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In short anything to feed man or beast. Furthermore, we are JOBBERS OF CARBON OIL and can save merchants money on this line, as we buy car-load lots. We are also

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We pay cash for good Butter and nice, clean Fresh Eggs. Come and see what advantages we offer.

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JUSTICE CYCLE CO., Ltd., Gen. Agts.,
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DON'T BE DECEIVED.

POLITICAL VAGABONDS WHO ARE TRYING TO PLUNGE THE COUNTY DEEPER INTO DEBT, BECAUSE THE COMMISSIONERS REFUSE TO GIVE THEM THE COUNTY PRINTING AT ILLEGAL AND UNJUST RATES.—SOME POINTERS THAT OUGHT TO OPEN THE EYES OF ALL RIGHT-MINDED PEOPLE.

Lucifer Smith, who presides over the Meyersdale Scullsheet, last week tried to make it appear that the County Commissioners' annual statement published in THE STAR, Somerset Standard and Somerset Democrat is a bogus statement, and he is now going to find out how the County Commissioners can suppress the publication of the County Auditors' report. Bless your soul, old man, the County Auditors have no report to publish. The Commissioners are required, by law, to publish their own statement of receipts and expenditures annually. The Auditors' report does not require publication, and no doubt the Auditors themselves would be glad to have it suppressed, this year, since their work shows up to such bad advantage. The Commissioners can not prevent any newspaper from publishing the Auditors' report. But Bro. Smith is such an inveterate investigator that we would like to see him push this investigation. He is always entertaining in the throes of an investigation. His imagination scintillates like forked lightning in the gloom of a great public investigation. Before he became the journalistic Lucifer of Somerset county politics he was the champion investigator of investigators. By all means, Bro. Smith, push the investigation; and, incidentally, investigate and see whether the bunco Auditors haven't passed you a dish of "dead horse?"

THE POOR HOUSE ACCOUNTS.

Has the Poor House settlement been examined? If not, why not? It would be a miracle, indeed, if that account should be found to be correct. The same official nincompoops who settled the county accounts made the Poor House settlement. It ought to be some one's duty to look into the Poor House account.

GUilty OR NOT Guilty?

The question that is agitating the minds of the people of Somerset county is whether the errors of the County Auditors were innocent miscalculations or whether they were the ground work for a big steal. Such things have happened in Somerset county before, when the Auditors' reports passed without challenge.

THE STAR prefers to believe the errors to be the greatest exhibition of stupidity in the history of Somerset county officialdom.

There is only one phase of this remarkable piece of "auditing" that casts suspicion upon the work of the Auditors. That is the "stop thief," cry the Auditors have raised after the County Commissioners. As a rule the fellow who habitually accuses his fellow-men needs watching himself. But even this can be explained when it is understood how hard up the Scull-seeker fellows are for campaign rot of some description. The old Scull "hog-wash" will no longer answer for campaign purposes. The people have been fooled so often by their "Timmy-Freddy" lies that they refuse to be humbugged any longer. Hence the necessity for a new issue.

But the Auditors' work has recoiled upon them with ten-fold momentum. They dug a deep ditch for the Commissioners and lo! they fell into it themselves; and the archangel's trumpet will never resurrect the political remains of Auditors Bowman and Rhoads. Jerry Rhoads passes for a pretty good citizen, but the rich for office has gotten away with his judgment, and the "Barker Liniment" gang has made an instrument of their own liking of poor old Jerry. Big Ben Bowman has had better luck. The Sculls got him the Berlin postoffice. He resigned the postoffice and had his wife appointed postmistress under a mistaken impression that his services were indispensable to the public in the capacity of County Auditor. Bowman is also a tool, but works the Scull gang for more office than Jerry can. He is smart enough to know, too, that if he doesn't get in his double work now the Scull crib will soon be empty forever. Peter Sipe is a fine old man, retired from a long business life of successful merchandising. Bowman can't fool him again.

ABILITY DISCOUNTED.

The only member of the board of County Auditors who could do the work necessary to make a complete and accurate report is County Auditor Peter Sipe; but he was unceremoniously pushed to the rear by that officious Auditor, "Benjy" Bowman, who gave Mr. Sipe to understand that the work of auditing was too complicated and oner-

ous for a new member. Mr. Sipe has expressed himself as being much disgusted at Bowman's proceedings. The work could have been done in half the time if Auditor Bowman had not spent so much of his time in Fred. Biesecker's office getting "pointers." Biesecker and Bowman combined could hardly audit a township supervisor's account.

OH! WHERE WAS "TIM"?

Next time Auditors Bowman and Rhoads get down to audit the county's accounts with their blunderbuses they should call in "Tim Scull, the little boss of the Scull faction. "Timmie" is an auditor with a big A. He has done more auditing than any other man in Somerset county since Judge Longenecker has sat on the bench. Biesecker is a close second, but experience has not improved him. "Timmie" is the man to wind up the Bowman-Rhoads auditing syndicate with a big "Barker Liniment" flourish.

