

THE CITIZEN

Semi-Weekly Founded 1908; Weekly Founded 1844.

Published Wednesdays and Fridays by the Citizen Publishing Company.

Entered as second-class matter, at the postoffice, Honesdale, Pa.

E. B. HARDENBERGH PRESIDENT
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DIRECTORS:
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All notices of shows, or other entertainments held for the purpose of making money or any items that contain advertising matter, will only be admitted to this paper on payment of regular advertising rates. Notices of entertainments for the benefit of churches or for charitable purposes where a fee is charged, will be published at half rates. Cards of thanks, 50 cents, memorial poetry and resolutions of respect will be charged for at the rate of a cent a word. Advertising rates on application.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1912.

THOUGHT FOR TO-DAY.

Whether we climb, whether we plod,
Space for one task the scant
years lend—
To choose some path that leads to
God,
And keep it to the end.
—Lizette W. Reese.

A LITTLE YOU CAN DO.

You can bring Christmas happiness and cheer to the people who need it most by spending some of your holiday money for Red Cross seals.

Victims of tuberculosis are dying all about you every day who might be saved by a little practical generosity.

You can not save them alone, but you can help and your example may be as valuable as your money.

TRADE DAY SATURDAY.

On Saturday of this week the merchants of Honesdale will hold their first annual trade day. Many of them have offered a ten per cent. discount on purchases made at their stores on this date. It therefore behooves the people of Wayne county to take advantage of this great opportunity and TRADE AT HOME.

Preparations having been made by out-of-town parties to get people in Honesdale and nearby places to trade elsewhere on the 14th, the Business Men's Association in order to protect their own interests, inaugurated a trade day of their own upon the very same day. It is your duty and privilege to patronize your home merchants. They have laid in a large line of Christmas novelties and expect you to buy. It's right and proper that you should.

The Christmas edition of The Citizen will reach the public in time for prospective shoppers to read it and select their presents before purchasing. Bring The Citizen to Honesdale with you, or if you did not receive a copy, call at our office, second story of the Jadwin building, and secure a copy free. By all means trade at home.

WASHINGTON IRVING.

The exquisite prose poem entitled "Christmas" which we reproduce in another column of this issue is considered by the critics to be Irving's masterpiece, and is universally conceded to be one of the immortal classics. Irving at one time visited Honesdale in company with Philip Hone, at that time mayor of New York, and in whose honor Honesdale was named. During this visit of Irving here the great author was so charmed with our town and its surroundings, that he included among his writings, some very beautiful descriptions of the scenery. Irving Cliff, far famed for its natural beauty, which stands as a silent sentinel on the east side of the Lackawanna river overlooking the town, named in honor of the distinguished writer, and to perpetuate for all time the honor which we acknowledge to have received from him.

Who can say that the inspiration which produced the most beautiful of his classics was not received while here and who indeed can say that the lines themselves may not have been written by him while a guest within our gates, however, what may be the tradition of this visit is dear to us, and gives to all his writings a local coloring. We trust that all our readers will read and reread "Christmas" because it is filled with the brightest gems of thought and the purest banquets of the heart.

OUR CHRISTMAS NUMBER.

Our readers to-day will find that The Citizen appears in enlarged form. It is our Christmas number for Nineteen Hundred and Twelve. This final attempt of the present year will attest the large amount of advertising patronage we have enjoyed throughout the year. We take this method of thanking the business men of Honesdale for their liberal patronage during the year and we have every reason to believe that it will continue through the coming year.

This is the season of the year when young and old put forth great interest in the hopeful and joyous sentiment of the yuletide. From now

on up to December 25 nearly one-half of the population of the world will be busy with preparations and plans for Christmas. It lives not only in the heart of childhood and the spirit of friendship but it has been commercialized and its throne set up in the market place, and since the season, both as a flower of sentiment and an enterprise of business, has come to mean so much to mankind, it ought to receive the support and encouragement of all men and women.

Some consideration is due to the merchants and the clerks who cater to the demands of Christmas. The shop early movement is spreading all over the country. The purchase of gifts should not be left to the last hour. The yuletide festival is of sufficient importance to be planned carefully beforehand.

The first supplement of The Citizen is printed on a good quality of book paper. It is profusely illustrated with half-tone engravings, besides carrying a heavy line of advertising. On the first page appears a large Santa Claus with pack on his back, having purchased a quantity of toys from the Honesdale merchants for good boys and girls. Extracts from Washington Irving on Christmas is told in beautiful words of that well-known writer. The story was prepared by C. A. McCarty. "The Nativity," by James A. Egerton, is a handsomely illustrated poem that is bound to please. It appears on page three. "A Sketch of the Wayne County Bar," is one of the features of our Christmas edition. It also contains pictures of every member of the Bar Association, including the judge of Wayne county. A reproduction of Daniel Dimmick, the first lawyer of Wayne county, is also found upon this page. "The Madonna" and "Star of Bethlehem," illustrated, are two beautiful Christmas stories. "The First Christmas in America," "Christmas Eve in Poverty Row" and other stories. The second part is the regular number of The Citizen, while the third section is replete with more stories and advertisements. We wish to call especial attention to the story on page eighteen, entitled "Christmas Memories," by Lucretia D. Woodward. Other stories written by this author have appeared in serial form in different well-known magazines.

