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SALISBURY, ELK LICK POSTOFFICE, PA., FEBRUARY 24, 1898.

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Space is too limited to enumerate all my bargains here Call and be convinced that I sell the best of goods at the lowest living prices.

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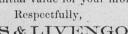
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ALL KINDS OF STAPLE GROCERIES,

Feed, Flour, Corn, Oats, Etc. In short anything to feed man or beast. Furthermore, we are JOBBERS

"AXIE" YODER. A True Story of the Life of the Old time on the farm, and later entered in-Axe-Maker of Elk Lick Township.

BY W. H. WELFLEY.

f"Axie and the other Argonauts." the article mentioned in the first paragraph of the following article, and which seems to have been somewhat misleading, was published in THE STAR as well as in the Somerset Herald. By request of the 1816. He remained in the city somepublished in THE STAR as well as in the author, THE STAR reproduces his excellent article in last week's *Herald*, in ness. Deciding to quit the city, he laid which it is calculated to represent the in a considerable stock of the more old axe-maker as he really was.-ED.] The readers of the *Herald* will doubtless remember an amusing article which appeared in its columns in 1895, entitled "Axie and other Argonauts," the central figure or hero of which was the late Joseph J. Joder. Now, it is true that the legends con-

corning him as they are related in that article, do substantially exist among the township, all of which accounts were older families of Elk Lick and Summit townships, where they have been handed down for several generations, and the talented author, when he condensed them into a newspaper article, was not drawing very much, if any, upon his imagination.

These legends had their first origin among the more ignorant of his neighbors-people who did not really know nor understand a man who, notwithstanding his plain garb and the fact that he had been brought up among them, was, so far as education and general information were concerned, far in advance of many of his fellows-and they place him in a somewhat false light in the eyes of the present genera-tion, among whom his name still lingers. His lines were cast in what may be called the primitive times of the settlement, days in which, any man of an investigating turn of mind could expect to be accused of dealing in the "black art."

A different story of this man's life can be told from that which would be looked for after hearing these legends as they are still related, and it is the present writer's purpose to try and tell something of this story.

Jacob Joder (the name in our time is usually spelled and pronounced Yoder) was one of the early pioneer settlers of Somerset county. He is said to have been born in Switzerland, or possibly in one of the German protestant provinces, and came to America when quite a young man. It is known that his father also emigrated to America, but his name is forgotten, nor is it known that he ever lived in Somerset county. Jacob Joder (or Yoder) took up a farm on the east bank of the Casselman river, about two and a half miles west of what is now Meyersdale, about the year 1780, possibly a year or two earlier, or perhaps a little latter; the precise date can not now be determin-What is now known as Yoder sta-

tion is on this farm. His wife was a daughter of John Hochstetler, who was the pioneer ancester of the Hochstetler family of our day. The family of Jacob Yoder consisted

of four sons and three daughters, as follows: John, Elizabeth, Joseph J., Anna, Sarah, Daniel and Solomon. Of these, John Yoder was married to a sister of the late Michael Sipe, and moved to Holmes county, Ohio; Eliza-beth Yoder became the wife of Jost Schrock; Anna Yoder was married to

to a partnership with John Bittner, who was also a blacksmith. This continued until late in 1815.

About this time he determined to go to Philadelphia, where he apprenticed himsel to Elliot & Co. for the purpose of learning the art of watchmaking thing over a year employed in this busifancy goods of that day, supplied himself with a set of watchmaker's tools and returned to Somerset county, when he engaged in the occupation of pedas well as repairing watches dling, and clocks.

An old account-book shows that he sold goods on credit to one hundred settled and paid save two; these two persons living somewhat out of the way were never asked to pay. Would a peddler or any other business man fare so well in giving credit to the descendants of these people in the present day?