AN HONEST, CAPABLE CLERK.

Much credit is due to the able, conscientious clerk of the County Commissioners, Mr. John G. Emert, in straightening out the crooked work of the County Auditors. The report of the County Auditors is the work of seven men, who labored and sweated over that piece of monumental botchwork twenty-eight days. Clerk Emert, single-handed and alone, went over the same ground in five days, and when he finished the job his work was accurately done. Mr. Emert is the right man in the right place. Some day the people will call him up higher.

SHOWS UGLY WORK.

One Way the Ringsters Planned to Work a Scheme.

Somerset Standard. The following petition has been prepared by the gentleman whose signature it bears, and will be presented to the Court at the proper time:

To the Honorable, the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of Somerset County.

The petition of Peter Sipe respectfully represents that he is one of the county auditors and that the Board of Auditors met at the Court House on the 3d January, A. D. 1898, to audit, settle and adjust the accounts of the county officers and were in session twenty-eight days and finished their work on Friday, the 6th day of February, A. D. 1898.

He further represents that there was a difference of opinion between the members of the board as to the matters that were to be surcharged to the Commissioners of Somerset county, and your petitioner alleges that he did not agree to surcharge the County Commissioners on order No. 6 for \$142.50 (for interest on borrowed money) and order No. 359, calling for \$300 for metallic files in the Prothonotary's office, but did agree that they should be surcharged on order 522 for \$59.59 interest on order.

He further represents that A. J. Hileman, clerk to the board, agreed to prepare the report showing that your petitioner disagreed as to the above items and agreed to the surcharge of \$59.59.

He further represents that B. J. Bowman, one of the auditors, prior to the completion of the audit, read a paper prepared by himself, or some one else, commenting on the action of the County Commissioners and censuring them for certain matters, and your petitioner avers that he refused to agree to the same, or that it should be attached to the report, and he further says that the report was read to the Board by the clerk, that it did not contain the matter which had been read by B. J. Bowman.

He further represents that before the report was signed by the Auditors the clerk was asked whether it was the same as had been previously read by him to the Board and he replied that it was, with the exception of an item relating to unsented lands, whereupon your petitioner, having confidence in the clerk, signed the report.

He further represents that he has discovered since signing the same, that it contains several matters to which he did not give his consent, as follows, to-wit:

1st, Surcharging the County Commissioners with orders Nos. 6 and 359 as above set forth.

2nd, In not preparing the report so as to show that your petitioner only agreed to surcharge the Commissioners with \$59.59, as above set forth.

3rd, In that part of the report commencing with the words "Before concluding our report we deem it our duty" &c., and ending with the words, "We also certify and found that the sum of \$55, received through County Commissioners for the state of Pennsylvania for the use of the county of Somerset has not been turned into the county treasury."

He therefore prays that a rule be granted on the other Auditors and the clerk to show cause why the report should not be amended so as to conform the facts herein set forth, or that his name be stricken from said report.

PETER SIPE.

(An affidavit of truth is appended.)

Brilliant Auditing.

As a sample of the ability of the auditors who undertake to criticize the method of book-keeping in the Commissioners' office, we refer the public to a single item in the Auditors' report filed in the Prothonotary's office. It reads: "Balance due Wm. Winters, Esq., County Treasurer, \$9,047.56," when in fact that amount is due the county from the treasurer. Think of it! An error of \$18,095.12 in a single item by men who assume to be critics! Isn't it brilliant? Doesn't it seem that a man who was appointed postmaster, then withdrawn and his wife appointed in order that he might delve into the accounts of the county, ought to do better than this?—Somerset Standard.

Well, we don't know about his doing better. THE STAR thinks Auditor Bowman did exceedingly well as far as he went, but he did not go far enough. Such a man isn't fit for postmaster, and in resigning the office and having his wife appointed he did well. The only pity is that he didn't have another wife to act as auditor for him, for any old woman would be more capable of filling the office. We think Bowman did exceedingly well for a man of his mental calibre. He has shown what greed some men have for office, and he has also shown that in him the skunk element of the human family is exceedingly well represented. Therefore, we repeat it, he has done as well as could have been expected.

The Everet Republican is booming Ex-Prothonotary R. C. Haderman as the choice of the Republicans of Bedford county for the Republican Congressional nomination this year.

The Johnstown Tribune seems to have about the same idea of the burning of the Pennsylvania Capitol building as that held by Dr. Swallow. Yes, and "there are others," thousands of them.

ANOTHER World's Fair is to be held. This time Greater New York will take off the event. A bill providing for the expenses has been passed by the New York legislature. The time set is in the year 1901.

The three leading newspapers of Nashville, Tenn., employ women reporters. Miss Walker represents the Sun, Mrs. Duncan the American, and Miss Potterfield the Banner. All are able to do credit to their calling.

The Philadelphia Times publishes the names and portraits of a lot of men who would be willing to accept the Republican nomination for Governor of Pennsylvania. Congressman Hicks is included in the number.

