be chartered a city.

"The matter of police regulations must appeal to every citizen who has regard for the preservation of order and the public peace. We know how, under the present system, the policemen are hampered. In the pursuit of an offender or in the discharge of any official duty, they are limited by the borough lines. They have no authority beyond the lines of their respective boroughs. Suppose we had a city government, and any serious disturbance or riot should break out. Then the whole police force could be concentrated at once where needed. How would it be now? The question need not be answered.

"Taking all things into consideration I can not help thinking that, as a whole, this community would very largely add to its importance and influence by becoming a city, and that in the end it would be much better for us all."

Mr. Moxham was then introduced and said in substance what follows:

"I hardly know why I am here, for as you perhaps know I am not a citizen of this country. It may be because all my interests are here. All I have is here, and since the flood I have in some way or other been thrown into public affairs. I have seen so much suffering resulting from a want of unity of action that it has made me very much in favor of consolidation, even if I had been indifferent in the matter before. During the whole time since the flood we have had no man or body of men, no committee, that could speak for the people of

this whole valley. There has been want of unity, there has been diversity of opinion, and consequent diversity of action. When the money was collected in all parts of the country there was no one to whom to send it. Those who had the funds were inquiring to whom they should send it. There was no one to reply until finally Governor Beaver, as the Chief Executive of the State, asked to have the money sent to him, and he would see to its distribution. With a city government and one central authority empowered to act for our 30,000 people there would have been no Flood Commission, and the money would have been distributed long ago. Much of the suffering that will have to be endured this coming winter will be in consequence of our not having had a power that could speak for all our people. I do not wish to reflect upon the different committees that have grown out of the flood. They have all done nobly. I have some idea of the difficulties to be encountered by these committees. The work would not have been half so great and would have been much more quickly done, if we had had some one empowered to speak for us all.

"There is another matter that should receive our careful consideration. I speak of education. I do not know of any other place consisting of so many different and separate municipalities as this valley, that has so many good schools but still there is something wanting. We have no central high school. I trust there is no one here who does not want his children to have it better, if possible, than he has had it. We are a people who over advancement, and I think this matter of education is deserving of its full share of attention. With one system throughout the valley and a good central high school, we should enjoy advantages of which most of us are now deprived.

"The question of consolidation is one that appeals most strongly to every man's sense of public spirit. Selfishness must be sunk now if it is ever to be sunk. Our needs are greater now. They will be great also in the near future.

"The Cambria Iron Company, I know has officially declared itself neutral in the matter. My company, as a company, is against it, but that is a good reason why the people should be for it. Corporations sometimes encroach or attempt to encroach upon our individual rights. We can better resist if we act as a unit. Put the interests of \$1,000,000 against those of a borough of 1,000 people most of whom look to that \$1,000,000 for their daily bread, and you know which way the thing will go. Put the same against 30,000 people, and it will have practically no influence.

"Then we as a city can do many things cheaper. We shall have better credit. There will be more competition to get the work that a city wishes to get done than what a small borough desires to have done. If a city of 30,000 people wants some important public work done, attention is drawn to it at once. If a borough unheard of outside of its county, wants work of a like kind done, it has to seek for some one to do it."

At the conclusion of the speeches at both meetings an opportunity of questioning the speakers was given but there were none to be asked. The attendance was not large at either meeting, but those present manifested much interest.

Those Records.

Ebensburg Freeman.

In the Johnstown Tribune, of Monday, the following correspondence appears:

To the Editor of the Johnstown Tribune.

Sir: I would like, with your permission, to propose a few questions to the voting taxpayers of Cambria county. Do you think fellow-taxpayers, that it should be necessary to have the records of the Register's office transcribed? Did not the court, in ordering that they be transcribed, place the seal of its disapproval on the work of some of the former Register's clerks? Have you any assurance that the work of transcribing is being correctly executed? Have you any idea of the cost to the county of this undertaking with initials? Has not the present incumbent already realized as much from the emoluments of his office as many other registers? If far more clerks on the staff of the Register's office, is it not a waste of money? Would it not have been better to have employed none but competent men like Mr. Zahm? Would it not be a wise act of the voters of the county to make a change in the office, that in the event of the court being compelled to have the work of transcribing corrected, it will be in the hands of a man who will employ suitable persons to perform the work? Does it not look as though the employment of a large clerical force in the Register's office is intended to strengthen the political prospects of Register Blair? Is it not to the interest of the taxpayers of the county to see that hereafter none but competent men be chosen for this responsible office, that the records may be kept in such shape that there will be no necessity for an outlay of thousands of dollars to remedy defects that should never exist in the records of the county? A TAXPAYER.

