

# The Bedford Gazette.

BEDFORD, PA., FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 30, 1869.

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BY MEYERS & MENGEL.

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1869, 71

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## The Bedford Gazette.

## DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM.

1. That the federal government is limited in power to the grants contained in the Federal Constitution; that the exercise of doubtful constitutional powers is dangerous to the stability of the government and the safety of the people, and the democratic party will never consent that the State of Pennsylvania shall surrender her great right of local self-government.

2. That the attempted ratification of the proposed fifteenth amendment to the Federal Constitution by the radical members of the last legislature, and their refusal to submit the same to a vote of the people, was a deliberate breach of their official duty and an outrage upon every citizen of the State, and the resolution making such ratification should be promptly repealed and the amendment submitted to the people at the polls for acceptance or rejection.

3. That the Democratic party of Pennsylvania is opposed to conferring upon the negro the right to vote, and we do emphatically deny that there is any right or power in Congress or elsewhere to impose negro suffrage upon the people of this State in opposition to their will.

4. That reform in the administration of the federal and State governments, and in the management of their financial affairs is imperatively demanded.

5. That the movements now being made for the amelioration of the condition of the laboring man has our most cordial cooperation.

6. That the legislation of the late republican Congress "outside of the Constitution," the disregard of the majority therein of the will of the people and sanctity of the ballot box, in the exclusion of their seats in Congress or elsewhere to impose negro suffrage upon the people of this State in opposition to their will.

7. That our soldiers and sailors, who carried the flag of our country to victory must be gratefully remembered, and all the guaranties given in their favor must be faithfully carried into execution.

8. Equal rights and protection for naturalized and native-born citizens at home and abroad; the assertion of American nationality which shall command the respect of foreign powers and furnish an example an encouragement to people struggling for national integrity, constitutional liberty and individual rights.

9. That the present internal revenue and taxing system of the general government is grossly unjust, and means ought at once to be adopted to cause a modification thereof.

The report was accepted and unanimously adopted.

## HON. ASA PACKER.

The following extended sketch of the Democratic candidate for Governor, will no doubt be read with interest at this time:

Asa Packer, the standard-bearer of the Democracy of Pennsylvania, in the present State canvass, was born in the township of Groton, New London county, Connecticut, in the beginning of the year 1809. His grandfather, Elisha Packer, was the most prominent and successful business man of his native town. He was a farmer, tanner and shoe manufacturer, diligent in his business, a staunch member of the Baptist denomination, and worshiped in the church erected on the site of the Pequot Fort, still in existence, and known as the Fort Hill Church. His father, Elisha Packer, Jr., was a man of strong sense, industrious, economical, and of independent character, but never very successful in business. As soon as the son was of the age to do something for himself he was employed in the tannery of Mr. Elias Smith, of North Stonington. Despite his youth, he came to be regarded by the tanner as a confidential friend and adviser, and, if death had not interposed and broken the connection, Asa Packer would probably have become a partner in the establishment, and ended his life as a tanner. After Mr. Smith's death, Mr. Packer engaged himself to an old farmer by the name of John Brown, a hard-headed and school-headed old Democrat, of the hard of Thomas Jefferson. From him Asa Packer imbibed his Democracy.

When he had reached the age of seventeen years he pulled up stakes and struck out for Pennsylvania, then a wild, sparsely settled country. He entered Susquehanna County on foot in the year 1827 with a knapsack which contained his whole wardrobe and a few dollars in his purse. Arrived at the town of Brooklyn, he apprenticed himself to a carpenter and joiner. After serving his time as an apprentice, and becoming the master of his business, he continued to work at it assiduously for several years, when he invested his savings in a lot of wild land on the upper waters of the Susquehanna, and entered upon the hard but free and adventurous life of the pioneer. He made a clearing, and reared with his own hands the cabin to which he soon after brought a wife, a daughter of Zopher Blacklee, Esq., one of the pioneers of Northern Pennsylvania. Here lived Asa Packer eleven years, when circumstances led him to change his residence to Lehigh Valley, in that locality Josiah White and Erskine Hazard, representatives of associated capital of Philadelphia, had projected and executed improvements which made the wonderful

riches of this section—its coal, iron, timber, lime, cement, and slate—partially available. Hither came Asa Packer, a poor artisan, to labor with his hands, to mix with a crowd of men similarly employed and undistinguished. What has raised Asa Packer so far above the throng of which he then was but a unit? Observing the character of the country, the almost immeasurable extent of the coal deposits, and the diversity of the rich productions of the Lehigh Valley, he foresaw the establishment of these extensive collieries of lines of transportation, and all the immense traffic which time developed. Here was a field for the highest intelligence and the most untiring energy. Accordingly, in the spring of 1833, when he was twenty-seven years of age, Asa Packer left his farm in Susquehanna County and permanently settled himself in the Lehigh Valley.

