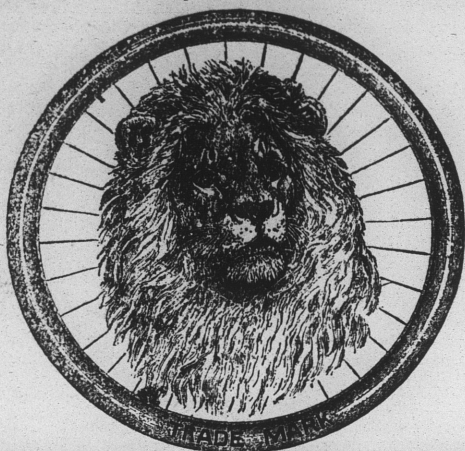


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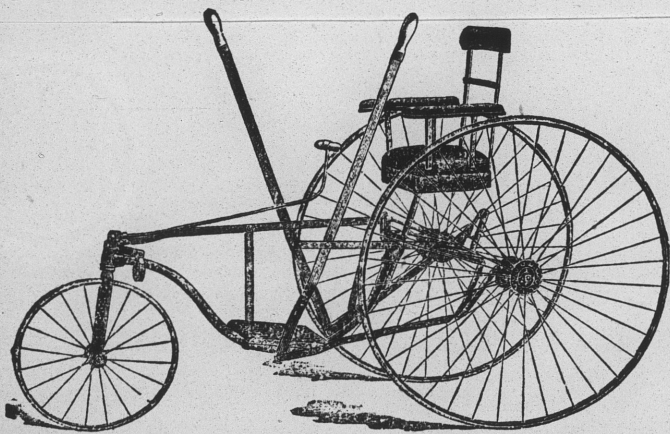
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"LUCIFER" CONFESSES.

Smarting Under "The Star's" Thunderbolts of Truth, Editor Smith Resorts to Blackguardism, But Makes a Partial Confession.

Rattled and dismayed by THE STAR's exposure of the dirty politics and other tricks of the Meyersdale Commercial, Editor Smith last week devoted a column and a half of his paper, closely set in nonpartisan type, to reviewing THE STAR's charges. He pours his little vial of wrath all over the editor of this paper, uttering one falsehood after another and hurling all sorts of vile names and blackguardism at us. But with all his Billingsgate and thieves' slang he seems to think that an open confession is good for the soul, and he positively confirms many of THE STAR's charges while making a clumsy attempt to deny them.

In the outstart he tries to draw public sympathy to his side by telling what a gallant soldier he was in the war of the Rebellion; but all this avails him nothing, for all intelligent people know that a truly brave and gallant soldier never speaks of his own deeds of valor. Besides that, we were not discussing the Civil war, so it is plain to all people of intelligence that he, anxious to evade the questions at issue, is trying to take to the woods under cover of his war record. Come out from behind that war record, "Lucifer," and we will do the rest. Don't prate of your war record and try to make people believe that you alone were a whole regiment. They know better, and some of your army comrades say that if the whole Union army would have been made up of such troops as you, old Stonewall Jackson and a handful of rebels would have destroyed the entire Northern army at one fell swoop. No, your war record is not half so brilliant as you would have people believe, in order to enlist their sympathy to help you out of a tight place. Many a coward remained at the front because he couldn't get away. That's where they kept them, so they couldn't easily get away. See? But you say you never ran from the point of a woman's pistol who was defending her honor. Well, that is doubtless true, for it is not likely that any woman would ever have allowed such a looking jay as you to get within pistol range of her, for you were always repulsive to the gentler sex, which probably accounts for your being an old bachelor. But we never did that, either, "Lucifer," and you must prove the charge of your insinuation or forever be branded as a liar.

