

# SOLDIERS' COLUMN

## THE SABER BRIGADE. An Expedition for the Relief of Part of Reynold's Division.



FROM the 11th of March to the 2nd of April, 1863, the Saber Brigade was engaged in several short expeditions—namely one on March 29 to relieve the Second Brigade of Gen. Reynolds' Division, which was surrounded by Gen. Morgan's force at Milton,

about 10 miles southeast from Murfreesboro.

It having been determined to drive John Morgan from his stronghold at Snow Hill, south of Liberty, Gen. Stanley organized an expedition for that purpose.

On the morning of April 2, General Stanley ordered me to take the advance with the First and Second Brigades of Cavalry, and to march rapidly for Liberty.

The enemy's pickets were met at Auburn and were driven to Prosperity Church by the advance-guard. Here we met a strong force holding a good position on high ground on the south-west bank of Smith's Creek.

The enemy, assuming the offensive, moved a force up the left bank of the creek, threatening to attack on my left. I sent Col. Paramore with his brigade—1st, 2d and 3d Ohio—against this force, which fell back before him. As Paramore advanced he in turn threatened the right of the rebel position, causing them to waver perceptibly.

I directed Lieut. Newell to open fire with his two guns; a battalion of the 4th Mich. dismounted and quickly dislodged the enemy's skirmishers and sharpshooters from the woods bordering the creek.

At this moment Gen. Stanley arrived on the field with a division of infantry, and Morgan fell back towards Liberty. I occupied their position, on which I bivouacked that night.

Early on April 3 Gen. Stanley ordered a forward movement. With my own brigade I advanced directly up the valley, and quickly drove the rebels through Liberty. They made a stand a short distance south of the village, on the foothills, with a strong front of their positions. I directed Col. Paramore with the Second Brigade to cross the creek higher up, and to turn the left flank of the rebel position.

Morgan at once fell back. I followed him closely, and ordered Col. Paramore to open up a valley parallel to the one I was in, and to keep in line with my brigade.

About half a mile from the foot of Snow Hill Morgan again attempted to make a stand. He occupied a formidable position, and opened his batteries early in the morning, working a short distance up the hill. The 4th Mich. dismounted, and pressed forward into the woods on the hillside, in front of the enemy's left, and supported by the 5th Tenn. The 7th Pa. advanced directly up the road, slowly followed by the 10th Ohio and the section of artillery.

The fire of the Fourth Mich. was proving very effective on the rebel line. I ordered the 7th Pa. to charge, which that regiment led by Lieut. Col. Sipes, did in its customary gallant and dashy style. The rebels did not wait for the reconnoiter, but fell back rapidly for their position on Snow Hill.

I deployed the 10th Ohio, and moved it up the face of the hill, placed the artillery in position to shell the rebel batteries, and with the 5th Mich. and 4th Tenn. I advanced rapidly up Dry Run, endeavoring to get in Morgan's rear, and to cut off his retreat. As I moved forward Morgan abandoned his position and retreated rapidly to McMinnville.

This was the same force which had surrounded and attempted to capture Col. Hall's Brigade at Milton on the 20th of March, and numbered 2,250 men, and six pieces of artillery.

The infantry and the Second Cavalry Brigade returned directly to Murfreesboro, while I made a circuit through Alexandria, Cherry Valley, Cunnsville, Stateville, Lebanon, and Boon's Mill, arriving at Murfreesboro at 8 p. m., April 6.

We buried 17 Confederate dead, and brought in 65 prisoners and 357 horses and mules.

The total loss in the cavalry were two men wounded in the 4th Mich., and one killed and two wounded in the 7th Pa. On April 9 General Stanley marched for Franklin to reinforce Gen. Gordon Granger, who was threatened by the rebel Gen. Van Dorn, with 10,000 cavalry and mounted infantry.

For the only time in the history of the "Saber Brigade" it went on an expedition leaving me in camp. I was under the Surgeon's care, and unable to go with it.

After Stanley's arrival at Franklin Granger's force mustered about 5,000 infantry and 2,700 cavalry.

Gen. Stanley crossed the Harpeth River, and struck the enemy in flank. The 4th U. S. Cav. made a gallant charge and captured Freeman's battery; but before they could bring it off Armstrong's rebel brigade made a counter-charge and recaptured it.

