

# Somerset Herald.

SOMERSET, PA., THURSDAY, MAY 30, 1889.

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 We have the most complete stock of Watches of Every Description in the town in Somerset. To  
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 Reliable Close-Priced Shoe Store.

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 This cut represents the Em-  
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 the best Petiole Congress Shoe is the



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**ES FINE SHOES** Of All Latest Styles, Flexible Hand-turned,  
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**L. DOUGLASS'** Famous Gaiter \$2.00, \$1 and \$1 Shoe. Also, sold  
 Working Shoes, with Leather counter and insole.  
 We respectfully call attention to the fact that we constantly keep in stock a  
 large line of the most wear and most serviceable goods, of the latest  
 styles in the trade, and we always invite comparison of our prices with those  
 of our dealers. CALL AND SEE US.  
**ERNER BROTHERS,** Somerset, Penn'a.

Never in the annals of Somerset County court has greater interest been manifested than is now witnessed. Before the bell had ceased ringing every seat, not only in the body of the court-room, but all in the gallery were filled this (Wednesday) morning. And then aisles and doorways were packed by hundreds of interested spectators, who patiently stood through the three and a half hours of the tedious work of examining witnesses in the Yoder robbery case.

As on yesterday, when the eight implicated men were marched in by the sheriff and his deputies, everybody was anxious to see them. Yesterday's view of them, and to-day's several hours of observation of them in the court room did not satisfy the public curiosity, as upon adjournment hundreds rushed to the Court House yard and formed two solid columns from Court House door to the jail, through which the wretched "observed of all observers" had to pass. If, in addition to their other ways and methods of attracting public attention they aspire to additional notoriety, they surely ought to be more than satisfied with their marches to and from the old jail.

During the hearing of some dozen or so witnesses for the prosecution, seemingly the most unconcerned men in the Court Room were the eight men arraigned for committing the offense. Not once did one of them betray the slightest evidence of fear or apprehension. If, as some people used to believe, that guilt will show itself in the countenance when confronted with positive evidence, then the irresistible conclusion must be that those eight prisoners are as innocent as new-born babes, as no betrayal of guilt is perceptible in their looks or appearance.

Even under the harrowing details as sworn to by Mr. Stevanus, the man bound in ropes at the time of the robbery, and by Miss Anna Baker, the girl working at the time at Mr. Yoder's, they all looked and acted as though they were less interested in the case than any other person in the room. Nor did Christian Yoder's simple and straight-forward story of the terrible injuries inflicted upon him by men little less than demons, move them in the least degree. Though four of them were pointed out and ferred to by name by several of the witnesses, not one of them manifested a particle of embarrassment.

Mr. Stevanus, the first witness, and who felt the effects of the ropes tied around and about him, is an average intelligent looking man, seemingly about 45 years old. He gave in his testimony in a clear and distinct manner, and suffered no confusion on cross examination.

Miss Anna Baker, another of the rope's victims, is a young lady, of more than ordinary strength of character, and knew what to say, how to say it, and when and where to say it. Her testimony was right to the point, with no break or semblance of rambling. In identifying her stockings that had been stolen she proved herself to be much more than a match for her cross-examiners. Withal she is a rather fine looking, modest lady whose appearance and demeanor on the stand made a favorable impression on the vast audience that gave her every answer marked attention.

Long before the bell rang for Court to assemble this (Wednesday) morning, our streets were crowded with pedestrians wending their way toward the Court House, so that when the doors were opened they might be sure of gaining admittance ere it became an impossibility, owing to the crowd being too great for the room. Scarcely five minutes elapsed after the doors were thrown open until every seat, as well as every available standing space was occupied, the anxiety being to hear the trial of the McClellandtown gang for the Yoder robbery. As soon as court was convened the prisoners were brought in and seated around the table of their counsel, and in front of the judges' stand. In appearance they all looked neat and trim, apparently content. Lewis being the leader, was frequently consulted by the attorneys for the defense in their cross-examination of the Commonwealth's witnesses.

Seated at the table of the counsel for the prosecution was old man Yoder whom base, heartless and cruel wretches so cruelly tortured and robbed on the 13th of April last. All eyes seemed to be turned to sard the old man whose long, snow-white hair and beard, and mild blue eye and pleasing face render his appearance venerable, and would impress one with the truthfulness of the oft repeated assertion that Mr. Yoder "is at peace with all the world." He is sixty-five years of age and when he was asked to take his place in the witness' stand he was sworn for the first time in his life in a court of justice, and told in a clear and concise manner of the horrible torture he underwent on that memorable occasion, after he had peacefully given up all the money he had in his possession.

### Bold Bandits On Trial!

THE "McCLELLANDTOWN GANG" FACE A SOMERSET COUNTY JURY.

"Christly" Yoder Takes The Stand.

Damning Testimony of Witnesses.

