

# The Liberal.

\$1 per annum, in advance.

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[Single copies, 3 cts.]

Vol. XXI.

RICHMOND HILL, THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 1899.

No. 47

**"The Liberal"**  
IS PUBLISHED EVERY  
**THURSDAY MORNING**  
AT  
THE LIBERAL PRINTING & PUBLISHING HOUSE  
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**Life in a University.**

SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY AT SEL-  
INGSROVE, PA.  
(BY M. H. FISCHER.)

Perhaps one of the oldest towns of Snyder Co., Pa., is Selingsrove. Situated on the western bank of the broad Susquehanna, about fifty miles north of Harrisburg, and surrounded by fertile farm lands, is the town of Anthony Selin.  
The first house was built on the east bank of Penn's Creek in 1754, and from that time our history begins. The Susquehanna river is very wide at this point, but not very deep during the greater part of the year. Penn's creek, a stream about twice the size of the Humber, flowing south-east from the mountains of central Pennsylvania, turns about 50 degrees to the south just above the town, and flows almost parallel to the Susquehanna river for about three or four miles. The land between the river and the creek is very fertile, and goes by the name of the Isle of Que. It is at no point more than half a mile wide, and in the strictest sense of the word is not an island.

The whole territory around these waters was very densely wooded, and the redmen dwelt in large numbers on the island. The first house was situated here also, just below the bend of the creek, and here came the first clash with the redmen. Early in 1755 a large company of Scotch-Irish settlers decided to make this their home, and for some months lived on friendly terms with the Indians. Getting into a quarrel, however, a raid was made by the Man of the Forest on Oct. 15th, 1755, and few were the whites left to tell the tale of slaughter. The matter was reported to the government, and John Harris, the founder of Harrisburg, was sent with a detachment of 45 men to bring the red skins to terms.

After visiting the scene of the massacre and finding his mission fruitless, he proceeded to Shamokin, now Sunburg, hoping there to make terms with the Indians. All his labors were in vain, and Harris soon resolved to return to his home. He was advised to keep to the east bank of the Susquehanna, but thinking the advice to be the trick of enemies, he crossed over and proceeded toward the mouth of Penn's creek until near the site of Selingsrove, where he fell into an Indian ambush. The fight was short and fierce, Harris himself barely escaping with his life. Seven men were lost in the action, and five more were drowned in crossing the river, while the Indians lost only five warriors. The spot is marked by an old tree which still stands at the water's edge. Tradition says that a wedge was driven into a tender sapling, and the tree, now 11 ft. 3 in. around the stump, having all its upper branches dead and broken, still shows signs of the wedge and the opening made in it.

But to return to facts, Anthony Selin, a Swiss, purchased the property in 1757, wild as it was, and laid it out for a town. It soon became a place of some importance, and the headquarters for supplies to the people who now began to settle on the rich soil to the west. Provisions were brought up the river on rafts, shoved by poles against the current, and allowed to float down with the current, laden with the products of a primitive world, on the return trip.

Among the principal men of this time was Conrad Weiser, who, as Indian agent, did much for the town, and about whom an interesting story is told. The story goes that an Indian chief came up to him one day saying, "me have a dream." Whereupon Weiser asked him what it was. The chief replied, "me dream you give me good rifle, shot-pouch and powder-horn." This made the Indian agent study, but he proved equal to the occasion and said, "you shall not dream in vain," and accordingly handed out the coveted articles. Soon after they met again, and Weiser informed the chief that he also had a dream, whereupon the chief asked, "What you dream?" Weiser told him that he dreamed the chief had given him all the land from this point to that point, etc., until he had included considerable territory. The chief was somewhat chagrined and after deep meditation replied, "You shall not dream in vain, you shall have it. Me dream no more."

The place was made a borough in 1853, and in 1858 the corner-stone was laid for the Missionary Institute, which has now become Susquehanna University. Shortly after the great Pennsylvania canal, running from near Baltimore to Lockhaven, went through, and the luxury of the canal boat was accessible to the people of Selingsrove. This was a great boon for trade, since the farmer for a distance of 35 miles westward had no other market than Selingsrove, and daily the streets were crowded with people shopping and trading. In 1871 the prosperity of the place was greatly

checked by a branch of the Penna. Railway going through. This opened up markets to those away from the river, and brought trade at Selingsrove to a state of stagnation, and to some extent it has remained so ever since.