His advent into a region in which he was destined to accomplish so much made no sir. He brought to the new field but a few hundred dollars. His capital lay in his active mind, stout heart, and strong arms, and in industrious and thrifty habits. His first and second summers were employed in boating coal from Mauch Chunk to Philadelphia, in which he acted as master of his own boat. The energy which he displayed in this occupation brought him to the notice of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, and he formed a connection with the company, which was maintained for many years, greatly to his advantage. He induced his brother, Robert Packer, to join him, and assisted by some capital from his uncle, Daniel Packer, they engaged in general merchandise in Mauch Chunk, under the firm name of A. & R. W. Packer, with a capital of \$5,000. The most of this money had been saved by Asa Packer from the hard earnings of former years.—The new house entered, from the moment of opening, upon an extended and profitable business. It soon became known by its large transactions both on the Lehigh and Schuylkill rivers. Its operations on the Lehigh during the fifteen years between 1835 and 1850 embraced a large mercantile business at Mauch Chunk; contracts with the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, which involved the building of dams and locks on the upper navigation; working coal mines leased from the company, and afterward Mr. Packer's own mines near Hazleton, and shipping coal to Philadelphia and New York. A similar shipping business was also done by them on the Schuylkill. They were the first through transporters of coal to the New York market, and it is a fitting return that the business should still continue to be the largest item in the income of Asa Packer, its projector.—Through his coal mining operations he was brought into close relations with the late Commodore Stockton, and between them there sprung up a warm friendship—a friendship which proved of great value to Mr. Packer at a trying moment when pushing forward to completion the great enterprise of his life, the Lehigh Valley Railroad.

Up to the year 1860 the transportation of the coal of the Lehigh valley to market had been altogether by water, but the business had now reached such a magnitude, as in Mr. Packer's judgment to justify the building of a railroad along the banks of the Lehigh River. Accordingly, he urged upon the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company the policy of building a railroad as a part of their system of transportation. But the project was not favorably received by the Company. Experience, it was answered, had proved that coal and iron would only pay water freight. The Reading Railroad, which enjoys unusual facilities in grades and water connections, was instanced to clinch the argument. Asa Packer's opinion, however, was not affected by this adverse criticism of his proposition, and he determined to take the matter personally in hand. The ground for a railroad in the Lehigh Valley was embraced in a charter for a road of much greater extent, protected by that great Pennsylvania financier, Edward R. Biddle. It was embraced in the charter of the Delaware, Lehigh, Schuylkill and Susquehanna Railroad Company, incorporated April 21, 1846. The first survey was made in the fall of 1850. Not until the 4th of April, 1851, seventeen days before the charter would have expired by its own limitation, did Asa Packer take his place in the board of managers. On the same day the board sanctioned the grading of a mile of railroad near Allentown, and thereby the limitation was avoided. On the 30th of October, 1851, Mr. Packer became owner of a controlling portion of the stock, and subsequently submitted a proposition to build the road from Mauch Chunk to Easton, a distance of forty-six miles, for a consideration to be paid in the stock and bonds of the company, the name of which was now changed to the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company, to suit its extent and true field of work. Mr. Packer's proposition was accepted, and he commenced work in November, 1851. Under his personal supervision it was pushed with great vigor. As he received only stocks and bonds in payment, he hazarded his whole fortune in the enterprise. In its early completion and profitable working he saw every dollar of his investment quadrupled, and every acre of land in Lehigh Valley enhanced in value. But it was a heavy load, and many times did it embarrass Mr. Packer to carry it; but his high character and his reputation as a business man enabled him to command resources which he otherwise could not have had. The New Jersey Central Railroad Company, and

other rich corporations to whose business the Lehigh road would contribute, also came to Mr. Packer's assistance, and made large advances on its stock and bonds.

The Lehigh Valley railroad was finished and delivered to the company on the 24th of September, 1855, and was put immediately in operation. Its coal freights, which in 1857 amounted to 500,000 tons, in the year 1866 exceeded 2,000,000 tons 635,000 of which were delivered along its route from Mauch Chunk to Easton, to works which the railroad itself had called into existence. The addition which it brought to Asa Packer's fortune can only be stated by millions. Within three years after the opening of the railroad from Mauch Chunk to Easton, with connections which made a railroad route from the valley to Philadelphia as well as New York, Mr. Packer suggested the extension of a line of railroad into the valley of the Susquehanna, and up that valley to the great table-lands of the State of New York, there to connect with the New York and Erie Railroad. This would bring the Anthracite coal region within the system of roads leading north and west to Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, and also afford a direct route by connection with the Cataraugus and Erie roads to the Great West.—Asa Packer has lived to see the whole of this stupendous conception realized. It is not possible to calculate the benefit which it is destined to confer upon the whole country. It will set the wheels of machinery in motion thousands of miles in the interior as well as at the tide water, and bring about in a great section of country that diversity of employments essential to the highest development of the people.

