

## WRITERS ARE HARD WORKERS—GREENE

### The Life of An Author is Not "One Grand Sweet Song"

By Homer Greene, Esq., Wayne county's poet and fiction writer, is contributing an interesting series of articles to the Independent Republican of Montrose. The first story, which appeared in last week's issue, which brought and newsy weekly, as follows:

In my younger days, when I was much more of a reader of literature than I am now, no subject possessed me more than the personality of the writers whose works I read. In my imagination I surrounded these men and women with romance and adorned them with a halo far greater and brighter than any which their heroes or heroines carried with them. It is difficult now to say to what extent my dreams could have been dissipated or my eyes shattered if I had known them personally. It is doubtless safe to assert, however, that not one of them could have satisfied my fancy. It is perhaps a happy circumstance for me that instead of being permitted to touch the hem of the garment of any one of them, I was obliged to wring them all from afar. It was not until I had just reached my maturity, and had been for two years in college, that I had opportunity to meet a real, live author. This was J. G. Holland, long since dead. I was spending my summer vacation in some engineering work at a place on the upper Hudson, and Dr. Holland was a guest for a day at the use of the people with whom I was staying.

I had been familiar with his writings for years; "Bitter-Sweet," "Old Daniel Gray," his novel "Arthur Unpleasant," and his poem "Kathina," which I knew almost by heart. He was in the height of his fame and popularity. It was a treat, therefore, for me to be able to meet and talk with him. And yet I found in his personality nothing of the obviously romantic or unusual.

He was simply a quiet, plain-spoken, courteous gentleman, impressing me more by his sincerity than by his brilliancy. He did not at all bear the air of a novelist, and I am sure that no novelist should look or act or talk. But I believe Dr. Holland to have been one of the best types of American literary men.

Some years later, after I had done little unimportant literary work myself, I had occasion to visit J. T. Cowbridge at his home in Arlington, one of the suburbs of Boston. I took me for a quiet stroll on the shore around the shore of the pretty lake that borders his garden. I remember that he told me it was his birthday. I found him as quiet, as unassuming, as plain in appearance and dress, as eminently practical as any deacon or vestryman of any church in Montrose. He still living, I believe, at his home on the border of the little lake in Arlington.

Another Boston writer whom I met in those days was Hezekiah Litterworth, a plain, serious, studious-like man of 40, who died some years ago. With in the last ten or twelve years it has been my good fortune, largely through my membership in the Authors' Club of New York, to become well, and in some cases intimately, acquainted with many of the famous American writers of the present day. Of some of them I have already had fragmentary memories, as they have passed on before.

Edmund Clarence Steadman, the poet, I knew well. He was delicate and thoughtful as in build, refined in manner as in face; banker and business man as well as scholar and poet, holding all positions with a quiet dignity and grace. Bronson Howard, playwright, author of "Shenandoah," was also counted as one of my good friends. His long association with the State might have led one to expect to find in him something of the aggressive, the self-assertive, the bold. On the contrary I never knew a more modest, refined, quietly genial gentleman than Bronson Howard.

One of my greatest surprises, however, was in Joseph Jefferson, the actor and artist as well as author. I had seen him many times on the stage in his favorite roles before I knew him personally. He was a man of great ability and varied talent, but charmingly simply and unobtrusive in his manner, so sweet in disposition, as to be almost childlike. His visible qualities made fast friends for him of all who came to know him.

I think the most picturesque figure among all the writers whom I have known was George Cary Eggleston, the novelist, who died only last winter. Tall, straight, with drooping mustache, and gray hair hanging on his shoulders, he attracted attention everywhere. But his picturesque appearance was not due so much to the fact that he was a writer as to the fact that as a Virginia Colonel he had fought through the war of the rebellion. I well remember how, at ever-to-be-forgotten evenings at the authors' Club, he would put on his

records of horse show broken. The number of exhibitors and entries for the annual Horse Show, which opened in New York on Saturday, shows that as an adjunct to society, at least the horse still holds his own. Nearly 2,000 animals are shown by 312 exhibitors. The number breaks all records since the exhibition was established in that city twenty-seven years ago. The military organizations of New York, New Jersey and Ohio have entered horses for the special prizes offered for the best militia mounts.

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## SCHOOL CASE MAY BE SETTLED SOON

### South Canaan's New Board May Discontinue Proceedings

CASE ARGUED BEFORE JUDGE SEARLE, MONDAY—DIVORCES GRANTED AND DIRECTORS APPOINTED.

Judge A. T. Searle presided at an adjourned session of court, Monday morning at 10 o'clock, when two decrees of divorce were handed down, school directors appointed for the independent district of White Mills and Seelyville and argument heard in the South Canaan school case.