You also made mention of your record as a school teacher in Salisbury. Here again you are trying to dodge the question at issue, and furthermore you are also mistaken. Such instruction as you gave is not worthy to be spoken of as school teaching, as many of Salisbury's citizens readily testify to. You were what is known as a school "keeper," old man, not a school teacher. To quote your own words, you say: "Then they knew us as a teacher from 1864 to 1872, and there are hundreds of grown men and women, fathers and mothers now in and around Salisbury and elsewhere who will learn with indignation of the horrible character that had part in the moulding of their young minds."

In that remark you uttered more truth than you would probably admit upon second thought. At any rate it was a God-send to your pupils to fall into better hands after you left the town. Honestly, now, didn't you during your Salisbury career set some horrible examples that your pupils saw, and of which we often hear them speak? Oh yes, "Lucifer," we can publish whole pages of your Salisbury history, every word of which we can prove, by many of Salisbury's best citizens, and it is history, too, that you, even you, we believe would be ashamed to see in print. But it is not our desire to rake up your personal sins, so much as it is to review your crooked political career and comment on your sham reform policy.

As to our Carleton record, we are proud of it, and justly we may be. We went to Carleton, Neb., shortly after arriving at the age of 21 years. We went there on borrowed capital, as we were poor, having been rendered fatherless at the age of 18 years and left to support a mother and several young children as best we could. Of course other members of the family did what they could, but we were all very poor and were striving for an education as well as for a livelihood. It was a hard battle, but where there is a will there is a way. Yes, we went to Nebraska on borrowed capital; big-hearted, grand old Dr. Stutzman loaned us the money; had \$7.00 left when we got there; worked about a year for our board, learning the printing trade; then took charge of the Carleton Times on salary; later on bought the plant, which in all cost us about \$1500 as it stood when we moved it to Salisbury; paid for it out of the earnings of the plant; paid back the money borrowed from Dr. Stutzman; always moved in the best of Carleton society; married as good a woman there as ever lived in Nebraska or anywhere else in the world; commenced house-keeping and paid for everything we bought; had a better patronage when we quit there than we had to start on; had a good printing plant and several hundreds of dollars in cash to bring away with us; paid off all our obligations before leaving and came away with scores of letters of regrets

and good wishes from scores of Nebraska's best and most prominent people. We have these letters yet and are always pleased to show them to all who care to see them. All that we mentioned was done in a little less than five years. "Lucifer," can you show a better record for any five years of your life? You know you can't. If you want to malign us by making false, slanderous and malicious insinuations, go ahead and do your worst or your best, just as you see fit to call it. Such stuff emanating from so foul a source as the Commercial office will but act as a boomerang on your own head.

As to our Salisbury record, we will let it to all honest people here as to whether it isn't far better than the record you made in the same town.

You admit in your tirade of abuse that you indulged too freely in drinking peruna, which is even admitting more than we accused you of. But then you go on to insinuate that we do not pay for our drinks. "Now, "Lucifer," that is the unkindest cut of all, perhaps. Well, when it comes to drinking, a man is to a certain extent a fool for drinking intoxicants, whether his drinks are free or paid for; but he is doubly a fool when he fools away good, hard-earned money for the vile stuff. But we, too, have paid for several gallons of "booze" in our time, "Lucifer," of which we are not at all proud; but we are proud of it that we always drew the line at peruna, golden tincture, Carpenter's liniment and the like, which, like any other old thing in the drinking line, seems to have always been good enough for you. But speaking of good old "booze" makes us awful dry, so just excuse us a moment while we take a twist at the editorial decanter.

Yum! yum! Goes down as smooth as oil, Lou. Look not upon peruna when it is red, or whatever color it is, old man, but come up and take a "snifter" of something good, with THE STAR. Then probably you can write better.