On his return from a trip to Europe in 1855, Mr. Packer announced his intention to found in Lehigh Valley an educational institution which should supply to its young men the means of obtaining that knowledge of which he had in early life felt such a profound need. The branches of education to which it was Mr. Packer's design that the institution should be especially devoted were civil, mechanical, and mining engineering; general and analytical chemistry; mineralogy and metallurgy; architecture and construction; all branches of knowledge of exceptional value in the Lehigh Valley. In carrying into effect his purpose, Mr. Packer gave a woodland park sixty acres in extent, situated on the borders of South Bethlehem, and \$500,000 in money. This institution known as the Lehigh University, was formally opened September 1, 1866, and its success has realized the intelligent and beneficent purpose of its founder. By its character it is made a self-sustaining institution; intended to reach both rich and poor with its advantages; its free scholarships being offered as prizes to be competed for by all the students. No sectarian bigotry limits its beneficent influence to a single religious denomination, but those of every creed find a welcome to its halls. On the 23d day of November, 1865, at a dinner given to Mr. Packer at Bethlehem, as a public acknowledgment of his princely gift, at which many prominent men of the State were present, John W. Forney paid the following tribute to the guest of the day. "Here is a character and career for youth and manhood to study. Here is a lesson to the one to move on in the path of improvement, and a stimulant to the other never to despair in the darkest hour of disaster and misfortune. We pick out Asa Packer as the minor picks out a piece of coal to show the value of the precious deposit from which it is taken; we pick him out to show what can be won by personal honesty, industry, and kindness to men, by courage in the midst of gloomy prophecy; by modesty in prosperity; and by princely generosity when fortune comes with both hands full to realize a just ambition."

Among his immediate friends and associates, Mr. W. H. Gatzmer, the President of the Camden and Amboy Railroad, bore high testimony to the energy and ability with which Mr. Packer had carried out his great mining and railroad enterprises, and acknowledged that although Pennsylvania is only his adopted State, few of her sons have done more to develop her mineral resources. Mr. Packer enjoys to the fullest extent the confidence of the community in which he lives. This has been shown by electing him to public office whenever he could be induced to accept it. He served his neighbors several years in the General Assembly of the State, his services there ended with the year 1843. He was then elected Judge of the County Court, which position he held five years, and hence he is familiarly known as Judge Packer. More recently he has represented his district for two successive terms in the Congress of the United States, and his friends insisted on presenting his name to the late National Convention of the Democratic party, as a candidate for the first office in the gift of the American people.

Mr. Packer's whole career exemplifies the truth that in the United States there is no distinction to which any young man may not aspire, and with energy, diligence, intelligence and virtue, attain. When he set out from Mystic, Connecticut, to make the journey to Pennsylvania on foot, it is not probable that his entire worldly possessions amounted to \$20. These possessions now are estimated at twenty millions, all of which has been accumulated, so far as known, without wronging a single individual. On the contrary, the wealth which he has gathered is but one tithe of that which he has been the means of creating in the Lehigh Valley.

## HORRORS OF LEPROSY.

A correspondent writing from the Sandwich Islands gives the following description of a visit to a leper hospital at Halaia: "We enter the room. Mats spread on all sides are covered by a dozen or fifteen recumbent figures, among the worst of the bad cases. A fetid order, faint but perceptible, pervades the apartment. We hear hard, hoarse breathing, harsh whistles and deep sighs from those who can never again speak with their old voices. The decay of the vocal organs is almost the last stage of the plague, and seems the most terrible of all. The patient is unusually by this time one mass of corruption. What faces are turned to us as we grope among the half-conscious sufferers—faces that look as though they had been hacked twenty times across with the broad-ax, and each gash healing had left a horrible seam. Ears swollen to twice their natural size, raw looking and bloody, while the enormous lobes, hanging nearly to the shoulder, ooze with sickening pus. There are those with nostrils slowly withering away, some with no nasal at all, only an obnoxious cavity remains, too abominable to be thought of for a moment. Fingers grow sharp at the ends, sloughing the skin, shedding the joints one by one. They are but half alive, these lepers, and carry their own infectious corpse about with them. One old man, sitting in a gate, a narrow strip of cloth about the loins, is covered from head to foot with large, hard swellings.—There is not vacancy enough between his thousand and one fleshy hillocks to lay the tip of your finger. Yet he is unconscious of any pain whatever. He turns a ghastly grin—supposed to be a smile upon us, and exhibits a new mound just making its appearance on one side of him, which is likely to crowd out a few older ones. The poor wretch looks more like a horned toad, polished down a little, than a man and brother.