The Citizen, by special arrangement with book publishers, announces on page nineteen of the third supplement, will give any book free that is printed in the list upon that page to a new subscriber paying \$1.50 in advance. Or a regular subscriber may receive a book by paying two years in advance. The books retail from \$1.25 to \$2 and are in good condition. The Citizen would make an appropriate gift to mother, father, uncle, aunt, sister or brother, and the book—why, you could give that to your sweetheart.

We have endeavored to make The Citizen to-day teem with stories of good cheer and sincerely hope the reader will enjoy it. The Citizen is very grateful to all who help make this edition the success that it is and wishes all its readers, contributors and advertisers a Merry Christmas.

AN UNFOUNDED SLUR.
Common Pleas judges holding courts in other districts than their own receive \$20 per day, more pay than many common people receive a month. Still some wonder at the increase in cost of living.—Wayne Independent.

The above editorial item in a recent issue of the Independent is another example of that journal's unwarranted efforts to play the demagogue and arouse class hatred. It is not true that judges receive \$20 a day or any other compensation for holding court outside their own districts. The act of 1903, fixing the salaries of judges, specifically provides that:

"No judge of the said courts shall receive any compensation for official services rendered, other than the salary fixed by this act, except mileage and actual expenses incurred when holding court outside of the district for which he is commissioned."

The act of 1911 increasing the sal-

aries of judges made no change in the above provision.

Judges are not obliged to go outside their own districts to hold court, but if they do so, in order to accommodate another judge, or to relieve congestion of cases in another county, they receive no compensation for the service, but are paid only their mileage and expenses.

Would it not be a good idea for the Independent, before again seeking to inspire disrespect for the courts, and to prejudice the people against the judges whom they have elected, to hunt up some other than an absolutely false statement of fact on which to base its innuendoes? The attempt of a certain class of newspapers to encourage violators of law and to breed disorder, by slurring attacks on the integrity of our courts, is little less than anarchistic and should be treated accordingly.

And, by the way, if the editor of the Independent is really sincere in characterizing the alleged receipt of twenty dollars a day by judges as a violation of the rights of the "common people," will he please rise and explain why, as a director of a local bank, he is willing to receive compensation for his services at the rate of two dollars an hour or thereabouts for his attendance at the weekly meetings of the board, as it is currently reported that he does, when the "common people" for whom his heart bleeds, are barely able to earn twenty-five cents an hour at hard labor, and have to work from eight to ten hours a day at that?

SATISFIED ORCHARDIST.

Mr. Editor:
I desire, through your valuable paper, to express my appreciation for benefits derived from the valuable services rendered by Prof. H. A. Surface and his able assistants. My orchard has been under the supervision of this department for the past two years and I can see a great change in the quality of the fruit as well as in the increased production. Mr. W. H. Bullock is thoroughly equipped for the work and has given the farmers of Wayne county, at the various meetings and demonstrations, which he has held, knowledge if rightly used will raise the standard of fruit culture and aid materially in making the old farm productive. It is hard for us to get out of the old ruts. Those who attend these meetings receive instruction which if put into practice would bring more dollars in their homes besides having the satisfaction of producing fruit which cannot be surpassed in any other section of the county. It is impossible for the Department to have model orchards in every township with the limited amount of cash for that work, but enough meetings are being held in various sections to enable every energetic land owner to become skilled in the production of good fruit thereby enhancing the profits of his farm. The serious drawback to this work is the fact that too many farmers think they haven't the time to spray, prune and care for their trees according to instructions. In many instances they are not even willing to leave the hay under the trees for milching but expect to harvest the grass as well as the fruit. We believe the day is not far distant when Wayne county will have a fruit growers' association. Let the good work continue.
OWNER OF MODEL ORCHARD.

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above the deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee to-night.

O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep the Angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given?
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.

No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him
still,

The dear Christ enters in,
These children pure and happy
Pray to the blessed Child,
Where misery cries out to Thee,
Son of the Mother mild.

Where Charity stands watching
And Faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory
breaks,
And Christmas comes once more.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us to-day.

We hear the Christmas Angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O, come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

—Phillips Brooks.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES.

Senior Program, 3 P. M. Friday, December 13.

Essay—"A Trip on the Hudson," Sarah Synar.
Essay—"The Evolution of Matches," Mildred Jones.
Oration—"The Earliest Newspapers," Carryl Vail.
Recitation—"After Blenheim," (Southey), Alice Ward.
Original story—"The Birthday," Dorothy Riefler.
Oration—"The Over-Sea Railway," Sumner Crossley.
Essay—"Revelations of Pompeii," Louise Kraft.
Recitation—"I Ain't A-goin' to Cry No More"—(James Whitcomb Riley), Helen Eao.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF NEWSPAPERS TO CARRIAGE IN THE MAILS.

The newspapers of the United States should awaken, if they are not already awake, to the surpassing importance of the question just now before the Supreme Court of the United States for a decision.