Upon petition of more than a hundred residents and taxpayers of the independent school district of White Mills these directors were appointed: For a term of six years—John C. Sonner. For a term of four years—Joseph Spinner and M. J. Decker. For a term of two years—John Tuman and Henry G. Schiller. The court also appointed as school directors of the Seelyville independent school district:

For a term of six years—H. A. Dunkelberg. For a term of four years—Edward Welch and Walter Stocks. For a term of two years—Chauncey Purdy and A. W. Eno. The appointments were made on petition of a large number of the residents and taxpayers of the school district.

In the case of David A. Potter against Ida U. Potter, at a hearing held before C. P. Searle, Esq., master, it was brought out that the Potters were married January 17, 1895, at Hancock, N. Y. Later they removed to Lebanon township. On August 15, 1903, Ida Potter deserted her husband and went and lived with her mother, declaring to his brother, Harry, that she would never return to him again and that she had made up her mind to this when she left him.

Attorney W. H. Lee asked the court to fix a time for a hearing in the South Canaan school case. Homer Greene, Esq., argued that the case was not at issue until a replication was filed. Continuing he said: "There's a larger question than that even. The entire question has been settled by the taxpayers of South Canaan township. A board of school directors has been elected on the very ground that they will not proceed with the erection of a school building. Immediately on their taking office, matters will be stopped. The new board is absolutely opposed to the erection of a school building as provided by the previous board."

"It would be an utter waste of money to bring witnesses here to expend the money of the taxpayers for a hearing that would be absolutely useless. I understand that immediately on their accession to office they will take steps to have these proceedings discontinued."

"The court," said Judge Searle, "will not make any decision. We will continue that case, the matter not being at issue. If the new board intends to discontinue the proceedings it would not be wise to expend money for a hearing which would be practically useless. Simply the matter is not at issue."

Half Killed While Trespassing. Of the 10,396 persons killed on the railroads last year, 5287 were killed while trespassing on property of the company.

More Men Employed. Deemer Bros., proprietors of the cut glass factory in this place, have added twelve more frames to their plant, and a number of new men were given employment Monday morning. This firm has a large number of orders ahead and the employees are working nights in order to keep up with the increasing business.—Great Bend Plaindealer.

Farmers' Institutes Begun. The State's series of farmers' institutes arranged by the Department of Agriculture for the winter of 1911-1912 began on Monday in three counties of the State and continue until well into February. The State has been divided into five sections and in Lackawanna, Greene and Jefferson counties the institutes will start Monday, commencing later on in Cumberland and Bedford.

In addition to the institute the State has prepared for a series of movable schools which will be held in Lebanon, Lehigh, Schuylkill, Columbia, Lackawanna, Wayne, Cambria, Clarion, Warren, Crawford, Erie and Lawrence counties. They will begin on January 1.

## WAYNE COUNTY SCHOOL DIRECTORS HOLD 16TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

### Over A Hundred Directors Registered at Meeting in Court House, Last Saturday Morning.

OFFICERS ELECTED, AND STIRRING ADDRESSES DELIVERED BY JUDGE A. T. SEARLE, DISTRICT ATTORNEY M. E. SIMONS—DOCTOR PHILLIPS EXPLAINS THE NEW SCHOOL CODE.

The sixteenth annual convention of the School Directors of Wayne county was held at the court house Friday morning, with a large number of directors in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 9:26 a. m. by County Superintendent J. J. Koehler, who invited the directors to come forward and get to business.

In the absence of President Harry J. Atkinson, Hawley, and of first vice-president, Thos. Dunn, Mt. Pleasant, second vice-president, Dr. C. E. Ellenberger, Gouldsboro, was called to the chair, and took charge of the meeting. Secretary A. M. Leine, Honesdale, read the minutes of the fifteenth annual convention, held November 18 and 19, 1910, which were duly approved. He stated that there was a balance on hand at the close of the last convention amounting to \$99.20.

These bills were presented and ordered paid: Hawley Times, printing 200 directors enrollment cards, \$1.00; fees for two delegates who attended the State convention last year, \$10; personal bill of J. J. Koehler, postage, stationery, etc., \$6.20; one-half the expense of John Temple Graves' lecture, \$62.50; Dr. Phillips' expenses, \$30.

Under the head of report of nomination committee, it was decided to dispense with the appointment of such committee, one of the delegates remarking it was just as good to have an open convention, as there would not be so much machinery. These officers were nominated and unanimously elected: President, Dr. C. E. Ellenberger, Gouldsboro; first vice-president, Dr. A. J. Simons, Newfoundland; second vice-president, Seymour B. Doyle, Mt. Pleasant; secretary, A. M. Leine, Honesdale; treasurer, Fred Saunders, Texas; auditor, R. M. Stocker, Esq., Honesdale.