Now about that election proclamation that you printed in two issues of your paper and want \$567 for. We raised no kick about your rate per inch. That part was all right and we will give you right so far as you are in the right. But why do you not tell the public that the ballot form you printed in connection with the said proclamation was not required by law? Why do you not tell the people that that portion of the law requiring the ballot form to be printed with the proclamation was repealed the year before you got the job? You knew these things, and that's where the outrage upon the tax-payers comes in. But law or no law, you schemed with "Timmie" Scull to get one good final grab at the county treasury, and you know it. You also know that you padded the job beyond all reason in order to get more inches. If this was not your motive, how then did you get 101 more inches than the Cambria Herald, 62½ inches more than the Johnstown Tribune, 187 inches more than the Connelville Courier, 52 inches more than the Altoona News and 194 inches more than the Monongahela Republican? Can you deny that this looks like a theft planned by "Timmie" and yourself? You may try to deny it, but it won't go down with the people. You may win the case in court, but if you do, it will be a most damnable case of outraged justice, which we are sorry to say, is altogether to common these days.

As to Dr. McKinley's candidacy, you admit just what we said about the doctor, but you needn't try to make it appear that THE STAR hates Dr. McKinley, for such is not the case. Some time ago your paper contained a glaring untruth concerning Dr. McKinley, and THE STAR picked you up on it. The following quotation from last week's Commercial is remarkable:

"Equally untrue is the assertion that Dr. McKinley ran for Congress on the Republican ticket. Dr. McKinley never asked for any office of the Republican party. After A. V. Diveley sold out the nomination for Congress he had obtained from the Republicans at Bedford, Dr. McKinley, a few weeks before the election, was placed on the ticket."

Exactly so. That confirms what we said in our issue of Feb. 17th, on this topic, when we remarked that Dr. McKinley was a candidate for Congress on an independent ticket. We did not say he was a candidate on the Republican ticket, old man, as you will readily see if you read that item again. Of course we will make due allowance for your blunder, realizing how nervous you are getting under the glaring light of the truth we are firing at you.

In speaking of the Phil Sheridan Oil scandal, in which Col. Scull figured so prominently, you say:

"So you know something about the Phil Sheridan Oil Company, you saw the documents and if we don't be good you'll print em. Bless your innocence, lots more of us have seen them. They were out-lawed in 1884 and we hardly think they have been revived since."

You might also have added that a good many Somerset county farmers saw the documents, and saw them to the tune of a good many hard-earned dollars that seem to have been outlawed, too. Yet the Sculls are the great champions of the people since they own you, eh? Yes, champions like their royal ancestor was when he took Christ to the mountain top to tempt him with something valuable, which he (the devil) did not own to begin with.

As to your old time attacks upon Col. Scull, you offer the following baby-like excuse:

"Just as false is the charge that we wrote the reams of stuff against Col. Scull. That matter came from the Somerset end of the line, and was prepared there. We knew little of the truth of the matter then contained. We did not at that time know enough of Col. Scull to write a half column article."

Indeed! So you admit that you were but a tool, a figure-head at that time? A pretty admission, indeed, for an editor to make. At that time you claimed to be the author of your editorials, for which you also claimed great credit; but now you deny the authorship. When did you lie, then or now? And you did not know enough of Col. Scull to write a half column article, eh? And you printed all the abuse heaped upon him, knowing little of the truth of the matter, as you acknowledge? Oh, what an admission that is! That kind of an editor will do even worse than sell his political birthright for a mess of pottage. In the same connection you say that later on you returned to your allegiance, which means your allegiance to the Sculls; but why did you not tell it all and mention the price?

You also admit that you supported Samuel Philson, a Democratic candidate for Poor House Director, which we accused you of, and which you say you had nearly forgotten. Aye! there's the rub. You are in the habit of forgetting. That's why THE STAR must jog your memory so often, since you want to pose as such a great leader of pure and undefiled Republicans. We want to show your political crookedness and warn Republicans to beware of Scull tools and broken down political hacks of your ilk. Your forgetfulness is one of the things that gets away with you. Following we will give you some of your old-time editorials, just to freshen up your memory:

HERALD NOT A NEWSPAPER.