THE COURT ROOM PACKED TO SUFFOCATION!

Intense Interest Taken in the Trial.

Full Report of the Evidence Produced and Portraits of The Gang.

The Umberger Murder Case Likely to be Called This Afternoon.

Ever since the story of the capture and imprisonment of the "McClellandtown gang" was so graphically told in the HERALD, we have been in almost daily receipt of requests from different parts of the county to "print the pictures of the gang." The prisoners were not anxious to be portrayed and refused all of our solicitation for their photographs. But the HERALD, always a firm believer in newspaper enterprise and solicitors that every reasonable request of its patrons should be gratified, has employed a special artist to visit the jail and make sketches of some of the more prominent prisoners. This portrait of



CHARLES J. LEWIS is so lifelike that any one who has ever seen the original will recognize it at a glance. Probably the most astonished man of all who will see this picture will be Lewis himself and he will now understand what the neatly dressed and pleasant-spoken gentleman, who interviewed him a few days since, with a card in his hand, on which he seemed to occasionally drop the point of his lead pencil, as if to give emphasis to some remark, was after.

Our artist caught the phiz of Tasker during the hearing in the *habes corpus* and drew the Sullivans' from hasty notes made while visiting the jail.

WEDNESDAY MORNING SESSION.

Immediately after the opening of the court the jury in the case of C. H. Benford, who was charged with violation of the liquor laws, returned a verdict of "Guilty in manner and form as indicted." The jury was polled, and all answered in the affirmative.

A motion for new trial was made, and postponed for further consideration.

THE YODER ROBBERY CASE.

Samuel Stevanus, the hired man who was bound and gagged at the time of the outrage on Christian Yoder was perjured, was the first witness called on behalf of the Commonwealth. We give below the substance of his testimony:

Live in Elklick township, and was staying with Christian Yoder on the 13th of April last; took supper there on that date; it was after dark; other persons were present—Ellen Baker, Fanny Wilhelm, Christian Yoder and wife. Mr. Yoder was sitting in the house with the doors closed when four men dropped in; two came in at the front door, and two at the back door; three of them were armed with revolvers; they first tied me, then tied Yoder; said they were after money and swore they would get it; Mr. Yoder told them the money was in a desk; they first went up stairs and commenced a search of the house; after this they went into the cellar and ate supper; one of the robbers then took Mr. Yoder into another room, afterwards took him to the barn; when they brought him back they asked him for an order for \$400. Mr. Yoder answered in a voice very weak, from their having put a rope around his neck and drawn him up, that he could not write. One of them pulled out a

revolver and said to me "keep silent, or we'll kill you." They then took Yoder out saying "lets take him out and kill the son of a bitch." When they brought him back Yoder was all bloody. They wanted me to tie the ladies. I refused. They then tied the women and said they would come back in about one half-hour and loosen us, but they didn't do so; they took hams, stockings; my boys untied me about 12 o'clock. Have seen the four men who were at Yoder's house on that night twice since and could identify them.

The witness being asked if he could identify the men now, walked up to the prisoners and pointed out Lewis, Tasker and the two Sullivans as the men who robbed Yoder.

I saw them when they were taken to Meyersdale for a hearing before the "Squire. Lewis tied me; one of the Sullivans staid in the room when the others went out of the house. The stolen articles were here shown to the witness and he said that the blocks of maple sugar were like some that Mr. Yoder had; he had made sugar of that kind himself for Yoder.

On cross-examination he said that he saw them first at Yoder's and next at Meyersdale; didn't say to Marshall Sullivan I don't recognize you; knew them all when I first saw them; wasn't so much scared as not to remember them; recognize Marshall Sullivan because he was in the house all the time; he had a mask on but I am able to recognize him from his general appearance and from his talk, from the way he sat in a stooping position; had hat on; I did not say to Marshall Sullivan I don't know you but said I never saw you before; I recognize Tasker from his general appearance, size, weight, etc.; saw the whole of Lewis' face, it was close to mine when he tied me; recognize Jackson Sullivan; would swear to him with or without moustache; was close to him; they all stood around me; didn't see the prisoners take the articles, but know they were taken that night, also that two horses were taken; saw money, over four hundred dollars, taken.

On re-direct examination he testified that Lewis had nothing on his face; Lewis was the leader.