Respectfully submitted by The correspondent of the Tribune who wrote the above evidently did not know what he was writing about. For his information and for others who are willing to learn, we will inform him that instead of the Court placing its seal of disapproval on the work of some of the former Democratic Registers, Judge Johnston, who is one of the oldest members of the Cambria County Bar, is too young to know whether some of the officials who did the work were Democrats or not.

It is absolutely certain, however, that it is not the work of Republicans for the simple reason that at the time it was done the Republican party was not in existence. The books to be transcribed are Records Volume 1, 2, 3 and 4 and were written by Edward V. James, Cambria County's first Prothonotary, Cornelius McDonald, James C. McGuire, Philip Noon, A. Bausman and D. T. Storm, who in the order mentioned were his successors in office. Some of them were Democrats, and we are willing to claim them all, for their work is a credit to them and to the

people who elected them. The old records of Cambria county will compare favorably in clerical ability, with any records in Pennsylvania, but age, which has no respect for books or persons, has wrought sad havoc with the paper and binding. Some of them have been handled and used for upwards of eighty years, and are literally in pieces. Judge Jeremiah S. Black, Judge Burnsides, Judge Taylor, Joshua F. Cox, John G. Miles, Moses Cassin, Michael Dan Magehan, Henry D. Foster and scores of other legal luminaries, who have long since gone to their eternal rest have pored over these old books in the early days of their legal practice hunting up the titles in the great land suits tried in this county and grew eloquent as they detailed to juries, the marks, blazes, corners and lines written on their pages. One old citizen of Johnstown, David Peeler, in hunting up the titles to the Cambria Iron Company's land has thumbed them over often than the Daily Tribune has been issued. The indexes were transcribed about five years ago by a Republican official, John H. Brown, and the records should have been transcribed long before now. It is, however, worrisome the Tribune's correspondent to think that the work should be done by a Democrat.

As to the second paragraph the writer admits that Gess C. K. Zahm is competent to direct the work. If the work is necessary, and no man who knows anything about the records doubts it, what more is wanted. The work is not done to remedy defects as stated by the Tribune's correspondent but to preserve for the future, what age and constant use has worn to pieces.

IN FINANCIAL STRAITS.

The Mutual Accident Association of Pittsburgh Offering to Compromise on Twenty-Five Per Cent.

What appears to be an outrageous imposition upon some of our most needy people is coming to light. A number of the men who were lost in the flood had accident policies in the company named above. No step toward paying any of the claims was taken until long after the policies should have been paid. The necessary papers were presented at length and the company seemed to be about ready to pay its indebtedness. Yesterday a representative of the company came to the city and startled the claimants by making them two propositions, either to accept twenty-five per cent. of the claims, or to take the company for it. Most of the beneficiaries being widows, they accepted the offers, but they are given ten days in which to return the money and institute action against the company, should they not be satisfied with the compromise. This has been a great disappointment to many of these women, as they counted on getting the full amount, and many of them lost everything by the flood and are in needy circumstances.

The officers of the company are probably doing the best they can for in the risks they took they never counted on such a wholesale loss as that occasioned by the flood. The company is a mutual one, and the assessment occasioned by the paying of seventeen policies, ranging from \$1,000 to \$11,000 each, would make it pretty heavy for the remaining policy holders. It is feared that many of them would drop their policies rather than pay the assessment.

THE BODY OF JAMES B. HOWARD

To Be Raised To-day and Interred in Lower Yoder Cemetery.

Saturday evening, on the 5:12 train, Miss Julia Howard, of Altoona, sister of the late James B. Howard, who was drowned in the flood, arrived in the city. She has secured a lot in the Lower Yoder Cemetery, and to day will have the remains of her brother raised in Grand View and taken to the former place for permanent interment. Miss Howard had in her charge her niece, Miss Lizzie, her brother's daughter, until fall session at Seaton Hill school opened, when Lizzie was sent there by her aunt.

Mr. Howard was a familiar figure on our streets, and was very popular among his many friends. The flood caught him at Creed's corner. He was a wire drawer by occupation, and being a widower, he boarded with Mrs. Brady, on Singer street. James, his son, is now in St. Louis.

The Remains of Mr. John Quinn and His Sister Ellen Reinterred.

Saturday Mr. James Quinn had the remains of his sister Ellen raised from where they had been temporarily buried in Grand View, and taken to the family lot in Lower Yoder cemetery. Miss Quinn was at her home on the site now occupied by the Democrat office, when the flood came. Her brother John Quinn, was with her.

On a Tour of Observation.

Mr. Frank Williams, Superintendent of the Michigan Steel Works at Detroit, Mich., son of our old friend, Mr. James Williams, Superintendent of the Water and Gas Company, sails this morning from New York for Europe. He goes for the purpose of observing how they make steel across the waters, his trip including England and France. Frank stopped off Thursday evening on his way east to bid his parents good bye. During his absence his brother, Mr. Homer D. Williams, will have charge of the Detroit works.