Thank God the people are rapidly finding out that the Herald is not a newspaper, but merely an organ, and so much garbles and distorts such news as it does not print, and invents and manufactures lies to suit the malignant desires of its stalwart, staffed editor.—Meyersdale Commercial, Oct. 27th, 1882.

COMMENT ON OPPRESSORS.

The Somerset Herald in its desperate efforts to do dirty work for Boss Cameron has undertaken to send men to the Legislature who will vote to perpetuate the Cameron dynasty.—Meyersdale Commercial, Oct. 27th, 1882.

BIESECKER.

The returns of the primaries, probably the smallest and most insignificant ever held in the county, are presented this morning. Biesecker had no opposition. * * * So long as it is the policy in this county to make the position (District Attorney) a wet nurse for new fledged attorneys, we see no reason why he should not offer for the place. But a recent law requires that an attorney must have practiced at least two years before his election. Mr. Biesecker was only admitted to the bar in April term, 1882, and hence is not legally eligible. * * * We are aware our stalwart friends have a profound contempt for the law when it interferes with their plans.—Meyersdale Commercial, June 20th, 1885.

How do you like 'em, Lou? That time you condemned the acts of the same coterie of bosses you are now bowing the knee to. Was the price sufficient to justify your going back on the people for the benefit of the bosses? In the long run we think not. No wonder the leading men of Meyersdale are thinking of establishing another newspaper in their town.

Poor old "Lucifer," you, the old maid, alleged editor of the Commercial, in curl-papers and side-combs, seduced and abandoned, should in decency's name retreat from the public gaze, where you may, perhaps, for a pittance still continue to wash the dirty clothes of your betrayers. Your horrible condition is another lesson to teach the fruits of a sinful life. Rashly impetuous, one more unfortunate gone to her political grave.

To whom did you lose your virtue? We fear that the devil in the shape of a wily politician appeared unto you, and with thirty pieces of silver accomplished your ruin. We are afraid that the serpent beguiled you and that you did eat. You have not yet suffered the full penalty. Riddled at home, the finger of scorn pointed at you from abroad, despised by the former friends you sold out and held in contempt by your purchasers, beware the fate of Judas Iscariot, who cast down the thirty pieces of silver and went out and hanged himself. Go thou and do likewise, and thereby fill a long-felt want.

You have never been half shown up yet. The mantle of charity and indifference has permitted you a happy oblivion. But we may decide to throw on the calcium, if nothing else will do you. Your record will furnish all the colors but white. If we once go for you right, you will think you are taking a dose of carpet tacks and barbed wire instead of peruna.

Your past sins which you hoped to see no more, will march before you in their shrouds. Benefits forgotten; friends remembered not; ingratitude and faithlessness—these sheeted dead will squeak and jibber in your haunted ears. Go slow, "Lucifer," lest retributive justice come too quickly upon you, lest your hour be struck too soon.

Lookout for Them.

There is a smart chap on the go with a patent plowshare for whom our farmers should be on the lookout. Of course he does business on the note scheme. Another swindler is selling "Asbestos lamp-wicks," which are nothing more than cotton and paper. Lookout for them.

Is Elk Lick Township Retrograding in Agriculture?

For a good many years past the commissioners of Somerset county have required the assessors of the county to make returns of the farm products and live stock in the several townships in the years that the triennial assessment is made. These returns are seldom tabulated, but this year the tabulation was made and the results were published by the Somerset Standard. The figures afford an interesting study and show the status of agriculture in the county as nothing else would.

The totals for the county are, wheat, 249,376 bushels; rye, 56,807 bushels; corn, 659,474 bushels; buckwheat, 81,287 bushels; oats, 687,705 bushels; barley, 7,788 bushels; potatoes, 266,841 bushels; hay, 80,676 tons; butter, 799,790 pounds; maple sugar, 676,299 pounds; maple syrup, 22,491 gallons; 11,264 horses are returned; 32,354 head of cattle; 18,704 head of sheep, and 22,915 hogs. The estimated value of the products of the farm for the entire county is \$1,443,794.88, the prices ruling about the 1st of January being taken as a basis.

