

# PHELPS COUNTY NEW ERA.

"It is not in a Splendid Government, supported by powerful monopolies and Aristocratic Establishments that the people find happiness; but in a plain system, void of pomp, protecting all and granting favors to none." — JACKSON.

Wallbridge J. Powell,

ONE DOLLAR PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE.

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## Letter From Scotland:

Glasgow, Scotland, 18th Nov. 1876.  
EDITOR NEW ERA.

I received your papers last week, and was interested in the intelligence they contained regarding your community. I observed you had published my last letter, and also that you had made some editorial comments on it, which—with your permission—I may state forth-coming matter for discussion, but such is not the province of these communications, and it would not do for an occasional "foreign" correspondent to assume that attitude. If I mistake not, public opinion throughout the United States is rapidly increasing and becoming general in favor of the principles of Free Trade. My own opinion is that it would operate to your profit and great advantage were they adopted tomorrow. The "licking creation" hypothesis might then become FACT ACCOMPLISH. "OPINIONUM COMMENTA DELET DIES, NATURÆ JUDICIA CONFIRMAT."

"Is there to be war?" is the query one meets with everywhere just now. The Eastern question has assuredly assumed a grave aspect. No doubt you will long since have become aware by the telegraph that a six weeks armistice has been effected to permit of a conference by the Great Powers on Eastern affairs, and it may be the same agency will have made pot not to you the intelligence I now send, long before this letter reaches you. The arrangements for the conference have been considerably impeded by preliminary objections raised on the part of Turkey. Among other things, the Porte is said to have insisted on knowing beforehand the points which are to be brought forward for discussion, being of opinion that it is a bad precedent for foreign powers to interfere with the internal affairs of the Empire, and to have protested against it, so that a possibility arises of even the action of the Congress being stultified at the very outset by the attitude of Turkey. The Government of the Sultan is also suspicious as to what may be included under the term autonomy, and Lord Derby, our Minister for foreign affairs, is represented as explaining that the meaning placed by the British Government on administrative autonomy was nothing more than a system of local institutions which should give the population some control over their own local affairs, with guarantees against the exercise of arbitrary authority. It is not thought that the objections of the Porte will be insurmountable; but the representatives of the powers will not come to the conference with such good will as they would have done had a very injudicious speech of Lord Beaconsfield remained unspoken. He may as yet be better known to you as Benjamin Disraeli, the Tory Prime Minister of Britain. The speech referred to was on the 9th inst. at a banquet given by the Lord Mayor of London on assuming office. It occurs annually during the Parliamentary recess, and Her Majesty's Ministers being always present, the occasion is usually taken a advantage of as affording an opportunity of showing forth the policy of the Government of the day. In the recent speech his Lordship did not directly threaten war should Russia resist the views of our Government; he merely said that while not desiring war, no country was better prepared for it than Britain. "PARITUR PAX BELLO," says some of his political supporters, the party desirous of peace is often compelled to make a greater show of hostile preparation in order to bring peace. But there was no necessity for introducing such a view of the question, and it was especially inopportune at the moment when the whole of Europe were bent upon providing guarantees of peace. It is distinctly affirmed that the Czar regarded the language of Lord Beaconsfield as menacing, and that His Majesty put such a construction upon it appears the more evident from the tenor of an address he delivered the other day at Moscow. The Emperor said his most ardent wish was that at the Conference to be held at Constantinople a general agreement might be arrived at. Should this, however, not be achieved, and should he see that Russia could not obtain such guarantees as were necessary for carrying out what she had a right to demand of the Porte, then His Majesty was firmly determined to act independently, and he was convinced that in such a case the whole of Russia would respond to his summons, terminating with the devout supplication "May God help us to carry out our sacred mission." This speech has acted like an electric shock upon the Russian people. From St. Petersburg comes the intelligence that a general and enthusiastic echo has been evoked among all classes throughout the empire; and declarations are made on every side that the people are ready to make any sacrifice for the support of Russian interests, and the protection of their co-religionists in European Turkey, with very many, the bellicose utterances of our Premier and the Russian Emperor have rudely dispelled the hopes of peace raised through the acceptance of the armistice by Turkey. The truth is, the policy followed by our present Government (Conservative) is not in accord with the feelings and sympathies of the nation.

Speaking since on one important occasion, the present chancellor of the exchequer—no doubt with the view of palliating the mistake of his chief—asserted that the construction put upon the Czar's words was inaccurate, but I suspect he is not so well able to judge as are the organs of public opinion in Russia. The opinion of the chancellor is different from that of Mr. Lowe—a distinguished scholar and statesman, who held office in the late liberal Administration—said "Lord Beaconsfield's boasting was unnecessary and deplorable. Russia had retorted, 'if you are ready for war, so am I, and I am quite prepared to meet you.' He was of opinion the Conference would lead to no good, and that the peace of Europe was in imminent jeopardy. I may mention to you a 'dream of another distinguished man, who also held office in the late Liberal Ministry, which he suggests as possibly a feasible solution of the Eastern difficulty.