During the Crimean War more than one-half (63.5 per cent.) of the amputations that were performed resulted in death. In the American Civil War the mortality from amputation was still 48.1 per cent. but in 1890 the statistics of amputation showed that the mortality had been reduced to 6.9 per cent. The value of antiseptic surgery is thus shown.

Does anybody recall an embezzler of any large amount of money who was permitted to serve out the term of imprisonment prescribed by law for the offense? And yet does any one know of a lower, meaner, form of stealing than that in which the thief not only takes what does not belong to him, but betrays a trust, and not from necessity, as he is generally a man of comfortable income aside from his pilferings? Moreland, Pittsburg's City Attorney, is the latest addition to the list of such.—Johnstown Tribune.

The spread of Mormonism in Fulton county, Pa., and Washington county, Md., is causing great alarm among the inhabitants of those two counties. Ministers of other denominations are doing all they can against the Mormon missionaries, but in spite of all the opposition, the Mormon faith is rapidly spreading. In Bucks Valley, Fulton county, the converts to Mormonism largely exceed one hundred, says the Everet Republican, and adds that most of them belong to families of good financial standing. The missionaries all resemble each other, dress plainly and have services at private houses.

WHAT'S the use in all this squabbling and getting out injunctions and filing bills in equity, anyhow, in connection

with the new State Capitol that is to be—perhaps. Suppose the Building Commission should make the worst job possible under the circumstances. Does anybody doubt that the cage would still be too good for the animals? Building marble walls around an aggregation such as the people have been sending to Harrisburg in late years to make their laws is not only extravagant, but ludicrous. Even artistic decorations at a dollar a square foot won't make brains, guption, sand or honesty.—Johnstown Tribune.

CONGRESS recently passed an appropriation bill which should never have been recognized by that body, much less passed. The bill appropriates \$288,000 to the Southern Methodist church, to reimburse it for the loss of its publishing house, which was taken possession of and despoiled by Union soldiers during the Rebellion. The reason why this appropriation should not be made is simply this: The Methodist church became divided against itself on account of the slavery question, the Southern wing cutting entirely loose from the Northern wing and establishing a publishing house of its own at Nashville, Tennessee. This publishing house at once began to print and circulate secession tracts calculated to stimulate the Southern cause, and this was kept up until Union troops seized the house and put a stop to the business of encouraging treason and secession. Under the circumstances it is to be hoped that this bill will be knocked out in the Senate. Following is a sample of the tracts printed and sent out by the aforesaid publishing house. Read it, and then, as a loyal citizen of the United States, judge for yourself whether this Southern concern ought to be rewarded for its treason.

THE SOUTHERN MOTHER'S CHARGE.

I love you as my life,
My dear, beloved son,
Your country calls—go forth and fight,
Thill freedom's cause is won.
It may be that you fall in death,
Contenting for your home,
Yet your aged mother will not be
Forsaken, though alone.
A thousand generous hearts there are
Throughout the sunny land,
Whose ample fortune will be spent
With an unsparring hand.
Now go, my son, a mother's prayers
Will ever follow thee,
And in the thickest of the fight,
Strike home for liberty.
On every hill, in every glen,
We'll fight till we are free—
We'll fight till every limpid brook
Runs crimson to the sea.
No truce we know till every foe
Shall leave our halloved sod,
And we regain the heaven-born boon—
Freedom to worship God.

Criticizing the President.

Baltimore Sun. Without undertaking to underestimate the magnitude of Minister de Lome's offense, it is probable that those who will most vigorously denounce his allusion to the President have themselves been guilty of applying phrases equally as insulting to Mr. McKinley or to his distinguished predecessor. When Mr. Cleveland was the chief executive of the Nation he was denounced in Congress and by the opposition press in terms compared with which the phrases attributed to the Spanish minister are mild and inoffensive. Since Mr. McKinley has been in the White House he has had a similar experience. Scarcely a day passes in which the advocates of the recognition of the Cuban insurgents do not attack him in the language of bitter denunciation, while those who are at odds with him on the financial issue employ the vocabulary of abuse on every possible occasion. For the benefit of those who do not understand our customs and methods it ought to be stated that we reserve to ourselves exclusively the right to abuse our public officials, from President down. The right of denunciation, which we claim and use unstintedly, is not transferable, and woe be unto the diplomat who thinks otherwise. The privilege of insulting the President is a national prerogative which we do not share with the representatives of the inferior civilization of Europe. If Minister de Lome had not mastered this fundamental principle of true and unadulterated Americanism he has not used his powers of observation as wisely as he should, and will have only himself to blame for his recall. There was no necessity for him to write a letter. He could have found more vigorous phrases and an unlimited supply of them in almost any copy of the "Congressional Record" published since March 4 last, and he could have kept Senator Canjijas and the Sagasta ministry busy for months finding out an American authority how bad a man even so honorable and conscientious a President as Mr. McKinley can be represented to be by his political opponents.