Following are the delegates and alternates chosen to attend the State Convention: Reuben Lancaster, South Sterling; Fred LaPoint, Honesdale; F. L. Hartford, Sterling; A. W. Eno, Seelyville. Alternates: A. A. F. Jones, Hamlin; H. A. Dunkelberg, Seelyville; E. F. McLean, Lakewood; Dr. C. E. Ellenberger, Gouldsboro; A. M. Leine, Honesdale.

The election of an auditor was a new feature of the annual proceedings. His duties, according to the new School Code, are to audit the accounts of this Teachers' Institute, jointly with two teachers elected by the Institute. The accounts of the School Directors' Association are examined by the county auditors. County Superintendent Koehler read a telegram from Dr. Phillips, scheduled to speak before the convention on the new School Code, stating "he was stranded at Carbondale, and would speak the rest of the morning if needed" (i. e., after the train came in). Dr. Phillips spent many sleepless nights in framing the Code, whereupon one of the directors remarked sotto voce, "He got a good job out of it."

Secretary Leine announced he had just made the pleasing discovery of the long-lost Constitution and By-Laws of the Wayne County Association of School Directors, adopted August 28, 1903, in the back of his minute book.

Upon motion of Doctor Simons, it was decided to hold the next convention during the last two days of institute week in connection with the Institute, as was done this year. Mr. Koehler wanted to know what kind of an entertainment the school directors desired for next year, reminding them that under the new School Code the association has at its disposal for expenses, etc., any sum up to \$200.

R. M. Stocker, Esq., Honesdale, raised a hearty laugh by saying: "Most of us are married men, and get lectures enough. I suggest that we get a humorist." F. L. Hartford, Sterling, said in reply: "Since we are here to do business for the county and the State, we ought to have instruction," and Doctor Simons was cheered to the echo, when he declared, "The town people would rather be amused. The country people would rather be instructed."

The directors finally let it go at that, and resolved to instruct the County Superintendent to follow along the same lines as heretofore in the way of providing mental entertainment for them, and gave him full power to act in the matter. District Attorney M. E. Simons, who happened to drop in on the convention at that moment, was called upon to make a few remarks.

Responding Mr. Simons said: "I believe the directors ought to come here for instruction. Probably a large number of the directors went to the dance last night. (Laughter.) I'd forgive the teachers for some other things they teach if only they would teach the children two things. "The first is Obedience, which is the first principle in good citizenship.

Whatever rules are laid down, see that they are lived up to. One of the things the teachers should teach is obedience, and the directors ought to see to it that the thing is taught. I believe it's more important for the children than the rules of Algebra and Geometry.

"And the second is Power of the Will. The children ought to be taught the great power that there is in their wills. That when they undertake to do anything they can accomplish it, if they'll only say 'I will.' There are great possibilities in the child who'll only say 'I will,' who has the determination to succeed. The teachers ought not to break their will, but to cultivate it. If they do that, I'll forgive them for a good deal of fancy things they have to teach and the children have to forget a little while after they get out." (Applause.)

Doctor Simons called the attention of the convention to the fact that the first President of the Association was present. We all want to hear from him." When the Hon. Alonzo T. Searle, who was recently elected President Judge of the Wayne county courts, was introduced to the audience, he was greeted with a hearty round of applause.

Responding Judge Searle said: "Gentlemen: Only a word. I've been a school director in Honesdale for twenty-one years. My term expires December 1. I know something of what it means to be a school director. I believe there's no office where a man can do more good, no place where the services of good men is more needed. I am glad no compensation is provided. I hope none ever will be.

"I believe we get better men than if they were paid. The best service in the country is given by men who render their services free of charge. In the New England States, the best governed part of the United States, the overseers of the poor receive no compensation. The men who care for the public libraries in Boston, Mass., serve three days a week without pay.

"I was the first President and helped to organize the Directors' Association. I served also a second term, and then I had a resolution passed that no one be permitted to serve more than two terms. I enjoyed being a school director. It costs something to be one. I used to get a retainer of \$20 annually before that, and that \$240 I have given for legal services. We held 173 meetings when we built the new High School building.

"In retiring I'm glad to say, after these years of service, after we built the school building, after we had two bond issues, the old Board was endorsed by the Democratic and Republican parties this Fall, and elected. That showed their services were appreciated by the community.