What he proposes is the formation of the Turko-European States into a Byzantine Empire, with the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh enthroned at Constantinople. The illustrious pair are a Prince of Britain and a Princess of Russia, and the only possible justification of such a dream is the supposition that its realization might please both Russia and Britain, but it leaves a hundred and one considerations out of the question, not the least formidable of which is the recently proved military energy and power of the Turks.

Monday, 20th Nov. 1876.—There was no mail on Saturday when the foregoing was written, and before despatching it to-day I cannot close without stating that this morning telegrams announce that the Porte has accepted the Conference. It was the result of a meeting of Ministers and other high dignitaries of the Empire held on Saturday to discuss the question. It is due in great measure, if not altogether, to the insistence of our Government. There is no doubt that the idea of a Conference was most displeasing to the Porte, which would gladly have taken any means of escaping from it. That a number of foreign diplomatists should assemble, and that, too, in its own Capital, for the purpose of arranging how certain provinces of Turkey shall be governed, or demanding that they shall be so governed, and of taking measures for giving effect to their views, must inflict a deep wound on the pride of the nation. It is out of the question to attempt any forecast of the results of the Conference, for no one can tell now the ARRANGES YEMSE to which some of the Powers may give utterance when they meet, but if there is an honest desire on the part of all to settle this common source of irritation and danger, there is no reason for refusing a place to the hope that they will achieve their object. It is difficult to believe that any one of the Powers will go into the Conference resolved to reject each and every arrangement. A basis of pacification was prepared by our Government and accepted by all the Powers in September. It is time that something has happened in the interval, and even if that basis is adopted, there will be that other demand which the Czar announced in his speech at Moscow. That, however, might also be settled, tho' not without an additional humiliation to Turkey, or without intrenching on her independence. It can easily be conceived that if the Porte hesitated to allow the principle of a Conference it will not be easily persuaded to yield to the principle of such guarantees as Russia is supposed to require. But if the pressure of one power has been effectual in the former case, a great deal may be expected from the influence of the voice of united Europe. Hopeful however as the aspect of affairs may be considered, there is no doubt even now the possibility of war cannot be excluded. But I am afraid this will encroach too much on your space and I shall postpone further consideration until another opportunity. There is no knowing what may by that time have come to the surface. Let us hope for the best, and that we may be saved the horrors and cruelties of war.

We strike hands with "Fidelity and Reform" and in satisfaction of the "Fidelity and Reform" have reduced the prices of our goods of all kinds. Bring your cash or produce and see.  
DEMUTH & MALCOLM.

[From Scotland Hastic.]

A hostile warfare for sectarian aggrandizement will benefit no one. Each church should wear its strength by the amount of piety in their societies, not by the number on their church rolls. So we urge Bro. LEMEN to punch up the laggard loafing preachers that are not preaching as they should, but do not cause a religious warfare in these mountains over the subject of baptism and such like. Don't do it.

Cash buyers will do well to call and examine the stock of goods offered by Demuth & Malcolm before purchasing elsewhere. They can save money.

## WOMEN FROM A COLORADO STANDPOINT.

We were surprised to hear one of our young men utter these words a few days ago: "I have recently gin up all idea of the wimmen folks, and come back to perillical life. I am more at home in this line than in huntin' the fair sex. Angels in petticoats and kiss-me-quickers are pretty to look at, I gin in, but they are as slippery as eels; when you fish for 'em and get a bite, you find yourself at the wrong end of the hook—you're ketchked yourself; and when you've stuffed 'em with fruits, pastry, dogzery types and jewelry, they will throw you away as they would a cold potato. Leastwise that has been my experience. But I've done with them now. The Queen of Sheba, Pompey's Pillar, and Lot's wife, with a steam engine to hold 'em, couldn't tempt me. The very sight of a bonnet riles me all over."

## A REMINISCENCE OF FRONT STREET THEATER.

About a quarter of a century ago Mr. F. S. Chaufrant, the actor (now playing an engagement at the Grand Opera-house), made his first appearance in Baltimore. It was at Front Street theater, and the play was "moss in California," the house being thronged in every part. During the first scene a pistol shot was heard in auditorium, and it soon became known that Tom Moody, a famous man among his fellows in that day, had been shot and killed by a man named Stewart, who was also conspicuous as a political champion Mr. Chaufrant frequently speaks of the effect the occurrence had upon him, so pulsing his energies that he had to struggle hard to get through the evening's performance. The tragic act had also "naturally" a very depressing effect upon the spirits of the house.

White Blankets \$4.00 per pair worth \$6.50; at Heller's.

Demuth & Malcolm keep on hand a full stock of No. 1 family groceries, which they sell cheap for cash.