In 1820 he established himself in Salisbury and opened a shop for the repairing of watches and clocks; but that section was then still sparsely settled and he soon left the town and returned to his father's farm. In December, 1820, he married Ger-trude Schrock. He settled himself in

ers.

a shop near the mouth of Blue Lick run and resumed the blacksmithing business. This was in a general way, doing all sorts of such work in this line as is required in a community of farm-He was not long in finding out that there was need and a call in the community for axes and edge tools, such as drawing knives, etc., and that none of the blacksmiths were able to make them; for hardly one in a hun-dred among them could weld caststeel upon iron. He therefore began to experiment in the way of welding caststeel and in tempering it when it was welded, and in time mastered it thor-oughly. But to do this, it was neces-

sary to devote some time to the study of chemistry and metallurgy. He bought the needed books, supplied himself with an outfit of chemical apparatus, etc., necded for his experiments and inves-

tigation, and in time he became a rather expert chemist, at least so far as the working of iron and steel was concerned. Now a man can not do a work of this sort in just the same manner that he would go about in the making of a horse-shoe or a cow-chain. He had to prepare for himself a sort of a laboratory where he could carry on his experiments and keep his apparatus, etc., free from the hands of outside med-dlers. Naturally he would keep it under lock and key; and just this is what gave rise to those legends that became black art, and had entered into a league

with the evil one; some even went so far as to say that he made counterfeit money in this secret chamber. Among other things used in the suchad a method of pulverizing and pre-

longer with one Jacob Dietz. In 1814 not possible for any one man to make he stayed with his father for a short all the axes and other tools that were apprentices, who were carefully in-structed in the art, and who, as they

County Star.

became free, were given employment as journeymen. The late Aaron Schrock, of Middlecreek, who was his brother-in-law, was the first of these apprentices. The article, of indenture bearing the date of September 22, 1821, and written by Joseph J. Joder himself in a fair clerkly hand, is still in posses-

obey. He shall do no damage to his said master, nor see it done by others, without letting or giving notice thereof to his said master. He shall not waste his said mas-ter's goods, nor lend them unlawfully to any. He shall neither buy nor soll. He shall not absent himself day or night from his said master's service without his leave, nor haunt ale-houses, taverns or play-houses, but in all things behave himself as a faithful appren-tice ought to do during the said term. And the said master shall use the utmost? of his endeavors to tench or cause to be taught or the said master shall use the utmost' of his endeavors to teach or cause to be taught or instructed the said apprentice in the trade or mystery of a blacksmith, and procure for him sufficient meat, drink, apparel, lodging and washing, fitting for an apprentice, dur-ing the said term of three years, and give within said term one month's schooling, and give him also yearly twelve days free in hav-making and harvest-line, and when in hay-making and harvest-time; and when he is free give him two suits of clothing

he is free give him two suits of clothing, one good watch, and one good rife. And for the performance of all and singu-lar the covenants and agreements aforesaid, the said parties bind themselves each unto the other firmly by these presents. *In Witness Whereof* the said parties have set their hands and seals hereunto. Dated the first day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-one. twenty-one Sealed and delivered

In the presence of AARON SCHROCK, Seal. Abraham Miller, Peter Miller, J. JOBERTI J. JODER, Seal. Certainly a man capable of drawing ip an instrument of writing such as this is, was no ignorent mountebank, given to consulting "Hex doctors," 'Erd Speigels" and the like. (Continued next week.)

"BARKER'S LINIMENT" made H. M. Berkley our Republican county chairman, but it failed to win in the Ebensburg postoffice fight. There are other things, too, that "Barker's liniment" will not be able to do. Every old fraud will in due course of time go the way of the Phil Sheridan Oil Company, of which much can be learned by consulting old back numbers of the Meyersdale Commercial, and for the kceping mum of which a certain editor evidently gave rise to those legends that became current among the more ignorant of the community that he dealt in the of heart in one night. "Murder will out," as the old saying puts it, and The STAR hereby gives notice that it has secured documentary evidence that will put some corrupt politicians of Somercessful welding of steel was borax. He set county in a dangerous hole if they don't promptly mend their ways and paring this article for use, the secret of which was zealously guarded; and when so prepared it was worth, perhaps, exactly what we are doing. The people