"As I retire now from active duties, I shall not retire from my interest in Wayne county schools. If I can do anything to make them better and more efficient, I shall do so. Gentlemen, I wish you all success in your schools. Our schools are improving in Wayne county. I shall do all I can to help along the educational interests of the good old county of Wayne." (Great Applause.)

R. M. Stocker, Esq., a former President of the association, spoke briefly of his trials and tribulations as a school teacher. He said among other things: "I was a teacher for twelve years. The part that wore on me most was the exercise of will-power. The government of a school depends on will-power more than on strength. A little woman will often govern a large school, because she has will-power.

"Never listen to a complaint against the teacher unless they are positively cruel. Prof. Twitmyer used to say boys were young barbarians when they came to school. There is this spirit of destructiveness on the part of the boy. He is an energetic little machine. He ought to be kept in motion. The boy that will do, can do. The same is true with the girl."

Joshua A. Brown, a member of the Honesdale school board, offered a motion thanking Prof. Koehler for his efforts last year, and for the efficient work he did, and pledging him the support of the convention in the enforcement of the School Code. His motion was unanimously carried.

## RESOLUTIONS ON MAYOR KUHBACK

### Town Council Expresses Sorrow at His Death

CITY SOLICITOR CHAS. A. McCARTY PAYS A GLOWING TRIBUTE TO MEMORY OF HONESDALE'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE.

A special meeting of the town council of the Borough of Honesdale was called by President Caulfield on Friday evening, to take action upon the death of Hon. John Kuhbach, late Burgess of the town. A committee of three members, namely, P. R. Murray, George M. Genung, and George W. Penwarden were appointed to draft and report to the meeting resolutions in keeping with the occasion, who after deliberating reported the following which were unanimously adopted.

"Whereas, The Chief Executive Officer of our Borough, Hon. John Kuhbach, has been called away from his official duties by death, it is thought proper and fitting to spread upon the records of our Council our appreciation of him as an officer and as a citizen. Therefore be it

"RESOLVED, By the Town Council of the Borough of Honesdale, in special meeting called for the purpose, that we do hereby express our sincere sorrow at the untimely death of the Executive head of our official body, feeling that we have lost an unusually energetic, efficient and conscientious co-worker, the town one of its truest and sincerest advocates and every person in this community a friend.

"RESOLVED, That we extend to the family of our deceased Burgess, our most sincere sympathy in the loss of a true and dutiful son, brother, husband and father, and assure them that we share with them in their loss.

"His genial and uniformly happy disposition, his pleasant and affable personality, his cheerfulness and buoyancy of his every day association with those who came within the radius of his influence, left a deep impression upon their lives.

"Resolved, That these resolutions be spread in full upon the Minute Book of our Council, a copy be presented to the family of the deceased and that they be published in the county papers."

Geo. W. Penwarden, } Com.  
Geo. M. Genung, }  
P. R. Murray, }

Upon a motion to adopt the resolutions presented by the committee, Borough Solicitor Chas. A. McCarty, spoke feelingly of the deceased Burgess as follows: "I would not lose the opportunity given to me of publicly expressing my feelings towards our deceased Burgess, Hon. John Kuhbach. We had been friends almost since childhood, and I, early in life learned to know and appreciate his real worth. As years passed on our relations became more closely interwoven, we were members of the same debating society, and for five years comrades in the National Guard, while at camp, always occupying the same tent. In early life we were interested in the same literary pursuits and on many occasions each one delivered addresses, speeches and orations with the other as sole audience and critic in the preparation for some public affair. Mr. Kuhbach was enthusiastic in his undertakings and persistent in all his efforts to accomplish results. He had a rare faculty of making and holding friends, he had no enemies, he never made any enemies, enemies will not make themselves.

"He was conscientious in the discharge of his official duties. He was a politician but of the highest class, he was ambitious for performance but never urged his claims upon the public. He never was defeated nor disappointed, he was patient when favors were denied and pleased with favors given. As a Representative in the Pennsylvania legislature, he was popular with his fellow members, though belonging to the minority party, he exerted a large influence upon the majority. As Burgess of Honesdale, he has made precedents which his successors may find it difficult to follow. He enforced the law vigorously, without imposing undue hardship upon any one. His sympathy went out to the unfortunate, no matter from what cause. Well might Mr. Kuhbach have quoted the words of Shakespeare's Ideal King, 'I care not if men my garments wear, such things dwell not in my desires, but if it is a sin to covet honor, I'm the most offending soul alive.'

After Borough Solicitor C. A. McCarty's eulogy upon the late Mayor, Hon. John Kuhbach, motion was made which was unanimously seconded that Mr. McCarty be appointed Mayor to fill the unexpired term of the deceased chief executive of the town.