It is not from some burlesque opera or from the mouth of some absurd juris-consult in that Wonderland of topsy-turvy thought which Alice visited that there comes the amazing assertion of autocratic power or of limit the freedom of the press, or to coerce its utterances, which is contained in the following sentences:

"We submit that Congress has the unrestrained power to say what in its opinion is so hurtful to the public welfare that it should not pass through the mails; and that it may enforce that opinion without its correctness being subject to judicial review. * * * It surely may prescribe any conditions concerning the mail matter itself, whether as to size, weight, character of contents, purposes for which sent, etc.; and it may likewise prescribe conditions concerning the person depositing it in the mail, especially if the conditions attached to the sender bear some relation to the thing sent. * * * If such views [those of a newspaper's owners] are expressed in the paper, Government can doubtless exclude them, just as Congress could now exclude all papers advocating lotteries, prohibition, anarchy or protective tariff if a majority of Congress thought such views against public policy."

This was the language of a high law officer of the Federal Government, the Solicitor-General, arguing to the court in behalf of the unlimited power of Congress to regulate the postal service of the United States; to the extent even of deciding what political opinions, expressed in newspaper type, shall be admissible to mails and what political opinions in newspapers shall be denied the privilege of transmission from postoffice to postoffice.

The First Amendment of the Constitution declares that "Congress shall make no law * * * abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press." If the Solicitor-General of the United States is right in the propositions printed above, this precious guarantee is worthless; for it can be nullified effectually by the mere exercise of legislative power whereof the admitted province is the arrangement of administrative details of the service and the police regulation necessary for the protection of the morals in the community. The police power is extended to the censorship of political opinion. According to this outrageous doctrine a majority vote in Congress, immune from judicial review or rebuke, may close the mails to newspapers advocating the prohibition of the sale of liquor, just as it may close the mails to papers containing obscene literature. A majority vote in Congress may bar out newspapers

containing articles in favor of a tariff for protection, just as it may exclude those which lend their advertising columns to the traps of notorious swindlers.

The Solicitor-General's doctrine is susceptible of even more ridiculous application without straining it in the least. If a majority in Congress should conclude that the dissemination of Democratic campaign arguments or documents, either in the newspapers or in pamphlet form, was against "public policy" it could prevent their circulation through the mails. Equally as to Republican literature, or Socialist literature, or Progressive literature. The ultimate censorship and the unrestrained power of exclusion from the mails he holds to be in Congress, and no judicial tribunal exists which is competent to enforce the constitutional rights of a free press.

In his closing argument for the freedom of the press before the Supreme Court at Washington last week Mr. James M. Beck pointed to Daniel Webster's reply to a similar proposition years ago, when it was urged that Congress should purge the mails of anti-slavery journals. "Any law," said Webster, "distinguishing what shall or what shall not go into the mails founded on the sentiments of the paper and making a deputy postmaster a judge I should say is expressly unconstitutional."

If some of our contemporaries do not yet apprehend the full significance of the recent legislation asserting unheeded-of Federal control over the newspapers through the mere administrative power to regulate the mails, we advise them to study Mr. Beck's masterly presentation of the case in their behalf and for their constitutional right to be free from arbitrary censorship and discriminating treatment. And it is proper that they should know that this service of championship is rendered voluntarily by Mr. Beck in a spirit of public duty and not as an ordinary professional engagement.

Where is this doctrine of absolute legislative power to end, if sustained as to the newspapers and the mails? If Congress can constitutionally exercise the power claimed for Federal authority by the Solicitor-General as an incident of the ordinary regulation of the postal service, has it not the same power over individual opinion as an incident of the regulation of foreign and interstate commerce? Does not the Solicitor-General believe that Congress by statutory enactment, under Section 8 of the First Article, might prescribe that no person advocating prohibition, let us say, or favoring a protective tariff, shall enjoy the privilege of transportation on the trains of interstate railways or on ocean steamships; no person, indeed, whose political opinions are deemed by the existing majority in Congress to be opposed to good public policy? And this without recourse to the courts, no matter what the constitutional guarantee may be!

When has there been so sweeping, so preposterous an assertion of undelegated Federal power since a former Solicitor-General of the United States instructed the Supreme Court in the case of Kansas vs.

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Colorado, that "all powers which are national in their scope must be found vested in the Congress of the United States"; a doctrine so revolutionary that the Supreme Court, in the memorable decision rendered by Mr. Justice Brewer, promptly proceeded to put it under the heel of the highest judicial authority?—New York Sun.

FIRST CHRISTMAS TREE.

"The Christmas tree, as every one knows, is not exactly a Christian institution," writes Samuel M. Evans, in Sunset Magazine. "Before the time of Christ the Druids worshipped the spirits in the trees and celebrated the festival of Yuletide, in which the tree had a prominent part. The first man that we know of in the countries of the north was the cave man. His cathedral was the forest and its ceiling the blue sky, seemingly upheld by the fluted columns of redwood trees that raised their lofty trunks to the zenith. And in mid-winter he looked forth from his rude door on trees lighted with the rays of the setting sun into more splendor than even glittering tinsel or flickering candle can lend to the Christmas tree of our time."

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