Ellen Baker.—I lived in Elklick township with Christian Yoder at the time of the robbery; there were present that evening Yoder, his wife, Fannie Wilhelm, Stevanus and myself; we were all in the room and had lights lit; it was 8 o'clock; 4 men came in, 2 in at each door; the doors were an opposite sides; the doors were closed, but not locked; three had revolvers and one had a club; they tied Stevanus and Yoder with their hands on their back; they said they wanted money; had cord in their pocket; they asked Yoder where the money was; he said it was in the desk drawer; they went there and got silver and greenbacks; I don't know how much; they went through the whole house; they took something belonging to me; four pairs of my stockings, two handkerchiefs and some jewelry they took; then they took Yoder out; three of them went out and the other one sat on the wood box, with a club, guarding us; when Yoder came in he didn't say what they done to him; afterwards they took him out again; when they brought him in he had marks on his neck where they hung him up and he spit blood; they got something to eat; three went to cellar and one guarded us with club; after they came back the other one went to the kitchen and got something to eat; they wanted Yoder to sign an order for \$500 more; he said he could not, they had used him too rough; after that they tied me and Fannie Wilhelm; then they left at 12 o'clock and left us all tied in the room; I can identify my stockings; those stockings were there in the evening and next morning they were gone; I knit them and know them; I recognize Charles Lewis and Jack Sullivan; I don't identify any of the others; two of them had been there on Friday evening a week before at supper; Charles Lewis and Tasker were the ones that were there; they had no masks on then; they said they wanted to stay all night; Yoder would not keep them; they went away then.

Cross examined—Two of them had masks on when they entered; I can't pick those two out; the other two I know; I wasn't at Meyersdale and didn't see them there; Jack Sullivan had a handkerchief tied over his mouth and part of his nose; I recognize him by his eyes and the upper part of his face; I saw the money taken that was in the desk; I didn't see the stockings or other articles taken, except I saw one of them have a coverlet under his arm; I didn't recognize Tasker that evening, but he was there that evening; Marshall Sullivan was masked and I could not recognize him; I never saw Lewis and Jack Sullivan except the time of the robbery

till yesterday; I am certain Lewis and Tasker were at the house before; they eat supper there; it was candle light when they came in; they left by the back door; I was there when they left; they sat down to the table and eat; they offered to pay but Yoder would not take pay; I examined that bundle of stockings; four pairs of them are mine; I knit them myself; my own yarn and I recognize the yarn; it's home-made yarn that I got at home; the yarn of this one pair was white when I got it and I colored it red; I know the stripes I put in; that pair I just finished a few days before and they had never been washed; I know my knitting and my stripes; I am not mistaken; I know my own stockings; you can't find another pair exactly like these; these mittens are not mine; they were in this bundle also.

Re-direct—\$86 of my money was taken from my trunk up stairs; it was in gold, greenbacks, and silver; I didn't see it taken, but saw it in the evening, and next morning it was gone.



MARSHALL SULLIVAN.

Christian Yoder, affirmed—I live in Elklick township; was home the evening of the 13th of April last; Stevanus, Miss Baker, Miss Wilhelm and my wife and myself were together in one room; the doors were shut but not locked; some men came in at the back door and some in front; I didn't see anything in their hands; they tied Stevanus and me; they had the cords in their pockets; I can't recollect what they said; they asked where my money was; they said, "Show me where you have your money." I showed them; I saw them take it out; I can't tell how much it was; there was no gold in that drawer, but some gold was missing; they searched the house; I think I had \$300 in twenty dollar gold pieces, and some other gold pieces, and that was gone next morning; after searching the house they took me to another room, laid me on the bed, and then applied something to me and to my throat to make me tell whether I had any more money; they then burned my thumbs with a candle; then they took me to the barn, into the feed room, and they hung me up; they didn't say anything; they hanged me with a rope up to a beam; they hanged me first by putting the rope in my mouth; (witness shows the jury) they pulled me up about a foot; after they left me down they took me to the house first and then took me out and hung me again; (shows by putting rope around his neck) they pulled me up about a foot; I didn't know anything about it while I was up; before they hung me up the last time, I said, "Let me alone; I never done anything against you." then one said, "I think it's the best plan to burn the barn and all, so nobody else would find out what became of him;" they let me down then and I laid down and knew nothing of what took place for a good while; I think they set the hay on fire; it looked so to me; then they took me to the house again; I didn't know anything at all for a good while after they hanged me; then they took me in the house and asked me to sign an order for \$400, and I told them I could not, I was too weak; I think they tied the women.

Two men lead me out to the barn by each arm; I was born in 1823, on the 20th of August; they wanted me to give the order to any man that had money; any man from whom they could get it; next morning I missed bacon, four hams, one pillow case, and it looked as if some sugar was taken, and a demijohn was missing; (shows moulds) these are my sugar moulds; this sugar looks like mine; there were chestnuts in the sack and next morning the sack and chestnuts were gone; a pillow slip of that size, in the room where the sugar was, was gone next morning; I had a demijohn like that; the two gray horses were gone next morning; they left between 12 and 1 o'clock; we were all tied when they left.

When they had me in the room on the bed, they said "We will put a bullet through your head and cut your throat, if you don't tell us where there is more money."

Cross examination.—The sugar moulds were not taken; the sugar looks like mine; I have a demijohn like that; I can't say positively the demijohn is