Valle, in "Minty and the Cavalry," pages 145 and 146 gives the following description of this affair: "Gen. Stanley crossed the Harpeth northward to the center of the river, where Col. Starnes, whose force on that part of the field consisted of his own brigade and Freeman's battery of four pieces. The 4th Cav. dashed upon the center of Starnes's line, broke it, driving it demoralized from the field; then charged upon the battery. A short but desperate encounter took place over the guns. Freeman, knowing that Forrest's whole force was at hand, encouraged his men to fight to the last, and when completely overpowered endeavored to retreat with two guns. Lieut. Roudie, with two companies, dashed after him, and soon overtaking him demanded his own, and the surrender of his guns. Freeman refused and urged his horses on, firing his revolver almost in the face of the Lieutenant. At his third shot, Serg't Maj. Strickland, with a single shot from his revolver, laid him dead on the road. The guns were brought back to where the other portion of the battery was in possession of the 4th.

"Forrest promptly rallied his command and attacked the 4th with Armstrong's Brigade. The 4th, being entirely unsupported, retreated, when it was entirely surrounded, to the north side of the river, abandoning, after disabling the captured guns. The rebel loss in this engagement was 57 killed and over 150 wounded and captured. Most of the wounded prisoners were recaptured when the regiment retreated, but the 4th brought out 48 unwounded. The 4th lost five men killed and 18 wounded."

Gen. Stanley reported particulars of this affair to Gen. Rosecrans by telegraph, and added: "If Minty is well enough, send him to me. If he has been here, I would like to see him brought out those guns."

Gen. Rosecrans sent me and handed me the telegram, which I read and handed back saying, "General, I am ready." An hour later, with a couple of Orderslies, my servant and horse, I was on my way to Nashville by rail. At Nashville I was transferred to the Nashville and Decatur Road, and early next day, April 12, I reported to Gen. Stanley at Franklin; but Van Dorn had fallen back to Columbia, south of Duck River, during the night, and there was no enemy near us.

Van Horne, in his "History of the Army of the Cumberland," Vol. I, pages 296-7, says: "Gen. Stanley crossed the river and struck the enemy in flank, but was subsequently forced to recross. Having met such opposition before reaching Franklin, Gen. Van Horne retreated without making a general attack."

The command returned to Murfreesboro, arriving on the evening of April 17. The death of Capt. Freeman, who was a gallant soldier, would have been a very serious matter for Serg't Maj. Strickland if the enemy could have captured and identified him. Valle, in "Minty and the Cavalry," pages 145-7, says: "The custom of the rebels after meeting a mishap, they in this instance, invented a cock-and-bull story to the effect that Capt. Freeman was 'murdered by an officer of the 4th after he had surrendered, and while a prisoner in their hands, on the pretence of the object being to give the color of excuse for a riotous proceeding committed by themselves, and to create a bitter, blood-thirsty feeling on the part of their soldiers against efficient cavalry regiments in general and the 4th Regulars in particular."

Serg't Maj. Strickland killed Capt. Freeman in a fair fight, and Capt. Freeman's bravery required no false statement, such as made, to perpetrate his memory.

The report was, however, assiduously circulated and generally believed in Forrest's command, and on two notable occasions afterward Forrest's men refused to take any of the 4th U. S. Cav. prisoners. There-in some way learned that it was the Serg't-Major of the regiment who killed Freeman, and they threatened to hang him if they ever caught him.