THE Berlin Record is at present shedding many gallons of briny tears becalled for, and he soon began to take cause it did not get the County Commissioners' annual statement to publish. Listen to its tale of woe

"This year the tax payer foots the bills for publishing the report of the County Auditors, without receiving a report that he can rely on after he has read it. As the reports appear, there are two sets of them varying materially in their items and footings, so that the tax payer is puzzled to know which is sion of Capt. W. M. Schrock, a son of the correct one or whether either one Aaron Schrock, and, as it is something is correct. The chances are that both

A aron Schrock, and, as it is something of a curiosity, is here given: THIS INDENTURE Witnesseth, that Aaron Schrock, of the township of Broth ersvalley, in the county of Somerset, by and with his own conset hath put himself, and by these presents doth voluntarily and of his own free will and accord, put himself apprentice to Joseph J. Joder, of the same place, blacksmith, to learn his art, trade and mystery, and, after the manner of an ap-prentice, to serve him from the day and date hereof, for and during the full end and term of three years next ensuing; during all of which term the apprentice his said mas-ter fult/hully shall serve, his secrets Keep-his lawful commands everywhere readily obey. He shall don do damage to his said master, nor see it done by others, without being victimized.

In his great single tax, free silver, prohibition and would-be granger sheet, he tells things that he knows to be the rankest and foulest kind of falsehood. When he says there are two sets of Auditors' reports, he says what he knows to be untrue. When he says the Auditors' report is published in five newspapers, he deliberately lies. What occasion is there for all this rant and rot about the Auditors' report? Why does the *Record* not tell the truth? Here is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth: It is a well-known fact that the Commissioners are required by law to publish an annual statement of the county's affairs, which they have been doing year after year. The same was done this year, and the report was given to three of the county papers, namely, THE STAR, the Standard and the Democrat. It seems, however, that this arrangement did not suit the Herald, the Commercial and the Record. And why? Simply because the latter three papers did not get the contract. This is all there is to it, and that's where the howl comes in. Allowing their jealousy and greed for patronage to get away with their judgment, the Herald gang instructed their political tools, the Auditors, to object to the Commissioners report and get out a report of their

own. This the Auditors did and gave the same for publication to the two Scullsheets, the Herald and Commercial, for publication. The two Scull sheets published the same and of course will now try to compel the county to pay them for printing a statement which is unauthorized by law, which has already been proven to be full of errors, and which, in short, is nothing but a bogus statement. All this they are doing and at the same time claim to be advocating economy. The little "me-too" sheet over at Berlin, which has no standing politically and very little in any other respect, also takes up the cry, and the bewhiskered editor of the same is fluttering about like an old hypnotized hen, making a fool of himself, under the mistaken notion that he is a great reformer.

The Value of a Navy.

Pittsburg Times. The explosion which wrecked the to mind what might have happened to other warships on previous occasions if luck had not discovered fires in time to same them. The unpleasant truth is that a great battleship is a mine of destruction. It is a collection of magazines filled with the most dangerous explosives, and every magazine in close reach of the ship's fires, electric wires or other agents that are liable to cause an explosion. Fire and powder, the two agents to wreck the ship, are always present, and never widely separated. It is doubtful if a battle ship is ever safe. If a torpedo wrecked the Maine, a big battleship has little to boast of. It is as vulnerable as Samson, who was undone by the guile of Delilah. The modern ironclad battleship is an unknown quantity. The Monitor, the pioneer of this creation of the sea, caused more damage to itself than to any enemy. It foundered with its crew. Since then, besides minor accidents, the Captain was foundered with a loss of 472 men, the Thunderer exploded her boiler and killed 45, the Grosser Kurfurst was sunk in a collision, losing 380 men; the Victoria, rammed by the Camperdown, lost 430, and the Maine freshens these horrors of iron warships with another terrible, slaughter. Since the ironelad was invented it has had little chance to demonstrate what it could do in war, but it has less to show as a destroyer of the enemy than as a calamity to its owners! The countries with the navies are the countries that suffer from them. It is an open question if a few torpe-does and some coast defenses, with speedy cruisers to hamper an enemy, are not after all the most effective pro-tective armament for the United States. battleship has little to boast of. It is as

OF CARBON OIL and can save merchants money on this line, as we buy carkoad lots. We are also

Headquarters For Maple Sweets.