Jenner township leads all the other townships of the county in wheat, returning 26,796 bushels, followed by Brothersvalley with 52,390 bushels, Somerset with 23,525 bushels and Summit with 20,030 bushels.

Allegheny leads in rye, having 12,064 bushels.

Somerset township has the lead in corn, with 58,295 bushels; Brothersvalley being second with 56,738 bushels; Jenner third with 55,429 bushels; Conemaugh fourth with 37,468 bushels.

Shade and Paint take the buckwheat cake with 10,091 and 9,863 bushels respectively.

In oats Somerset stands first, with 73,174 bushels, while Brothersvalley has 71,772 bushels, Jenner 53,948 bushels and Stonycreek 52,247 bushels.

Quemahoning has 2,231 bushels of barley—more than one-fourth the yield of the entire county.

Brothersvalley has 28,974 bushels of potatoes; Somerset, 24,320 bushels; Stonycreek, 22,347 bushels, followed very closely by Summit.

Somerset and Brothersvalley show up almost even in hay, the former having 5,947 tons and the latter 5,928 tons. Stonycreek, 4,624 tons; Jenner, 4,203 tons; Summit, 4,069 and Conemaugh, 4,046 tons.

Conemaugh reported 140,655 pounds of butter and Brothersvalley, 87,038 pounds.

Stonycreek is ahead in maple sugar, its figures being 108,694 pounds; Elk Lick second with 91,640 pounds; Brothersvalley, 90,270 pounds; Shade, 68,211 pounds; Summit, 64,027 pounds. But if maple syrup is to be considered, then Brothersvalley will have the greatest yield of sugar, as Brothersvalley had 5,177 gallons; Jefferson, 2,969 gallons; Elk Lick, 2,429 gallons and Stonycreek but 533 gallons.

Somerset has 1,304 horses; Jenner, 965; Brothersvalley, 888; Stonycreek, 601; Elk Lick, 645.

Brothersvalley had 3,137 head of cattle; Somerset, 2,792 head; Stonycreek, 2,382 head.

Elk Lick leads in sheep, with 1,503 head; Stonycreek next with 1,441 head; Addison, 1,407 head and Shade 1,348 head.

Jenner has swine 1,850 head; Somerset, 1,728 head; Conemaugh, 1,521 head.

In wheat Elk Lick stands ninth in the list; in corn, tenth; in oats, seventh; in potatoes, eighth; in hay, seventh; in butter, eighth; in maple sugar, second, but ten years ago it stood first. In number of horses it is fifth; in cattle, seventh; in sheep it leads all the other townships; in hogs it stands seventh. The estimated value of all the farm produce of the township is \$74,977.73. Except in hay there has been a falling off in almost every crop as compared with 1885, when similar statistics were taken. Is the township retrograding from an agricultural standpoint. W.

Somerset.

W. H. Kantner and Jacob Winters have abandoned their trip to the Klondyke and will take possession of the Hotel Vanneer, in the near future. They are the right men in the right place, as they have had experience and have both traveled. They will be able to meet all the wants of the traveling public, and no doubt will make it a favorite resort to all their patrons.

H. Heffley will move his store from the Parker building to the old stand of Charles Shaffer, April 1st.

Ed. Weimer has his new house on Southwest street equipped with all up-to-date conveniences, with the exception of the manager, and no doubt she will be forthcoming in the near future.

The removal of a winter's accumulation of filth on our streets shows that some one was ashamed of the unsightly appearance. Our streets are changed to a more healthy condition.

When Professor Coles predicted that a new star would make its appearance this season, I had no idea it would first rise in Somerset county, but so it is, and is now shining in all the dark places and exposing hidden mysteries. Shine on!

The Baker heirs of this county will meet at the Court house, in Somerset, April 9th, the second Saturday, at 10 a. m. VOLUNTEER.