During the Atlanta campaign, Strickland's term of service expired, and he was discharged. He was a perfect penman, and was at once engaged as a clerk in the Quartermaster's Department soon after which he was taken prisoner and sent to Andersonville. Gen. Valle claimed to be Serg't-Major of the 4th Mich. Cav. in order to prevent his being identified. He escaped from Andersonville seven times; three times he was pulled down by bloodhounds and left lying, carried to market, and the hound's teeth on his shoulder and arms to this day. The seventh time, he arrived at Atlanta, where he expected to find Union forces; but, Sherman having orders on his "march to the sea," the rebels were in posse signis. He procured a Federal uniform and supplied himself with a furlough and passes and in a few days started for Chattanooga. When within sight of that place he was picked up by a rebel cavalry scout and taken before the Major commanding, to whom he presented his furlough and passes. "The major looked at them and then said, 'I know the signatures of these officers; these are well done, but they are forgeries.'" Strickland broke down at this and sitting down on a stone, cried like a child. He then said: "Major, I am the Serg't-Major of the 4th Mich. Cav. I have been a prisoner at Andersonville. This is the seventh time I have escaped. I have been run down three times by bloodhounds and three times before this captured in other ways and now within sight of a Union garrison, I am captured the seventh time. I tell you, it is enough to madden any one." The Major looked at him a moment and said: "I have been fighting for the Confederacy for nearly four years; have met your regiment often; your men are good soldiers and treat your prisoners well, and I won't send you back to that place—Andersonville; the war is nearly over, and you can do us much harm, any way. And writing a pass handed it to him, and told him to go on his way."

On the return of the cavalry to Murfreesboro the 4th U. S. Cav., which, up to this time had been acting under direct orders from the Chief of Cavalry, was assigned to the "Saber Brigade."

I think the Regulars, at first, felt a little sore at being brigaded with volunteers, and having to serve under a volunteer, but this feeling soon passed. The regiment was composed of as gallant a body of officers and soldiers as ever mounted horse or drew saber, and were so proud of their brigade, proud of the regiments composing it, and proud of the soldier life work achieved by it.—RICHARD H. G. MINTY, in National Tribune.

FOURTEENTH DAY.—In the Senate to-day bills were reported as follows: Making Lawrence and Jefferson counties separate judicial districts, appropriating \$103,000 for the re-equipping of the National Guard and \$300,000 for the next two years for its maintenance; providing for the erection of a State building for Western Pennsylvania for feeble-minded children; to reimburse counties for money expended for the reconstruction of bridges destroyed in the flood of 1889; to provide for a State naval militia.

The bill introduced by Mr. Penrose, Philadelphia—Providing for appointment of peace commissioners, and authorizing these officers to appoint game wardens.

Bills providing for the abolition of the publication of mercantile appraisers' lists and the abolition of the office of mercantile appraiser, reported affirmatively, were recommissioned.

A communication was received from the Governor, announcing that he had signed the Ohio law, and that the bill for the abolition of the office of mercantile appraiser, reported affirmatively, were recommissioned.

The House devoted most of the session to the discussion of an amendment to the bill providing for the licensing of lying-in-hospitals. The amendment provided that not only the name of mother and child be registered in such hospitals, but also that of the father. The amendment was defeated. This bill was introduced: Mr. Kunkel, Dauphin—Giving the husband the same right in the wife's estate, as the wife has in the husband's estate, in case of intestate deaths; Mr. Cotton, Allegheny—To give women the right of suffrage; Mr. Talbot, Chester—Prohibiting the furnishing of cigars to minors; Mr. Fow, Philadelphia—To permit the sale of liquor in public parks; to prohibit the position of physical deformities in public.

FIFTEENTH DAY.—In the Senate to-day the following bills were reported favorably: Providing for printing 2,500 copies of the revised, corrected proceedings of the late extra session of the Senate to members of the Legislature; to authorize issuing of certificates of authority to insurance associations, known as Lloyds; appropriating \$55,000 for the improvement and repair of the banks and channel of Oil Creek, damaged by the flood of 1892; providing for a State Board of Underwriters.

The following bills were introduced: Baker, Delaware—Preparing a large number of amendments to the Ballot Reform law, to better effect the purpose of the act; providing further regulations for safety of persons employed in mercantile and manufacturing establishments; Herring, Columbia—Providing for the closing of all polls at all elections in Pennsylvania at 4 p. m. Bills were passed finally as follows: Exempting county commissioners from the operation of the act relating to mercantile and manufacturing corporations, conferring on purchasers of property and franchises of the latter; providing that liquor license fees may be paid into the proper county, empowering boroughs, townships and cities to establish a police pension fund. Two of Senator Neeb's bills passed the Senate on second reading. The first prohibits members of the Board of Control in cities of the second class from holding any office, position, or employment by said boards. The other provides for physical culture in the public schools of the cities of the first and second class. Mr. Neeb's bill establishing a police pension fund passed finally. The bill authorizing the appointment of deputy coroners passed finally. Tuesday evening was fixed for delivery of eulogies on James G. Blaine. The Senate then adjourned until 9 p. m. Monday.