A new era in the Boot & Shoe business. Demuth & Malcolm are selling best brands of brogans for \$1.50, per pair, mens boots \$2.00; best fine stock boots for \$3.50, and women's and childrens shoes at panic prices. Call and examine their stock before buying your winter supplies.

## SMILER'S HEALTH-LIFT.

They are in the midst of a big lawsuit in a neighboring village between Dr. Smiler and the rest of the population of town. The doctor, it seems, had a large tank placed on the top of his house, from which to supply his bath-room, and so forth with water. The water had to be pumped about fifty feet from the cistern in the yard, and the doctor found it to be a pretty good-sized job, which would cause him constant expense. So, after thinking the matter over carefully, one day an idea struck him. He built a room over the cistern and put the word "Sanitarium" over the door. Then he congealed the pump machinery beneath the floor and he rigged up a kind of complicated apparatus with handles and hinges and a crank, so that a man by standing in the middle of the machine and pulling the handle up and down, would operate that pump.

Then the doctor got out circulars and published advertisements about "Smiler's Patent Health-Lift," and he secured testimonials from a thousand or so of people who agreed that the health-lift was the only hope for the physical salvation of the human race. Pretty soon people began to call to see about it, and Smiler would rush them out to the "Sanitarium," and set them to jerking the handles. And when a customer had pumped up fifty gallons or so, Smiler would charge him a quarter, and tell him that three months of that kind of thing would give him muscles like a prize-fighter.

And he would push the project among his patients. If a man was bilious, or had the toothache, or was afflicted with rheumatism, or cramp or measles, or yellow fever, or cholera morbus, Smiler would turn him in at the health-lift and get a quarter each time. The thing became so popular that he had to enlarge his tank and put in a smaller pump; and he not only got all his pumping done for nothing, but the people did it paid him about \$1,500 a year for the privilege. It began to look like an uncommonly soft thing, and everybody was contented and happy.

One day, however, old Mr. Maginnis, who had been practicing at the health-lift every day for months in order to cure himself of indigestion, jammed the handles down a little to hard, and broke the board upon which he was standing. As the board gave way it plunged Mr. Maginnis into the cistern, and just as he was sinking for the third time Smiler fished him out with a crooked nail in the end of a clothes prop. As soon as the water was drained out of him, Maginnis said:

"I didn't know you had a cistern under that floor. What did you do that for?"  
"Why, to keep the air moist. It's healthier than dry air."  
"It looks to me as if there was some kind of pump under there."  
"Oh no," said Smiler, "those are only the levers of the lift."  
"Mighty queer," said Maginnis, thoughtfully. "If that isn't a pump, then I don't know one when I see it."

So a few days later Maginnis came around with a lot of other patients and found the doctor out. They determined to investigate. They pulled up a couple of boards and ascertained the facts about the pump. They cross-examined Smiler's servant girl, and learned about the truth, and then they went home mad. A consultation was held, at which every bilious and rheumatic individual who had been working the doctor's pump used violent language, and talked about murder and sudden death. Finally they resolved to prosecute Smiler for damages and obtaining money under false pretenses. It is thought by good judges that by the time the court gets through with Smiler; that will be about the unhealthiest lift for him he was ever interested in.

Felt skirts, a good article for \$1.00, a Heller's.

Bridgeport man, seized with the spirit of economy, resolved to reduce household expenses right away. So, lighting a ten-cent cigar, he proceeded to work to whittle some hair pins out of hickory block for his wife. He said she was always buying hair pins, and he couldn't see why wooden ones wouldn't keep the hair in place as well as the store kind. After eliciting two fingers and running a sliver an inch long into his hand he concluded to let his wife continue buying her hair pins so long as they didn't cost over seventy dollars a quart.—Norristown Herald.

A large assortment of Misses and childrens striped hose, 10 to 25 cts, at Heller's.

They tell a new story over in Peoria about Col. Ingersoll, which runs in this wise: During his campaigning tour down East, the Colonel one Sunday went to a fashionable church. With characteristic independence he ignored the officious and demonstrative usher, and selecting the finest pew he could find, concealed himself in the softest corner. Soon the great man who owned the pew came along with his family, and sat down. But such impudence could not be permitted to pass by unrebuked, and the proprietor of the box wrote on the flyleaf of a hymn book, "I pay \$2,000 a year rent for this pew," and passed it to the Colonel. Quick as thought the ready pencil came out, the book was returned with an additional line, and the Indignant owner read the comment: "D—d find pew for the price." The droppings of the sanctuary fell on one insulated and burning heart, that morning, but it did not beat under Ingersoll's yeast.—Hawk-Lyc.

Grey Blankets \$1.75 pr. pair, worth \$2.50, at Heller's.

Demuth & Malcolm are selling best brands of yard wide sheeting twelve yards for one dollar. Best brands cotton yarn one dollar a bunch.