Death of Mrs. S. B. Simpkins. Mrs. Samuel B. Simpkins, widow of Rev. S. B. Simpkins, formerly of Hawley, died suddenly Monday at the home of her sister in Camden, N. J., with whom she had been visiting the past few weeks.

Mrs. Simpkins is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Royal Foster, of Carbondale; Mrs. Morton Harloe and one son, Leonard Simpkins, the latter two children residing in Hawley. The remains will be brought to Honesdale for interment.

## CHESTNUT BLIGHT FOUND IN WAYNE

### All But Ten Tracts in the County Infected With It

RAVAGES OF DEADLY DIAPOR-THE PARASITICA DISCOVERED BY EXPERT FORESTERS.

"Woodman, burn that tree; Spare not a single bough!" "About five to ten per cent of the chestnut timber in Wayne county is infected with the blight. Out of the 225 tracts of timber we visited in the past fifteen days, all are infected but ten tracts."

Such was the startling information given a Citizen man, the first of the week, by S. J. Kinsler, of York county, this State, who in company with K. Manion, of Connecticut, and F. R. Mott, of Centre county, has been inspecting the timber tracts of the county, during the first two weeks in November, with a view to finding out how many of the chestnut trees are infected with the deadly fungus growth, known as Diaporthe Parasitica.

"We were sent out," he continued, "by the Chestnut Blight Commission of Pennsylvania, located at Philadelphia, 1112 Morris Building, S. R. Detweiler executive officer. This commission was appointed by Governor Tener, and consists of five men all interested in and owners of chestnut timber, and they have sole charge of the chestnut timber blight and nothing else concerning forestry. They are under the supervision of the Forestry Commission. Their part is to take charge of the chestnut tree blight. The first work was started in the latter part of August.

"Mr. Marston has completed three courses in the Forestry Department of the Pennsylvania State College. Mr. Mott is a graduate of State College, and had a year's experience in forestry in Oregon under the U. S. Forestry Commission. I qualify only as an expert under the instruction of Prof. J. Franklin Collins of the U. S. Geological Survey of the experimental station at Martlet Forge, Pa. "I started in York county, and worked west across the mountains to Franklin county, coming here from Franklin county. We came to Hawley, November 2, and leave Monday for Starucca.

"Is there much chestnut timber in Wayne county?" he was asked. "I don't think there's over one per cent of the timber," he answered. "That's as far as we've gone, say in half of the county."

"Is there much chestnut blight in Wayne county?" "About five to ten per cent, is infected. We'll say seven per cent, will be a fair average. All are infected but ten tracts. "We visited an average of 15 tracts a day for 15 days, 225 tracts of timber in all, and find only about one per cent, of chestnut, and about seven per cent of infection. We were very favorably received by the farmers and people we visited.

"We're not really making a thorough inspection, only scouting. We are not visiting every timber owner. If we was inspecting it thoroughly, we'd have to see every timber owner.

"The chestnut blight was first discovered in about 1904. It was imported here from Japan into New York through nursery stock. New York city planting a park of chestnut trees had them grafted with Japanese chestnut trees. That's the way the thing was introduced. Since that it has spread over Eastern New York, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Southeastern Canada, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, as far as the central part of Pennsylvania, and as far west as the mountains.

"What can you do for it?" "The only thing to do is to cut the timber out and destroy the bark and brush by burning. Yet by a man watching it up close, he could cut out his infected timber and still save his best timber. At any time a man finds he has any infected timber the State will be glad any time to send a man to mark his infected timber so as to give him any information as to how he can dispose of it.

"You ought to cut the whole tree if a branch is infected. Nothing in the world will save an infected tree. It is very important that the timber be burned. It reproduces entirely through the bark.

"The Diaporthe Parasitica is a fungus growth, of a lightish yellow color. It enters the bark at any break or opening in the bark and starts to grow in a circular growth, and keeps getting larger and larger, in the shape of a target, until it encircles the trunk. It looks like a target filled full of small shot holes. It just starts and grows in a circle.

"Dr. Wm. A. Murrill was the first scientific discoverer of it in 1906 in the Bronx Botanical Gardens, New York. It is fungus of a new species, of the class of sac fungi. The generic name is Diaporthe Parasitica, of which 100 species are known to science. It will not grow in a dead tree. It propagates itself by means of microscopic spores, each spore containing eight sacs. "Under the microscope it shows a growth of a fern or fan-leaf growth spread out smoothly between the bark and the wood. It causes the bark to loosen from the wood just as if scorched or burnt. It stops circulation and kills the tree. "I was raised on a farm, and have