A bill was introduced in the House to-day by Representative Marshall, of Allegheny, providing for the health, safety and comfort of the miners in the bituminous regions of the State. The bill provides that the operator or superintendent of every bituminous coal mine shall make, or cause to be made, an accurate map or plan of such coal mine, or a scroll of not less than 100 feet in an inch. The bill is similar in other respects to the Gorman bill, except that it reduces the minimum amount of air to 100 feet, eliminates the liability clause, and limits the number of men in a shaft to one hundred. The Gorman bill has been reported favorably from committee. A resolution was adopted, on motion of Mr. Lawrence, that a special meeting of the House be held on Tuesday evening next, to receive the report of the committee appointed to prepare resolutions with relation to the death of James G. Blaine, and to take such other action as may seem proper. A bill was offered by Mr. Bliss excusing members of the National Guard and ex-soldiers from jury service. The bill to prevent the sale and manufacture of cigarettes containing tobacco was called up on second reading. The House devoted considerable time to the discussion of the measure, which finally passed. The House then adjourned.

Among the bills favorably reported in the House to-day were the following: Authorizing licenses to be issued to unnaturalized foreigners on condition that they pay an annual tax of \$3, providing for compulsory education in the schools of the State; making election day a legal holiday; to increase the salary of the superintendent of public institutions from \$2,500 to \$3,000.

These bills were introduced: Mr. Burke, of Lackawanna, providing for the examination of certificates of miners in the anthracite and bituminous coal regions and to prevent the employment of incompetent persons in the mines; Mr. Loudenslager, of Dauphin, to abolish the office of mercantile appraiser, require his duties to be performed by the sheriff, and providing for the payments of the mercantile revenues into the county treasuries.

Mr. King, of Clearfield, offered a resolution, which was adopted, asking for the appointment of a joint legislative committee to inquire into the feasibility of having a large section of Pennsylvania forests secured for the purpose of establishing a national State park. A preamble to the resolution recites the destruction of the forests of the State to such an extent that grave fears are entertained that the forests may become extinct on account of it and suggests their protection by means of a forest park. After the reading of a number of bills the first time the House adjourned until Monday at 9 p. m.

She's a Genius.

Near the town of White Oaks, N. M., lives one of the most remarkable women even of this most remarkable age. The house in which she lives, a low, white-walled adobe building covered with green vines and fitted out with rich carpets, artistic hangings, books and pictures, exquisite china and silver, and all the dainty belongings with which a refined woman loves to surround herself, was built with her own hands. The huge ranch on which it is located, with 8,000 cattle, is managed entirely by her. It is she who buys or takes up the land, selects and controls the men, buys, sells, and transfers the cattle. She is also a skillful and intelligent prospector, and found the valuable silver mine on her territory, in which she now owns a half interest. She sings charmingly, accompanying herself on the piano or guitar, and handles a cambric needle or water-color brush as dexterously as she uses an adze or a jackplane. She entertains delightfully at her home with parties, little dances, and even an occasional german. Her name is Mrs. Barber, and she has been twice a widow. A woman who can run a ranch, build a house, manage a mine, and engineer a successful german deserves a prominent place in the ranks of women of genius.

Bills were introduced: Seyfert, Lancaster, amending the marriage license act so as to give noticeable public the same right as justices of the peace relative to the taking of oaths; Boyd, Philadelphia, increasing the compensation of electors to \$5 a day and providing for mileage; Quinlan, Lackawanna, prohibiting corporations from employing peace officers or to assume the duties of State, county or municipal officers.

KEystone STATE CULLINGS. A MINE EXPLOSION. TWO MEN FATAALLY INJURED AND SEVEN OTHERS SEVERELY BURNED. WILKESBORO.—An explosion occurred in Conygham shaft Friday. Nine men were severely burned and two of them will die. The injured are: Thomas Polan, married; Edward Ward, single; M. Ramsey, single; Samuel Fauser, married; P. Mohan, married; Thomas Keenan, driver boy; William Johnson, married.