## SAVING FOR OLD AGE.

No one denies that it is wise to make provision for old age, but we are not all agreed as to the kind of provision it is best to lay in. Certainly we shall want a little money, for a destitute old man is indeed a sorry sight. Yes, save money by all means. But an old man needs just that particular kind of strength which young men are most apt to waste. Many foolish young fellows will throw away on a holiday nervous energy which he will never feel the want until he is seventy; and then how much will he want! It is curious, but true, that a bottle of champagne at twenty will intensify the rheumatism at threescore. It is a fact that overtaking the eyes at fourteen may necessitate the aid of spectacles at forty, instead of eighty. We advise our young readers to be saving of health for their old age, for the maxim holds good in regard to health as to money. "Waste not, want not." It is the greatest mistake to suppose that violation of the laws of health can escape its penalty. Nature forgives no sin, no error. She lets off the offender fifty years sometimes, but she catches him at last and inflicts the punishment just when, just where, and just how he feels it most. Save up for old age, but save knowledge, save the recollection of good and noble deeds and innocent pleasures; pure thoughts, save friends, save love. Save rich stores of that kind of wealth which time cannot diminish, nor death take away.

The Milwaukee Wisconsin relates the following additional illustration of the sagacity of the elephant:

The elephant Romeo, who had won quite a reputation for cutting up, started a sensation yesterday, which for some time had been quite lively. It seems that when the train was coming into the city on Friday morning, some thoughtless boy threw a stone at the baby elephant, hurting it.

Romeo was full of wrath and started for the crowd of boys with the evident determination of stirring them up. The keeper saw what was up and fortunately succeeded in quieting the monster.

Yesterday morning the boy who threw the stone was on the circus grounds, and Romeo by some means discovered him. The huge fellow was full of wrath, and stared about wildly. He upset stands, threw his trunk about him and belted very much like a young tornado.

It was evident that he meant mischief, and as soon as he was in earnest, would manage to get loose, and then the dickens would be to pay. A rider was sent down town to hunt up Romeo's keeper, and that worthy just arrived as the monster was in a fair way to get loose. The keeper managed by blows and threats to quiet affairs. Meanwhile the boy who had made the trouble was getting towards town as fast as his young legs could carry him.

A very fat man being measured for a pair of pantaloons, gave directions that they should be large and full as he liked them loose. When he came to try them on they stuck tight to his legs, whereat he remonstrated: "I told you to make those pants full." After some obliging expressions of a profane nature, the tailor ended the controversy by declaring, "I dink des pants if full enough, if dey was any further they would split."

"When I was quite a boy," says Smith, "my father ordered a coat for me from an Israelite, and when the garment came home it was very much too large. The perplexed Jew, after vainly trying to gather up the fullness in the back with his hand, so that the front might set tight, declared at length that the coat was good; it was no fault of te coat; te coat fit 'goot 'nough, but te poy was too slim!"

## The Lebanon (Kentucky) Clarion

says: "A most daring and determined attempt to commit a rape was made in Adair county, about four miles from Columbia, last Monday night. Two young ladies, daughters of a respectable farmer, were sleeping in the upper room of their father's dwelling, which is a log house. A black scoundrel made his way into their chamber by climbing up at the side of the chimney to the window. The young ladies were awakened by the touch of his hands, placed upon the head of one and the feet of the other, and screamed out in extreme terror for assistance. Their father rushed up stairs promptly with a pistol and fired several shots at the retreating form of the villain, who by this time was out of the house.—None of the shots took effect." A negro named Hendrickson has been arrested and charged with the crime, and is now in jail at Lebanon, in default of bail. Intense excitement prevails in the community and threats of summary justice have been made.

The most singular case I said to have occurred in the Third district a few days ago. A little girl, about three years old, named Emily Walhauer, residing with her parents at the corner of Spain and Greatman streets, had been complaining for some time of pain and nausea in the stomach, while at the same time her appetite became extraordinary. The parents, supposing that the child was troubled with worms, gave the usual medicine.—These operating severely made the little girl very sick at the stomach, and after she threw up a live mouse of medium size. The mouse was taken to the drug store of Mr. Weilbacher, near by, and was visited by a large number of persons, the mouse being still alive.—New Orleans Bulletin.

The remarkable intelligence of the colored officials in the South must be gratifying to their Northern Radical patrons. Ben Marks, an ebony gentleman of Montgomery, Ala., had to go to jail, and Joe Williams, another colored brother, was made an officer for the time being by a justice of the peace and deputized to take him there. On the way to jail, the prisoner got the officer drunk, and taking the commitment out of his pocket, presented it to the jailer and had the officer locked up. When Constable Joe awoke from his drunken slumber he found himself a prisoner, and Ben was far away. He stoutly denied taking anything to drink, and said: "Something's wrong, somehow or other, kase I know de squire meant to write me down officer, an' Ben for jail."