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

S. A. LICHLITER, Salisbury, Pa.

1898 Models

A few more local agents wanted for the Celebrated, Fast-running Green ANDRAE BICYCLES. Agents already established at Johnstown, Uniontown, Connellsville, West Newton and all other leading cities.

Bicycles Nevel Just ask any Andrae rider. A few more good agents wanted. Catalogues mailed to anybody on application. Write to the JUSTICE CYCLE CO., L't'd., Gen. Agts., 714 PENN AVE. & 715 LIBERTY ST.,

PITTSBURG, PA.

Frederick Helmuth, and they also mov ed to Holmes county, Ohio, in 1835. Jacob Yoder died in 1828, and his re mains rest in a graveyard near the Casselman river.

Daniel and Solomon Yoder became the owners of the home farm after their father's death, and lived and died in Somerset county.

Joseph J. Joder was born on the Yoder farm on the 11th day of December. 1788, and on this farm his early days were passed. In his time there were no common schools. His family were Amish. Now, the writer does not wish to convey the idea that the early Ampeople were against the educating

of their children. To this they gave some attention, but it had to be in the German language; it was educating their children in the English language that they resisted.

But, notwithstanding the attitude of Jacob Yoder's co-religionists on the matter of the education of the children, his son Joseph received what for that day was a fair English education. He wrote quite a legible English hand. as specimens of his writing as far back as 1820, which have been preserved, will show

Jost Miller, who lived near the mouth of Blue Lick run, about a mile and a half down the river from Meyersdale, was a blacksmith. In 1810 Joseph Joder went to his shop and became an apprentice to this Jost Miller, remaining with him for two years. He then seems to have worked at the trade two years

three or four times as much as was the raw article. We have said that he thoroughly mastered the art of weld-

ing and tempering steel. He now quit common blacksmithing entirely, and devoted his time to the

and all sorts of edge tools that were needed in the community, as well as animal traps, forks and other imple-

ments of steel. The fame of his axes and edge tools for excellence speedily spread all through the surrounding country, and they were eagerly sought for as much as fifty and sixty miles

> The axes had a stell poll, as well as a steel edge. The weight, number, piece and maker's name were all carefully stamped on each axe, and they were not ground to a sharp edge, as are the axes we buy in the stores in our own day; on the contrary, the edge was left at a thickness of perhaps a sixteenth of an inch, and was ground to an edge by the purchaser. Such as were not sold from the shop were taken out and left at the stores through the surrounding

country, to be sold on commission. In his work he always used a fourpound hand-hammer. In time the patent axe of the present day, which was sold at a much lower price, came into the county. The greed for patronage competition with the Joder axe in the has caused the Herald and Commercia they were made, the Joder axe always

must and will rule

THE Berlin Record recently made very unjust and unkind thrust at the County Commissioners. The only reason the Record did this was because Editor Marshall asked for the printing making of axes, chisels, drawing knives of the Commissioners' annual state ment and failed to get it. If the statement would have been given to the Record, does anyone suppose for a mo-ment that its editor would have raised howl about the Commissioners? No! of course not. At any rate the Record had no fault to find with those officers, last year, when it was given the annual statement to print. It shows very bad principle when a newspaper jumps onto public officers for no other reason than because they do not always throw patronage to the editor. Of course nothing else can be expected from such papers as the Commercial and the Herald, for they have had a soft thing of it so long that they felt themselves the owners of all the patronage coming from the county officers, and when men took charge of affairs that believed in doing justice and the square thing all around. they of course set up a howl calculated to heap unnecessary expenses upon the county, and this, too, while they are pretending to advocated economy for The greed for patronagestores; but in the community in which to make themselves unreasonable and ridiculous, and the Record ought to held its own as long as Mr. Joder was know better than to follow their filthy able to make them. Of course, it was and disgr. ceful example.