Mrs. Johnson's children Morgan and James Hopkins, are fatally burned and cannot recover. It is said that the accident was due to leaving one of the main doors open in a gangway road. This caused an accumulation of gas, which became ignited from the naked lamps in the hats of the miners.

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HARRISBURG.—At the twenty-fifth annual meeting of the State Editorial Association here, E. F. Acheson, of Washington, was elected president; H. L. Fassart, of Philadelphia, Lucas Roberts, of Wellen, and J. W. Malory, of Carbon, vice-presidents; H. H. Thomas, of Cumberland, secretary and treasurer and Mrs. J. W. Stafer, of Lancaster, corresponding secretary. The Executive Committee consists of Cyrus L. Fox, of Berks; R. Seal, of Dauphin; A. Irish Steele, of Schuylkill; P. Gray Meek, of Centre; George M. Breslin, of Clearfield; W. W. Trout, of Mifflin and J. W. Grier. The summer meeting will probably be held in Reading.

Smothered by Wraps. A CAREFUL MOTHER PROTECTS HER BARE TOO WELL FROM THE WINTRY WINDS. BEAVER FALLS.—Mrs. Altmeyer, a German woman, and her 1-month-old baby, with a Mrs. Snyder, left here in a sleigh to return to their home near Edwood. The baby was wrapped warmly to protect it from the cold, and as they were passing through Eastvale, Pa., Altmeyer remarked that the child was unusually quiet. Wrapping it she found the child had been smothered by its wraps.

BELLIES OF THE GOLD BEAT. QUAIL IN MANY PARTS OF THE STATE were weakened by the cold and the lack of food that they were caught by in endeavoring to find their way through the snow.

For the first time in more than 20 years the swift water of the Shenango at New Castle were completely frozen up. At some places in the Susquehanna the ice is said to be packed and frozen to a depth of 40 feet.

A BEER, driven from the mountains by the deep snow, was killed by a locomotive on the Pennsylvania Railroad near New Florence.

Snow has now covered the ground for 30 days and the farmers are predicting a big crop of wheat.

BROCKWAYVILLE, in Jefferson county, reports the thermometer down to 22° below zero. This is about the lowest in Western Pennsylvania.

STUDENTS TAKE A TOWN. BELLEVILLE.—Last Saturday night about two dozen students from the State College went on a racket to Pine Grove Mills. After terrorizing half the town, they invaded the Methodist Church, broke up a religious meeting and sent the people home panic-stricken. A suffocating powder was thrown around, and some of the worshippers had to be carried home because of the loss of consciousness. None of the students were recognized. The trustees will endeavor to hunt down and punish the perpetrators.

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A BIG FIRE IN ALTOONA. ALTOONA.—Woodcock's Arcade, a four-story brick building on Eleventh avenue, was damaged \$40,000 by fire of an incendiary origin, insured for about one-third. Among the other losers are Frederick Hesser, dry goods; J. Kramer, wall paper, and dry goods; Lewis and Stung, wholesale dry goods; the World's Museum and six private families. The goods of these were worth about \$75,000 and were badly damaged by water.

KILLED ON HIS WEDDING DAY. JOHNSTOWN.—Samuel Edwards, 25 years old, was killed while walking on the tracks. He was to have been married same evening.

AT SHAMOKIN, a huge icicle fell 600 feet and struck George Hetz, who was at the bottom of Nelson shaft, inflicting fatal injuries.

PETITIONS are circulating at Harrisburg and elsewhere asking the removal of German carp from the streams of Pennsylvania.

A FARMERS' institute will be held at Canonsburg, February 3.

NEW CASTLE has had 32 fires in two weeks, all believed to be incendiary.

The eleven Western Union Telegraph line men tried last week for breaking the Sabbath by repairing the line on that day, were convicted Monday and sentenced to pay a fine of \$1 and costs. The Justice's decision states that the work in regard to the wires was necessary, but that other work, such as digging trenches, was done, that might have been done at another time.

By the discharge of his gun while he was climbing a fence, Simon Browne, a farmer of Selin's Grove, lost his life.

CROPS PROMISE WELL. The Snow Has Protected Winter Grain from Being Frost-Bitten.

The winter crop report of the Agricultural Bureau says the grain crops as a rule have not been injured by the cold weather, the snow protecting them from being frost-bitten.

Over the northern section of Pennsylvania snow has covered the ground to a depth sufficient to afford protection, and the severe winter has not unfavorably affected wheat. In the eastern section favorable conditions are reported.

In Ohio winter wheat and other growing crops as a whole, have stood the winter well and are in good condition.

—GREAT BRITAIN leads in the number of foreign vessels arriving at New York for the month of January, with a total of 180. America comes next, with 78, and Germany third, with 24.

THE PAPAYA TREE. The papaya tree is believed to be indigenous to the West Indies, but is plentifully found in Mexico. It has also been introduced into Florida and Bermuda. Our cut is from a photograph of a tree growing in Florida, and is a good specimen of this curious plant. The tree bears a striking resemblance to a palm, growing to about twenty feet in height, while the fruit, when ripe, looks something like an immense orange. Its flavor is usually insipid, although the product of some individual trees is very palatable. This indicates that, like the orange, it might, by cultivation, be improved and become an important article of commerce and a source of profit to the horticulturist.

FOR THE HOUSEWIFE. APPLE CHARLOTTE. Six large apples, one-half box of gelatine, one pint of cream, sugar to taste. Pare and steam the apples until tender, then press them through a colander and add the sugar. Cover the gelatine with cold water and soak a half hour, then add it to the hot apples; stir until dissolved. Now pour this into a tin basin, stand the basin in a pan of icewater and stir continually until the mixture begins to thicken; then add quickly and carefully the cream, whipped. Turn in a fancy pudding mould and stand in a cold place to harden. This will serve eight persons.—[New York Journal.

PRESSED CHICKEN. Boil a chicken until very tender so the meat will slip off from the bones easily; salt while cooking. Remove from the stove and pick up the chicken very fine, mixing the light and dark meat in the dish in which you would it. Put the bones back in the water and boil until there is only a cupful of the liquid; pour this over your meat, mixing well and add a little salt if necessary. Place an inverted plate over it, and weight to keep it in place. Keep this in a cold place until ready to use, then slice with a sharp knife.—[New York World.

DELICIOUS POULTRY STUFFING. A reader commends to housewives the English fashion of stuffing poultry with a very little force-meat and supplementing it with nicely browned balls of the force-meat baked separately. Her recipe is: A cupful of dry breadcrumbs, grated; half a cup of suet, chopped fine; a little grated lemon peel; half a teaspoonful of parsley, fresh or dried; pepper and salt to taste, and an egg beaten with a tablespoonful of milk to bind together. Use less than half if for a chicken, and make the remainder into small balls. Bake in a quick oven until a nice brown and arrange as a border around the fowl. For a turkey use double the quantity.—[New York Post.

ANGELS' FOOD. Stand the whites of eleven eggs on ice until very cold; add a pinch of salt and beat very stiff with fork. Stir in one and one-half goblets of granulated sugar well rolled and then sifted two or three times; one goblet of flour measured before sifting and then sifted five or six times, and one teaspoonful of cream tartar. If the juice of half a lemon is used only one-half teaspoonful of cream tartar is needed. Bake in an oven just hot enough to hold the arm in while counting sixty. Let the cake stand in fifteen minutes before looking at it. Be careful about jarring around it. Bake forty minutes in a new tin without greasing it.—[American Farmer.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS. Use hartshorn to bring back colors faded by acids. Unstaked lime cleans small articles of steel, such as buckles, &c. See that the lamp wicks are turned down after trimming, else the lamps will be covered with oil. Rub your stove off daily with newspapers; it will keep it in fine polish and it will not be so hard on one's hands. By rubbing with a flannel dipped in whitening the brown discoloration may be taken off cups which have been used in baking.

A board a foot square and covered with tin or zinc and used to set hot kettles or pans upon is a great protection to the kitchen table. The safest way to clean bronzes is to rub it with a soft cloth slightly moistened with sweet oil, polishing afterward with an oil chamomeis. Lemon juice will whiten frosting, cranberry or strawberry juice will color it pink, and the grated rind of an orange strained through a cloth will color it yellow.

Half a dozen onions planted in the cellar where they can get a little light will do much toward absorbing and correcting the atmospheric impurities that are so apt to lurk in such places. A pinch of sulphate of ammonis dropped in the water in a hyacinth glass just when the flower spike is rising will make the flowers come larger and more deeply colored than without it.

AGED RAPIDLY. Young Husband—What? You are 25 years old today? Why, you told me a year ago, just before the wedding, that you were only 20. Young Wife (wearily)—I have aged rapidly since I married.—[Life.

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STUDENTS TAKE A TOWN. BELLEVILLE.—Last Saturday night about two dozen students from the State College went on a racket to Pine Grove Mills. After terrorizing half the town, they invaded the Methodist Church, broke up a religious meeting and sent the people home panic-stricken. A suffocating powder was thrown around, and some of the worshippers had to be carried home because of the loss of consciousness. None of the students were recognized. The trustees will endeavor to hunt down and punish the perpetrators.

HE GOT ONE-FIFTH OF HIS CLAIM. HOLLIDAYSBURG.—In the case of J. H. Wallace vs. the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, a jury awarded plaintiff \$4,000 damages. The Pennsylvania will straighten out its main line below Tyrone in 1891, removing a limestone mountain in plain sight to Carnegie & Co., of Pittsburgh. In his suit he asked for \$20,000 damages.

A BIG FIRE IN ALTOONA. ALTOONA.—Woodcock's Arcade, a four-story brick building on Eleventh avenue, was damaged \$40,000 by fire of an incendiary origin, insured for about one-third. Among the other losers are Frederick Hesser, dry goods; J. Kramer, wall paper, and dry goods; Lewis and Stung, wholesale dry goods; the World's Museum and six private families. The goods of these were worth about \$75,000 and were badly damaged by water.

KILLED ON HIS WEDDING DAY. JOHNSTOWN.—Samuel Edwards, 25 years old, was killed while walking on the tracks. He was to have been married same evening.

AT SHAMOKIN, a huge icicle fell 600 feet and struck George Hetz, who was at the bottom of Nelson shaft, inflicting fatal injuries.

PETITIONS are circulating at Harrisburg and elsewhere asking the removal of German carp from the streams of Pennsylvania.

A FARMERS' institute will be held at Canonsburg, February 3.

NEW CASTLE has had 32 fires in two weeks, all believed to be incendiary.

The eleven Western Union Telegraph line men tried last week for breaking the Sabbath by repairing the line on that day, were convicted Monday and sentenced to pay a fine of \$1 and costs. The Justice's decision states that the work in regard to the wires was necessary, but that other work, such as digging trenches, was done, that might have been done at another time.

By the discharge of his gun while he was climbing a fence, Simon Browne, a farmer of Selin's Grove, lost his life.

CROPS PROMISE WELL. The Snow Has Protected Winter Grain from Being Frost-Bitten.

The winter crop report of the Agricultural Bureau says the grain crops as a rule have not been injured by the cold weather, the snow protecting them from being frost-bitten.

Over the northern section of Pennsylvania snow has covered the ground to a depth sufficient to afford protection, and the severe winter has not unfavorably affected wheat. In the eastern section favorable conditions are reported.

In Ohio winter wheat and other growing crops as a whole, have stood the winter well and are in good condition.

—GREAT BRITAIN leads in the number of foreign vessels arriving at New York for the month of January, with a total of 180. America comes next, with 78, and Germany third, with 24.

# The Papaya Tree.

The papaya tree is believed to be indigenous to the West Indies, but is plentifully found in Mexico. It has also been introduced into Florida and Bermuda. Our cut is from a photograph of a tree growing in Florida, and is a good specimen of this curious plant. The tree bears a striking resemblance to a palm, growing to about twenty feet in height, while the fruit, when ripe, looks something like an immense orange. Its flavor is usually insipid, although the product of some individual trees is very palatable. This indicates that, like the orange, it might, by cultivation, be improved and become an important article of commerce and a source of profit to the horticulturist.

FOR THE HOUSEWIFE. APPLE CHARLOTTE. Six large apples, one-half box of gelatine, one pint of cream, sugar to taste. Pare and steam the apples until tender, then press them through a colander and add the sugar. Cover the gelatine with cold water and soak a half hour, then add it to the hot apples; stir until dissolved.