The old part of the town is built on the Isle of Que, but the better portion is now west of Penn's creek, on the old stage road from Harrisburg to Northumberland. The buildings now erected are of a good substantial quality, and the tendency is to get nearer to the University, which is just outside the town limits, but some of the stone palaces of colonial days will stand as indestructible monuments for generations to come. In 1886 the town voted for a system of waterworks. The place is excellently situated for this, for west of the town cemetery hill rises far above any building that will ever be built here, and on the summit of this hill is the reservoir. The water is forced up to this reservoir from Penn's creek, and thus a good pressure is obtained. The streets are still lighted by coal oil lamps, as they might have been half a century ago, therefore, to one accustomed to electric lights the place seems very dark after night.

As mentioned above, the corner-stone of the Missionary Institute was laid in 1858. The founder and first president was Rev. Dr. Kurtz. The aim of the school was to fit men for the Lutheran ministry, and the foreign missionary service. As such it remained until the year 1895, when it became a full fledged university. Since that time the college has continued to grow rapidly, and now has a large number of female students, while the classical department has not only students contemplating the ministry or foreign field, but many who are preparing for other walks of life. Rev. J. R. Dimm, D. D., became its first president, and still acts in that capacity. The president resides at the edge of the campus, and often is an uninvited visitor in places where he is little expected or desired, yet withal he is well liked by the majority of the boys, for he is famed as being large hearted, and a true friend of men and manly conduct.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

**Our Ottawa Letter.**

The week has been given up to the wearisome debate on the Address which since Sir Hibbert Tupper's wild and rabid attack on the eve of the Easter holidays has practically narrowed down to a more or less acrimonious discussion of the policy of the Government in the Yukon. For months the country has been surfeited with the charges against the Administration and its officials in the far-off gold fields, until newspaper readers were nauseated with the subject and editors hesitated to give it further space. Now, however, the whole matter has come before Parliament—the only place where practical results can be arrived at as the outcome of the discussion and it is interesting and instructive to note the course of the debate and the progress the development of the week have witnessed.

**THE STORY OF THE FIGHT.**

The scrimmage opened with the five and a half hours attack, principally personal, upon the Minister of the Interior and his work, by Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, in the course of which he raked up all the old stale newspaper rumors and the indefinite yarns of disappointed prospectors, and dignifying these with the name of "charges" he hurled them one after another across the floor of the House and then wanted to know what the Government was going to do about it. This done and having finished his speech at midnight on Thursday, the discreet ex-minister of Justice, took the very next train for the Pacific coast and was nearly 3,000 miles away before the man he had so recklessly attacked could get an opportunity to reply.

But the answer came quickly when the opportunity did arrive; it did not take the house long to find out what the Government was going to do about it. With a care and thoroughness that overlooked no possible detail Hon. Clifford Sifton went over the ground covered by his antagonist and took up each charge, even when the said charge was nothing but the merest rumor, "without form and void"—fatherless and motherless without as much as a distant connection even by adoption to own to it—the good-hearted minister took it up and gave it decent burial.

**WHAT BECAME OF THE CHARGES.**

He went over the record of the "unscrupulous scoundrels" who had "robbed and tyrannized" over the hapless Klondiker "acting in every respect dishonorably and corruptly," and showed by the blue books that many of these officials were old civil servants originally appointed by the Conservatives and he showed further that every man had been specially selected for his fitness for the particular duties required of him. The charge that constables and

others took bribes to facilitate mail delivery was shown to have so little foundation that detectives employed for the purpose had not been able to discover a single instance. Referring to officials taking up claims the Minister showed that under the old Conservative Administration this was perfectly legal and constantly done, that Captain Constaine was the first official to stake a claim in the Yukon six months before the present Government came into power, but that on his, the Minister's, recommendation, the practice was now for the first time in the history of Canada illegal. The famous waterfront lease at Dawson was mentioned and it was shown that public tenders were called and the highest bidder given the lease, subject even then to termination at a month's notice. The accusation of improper trafficking in liquor permits was demonstrated by documentary evidence to be equally without foundation, and so on and so forth; throughout the entire list there was not one charge that was not torn to shreds, and indeed everyone realized then what the Globe remarked next day that the Liberals could want no better campaign literature than the speeches of Sir Hibbert Tupper and Hon. Clifford Sifton, published and perused side by side.

**Maple**

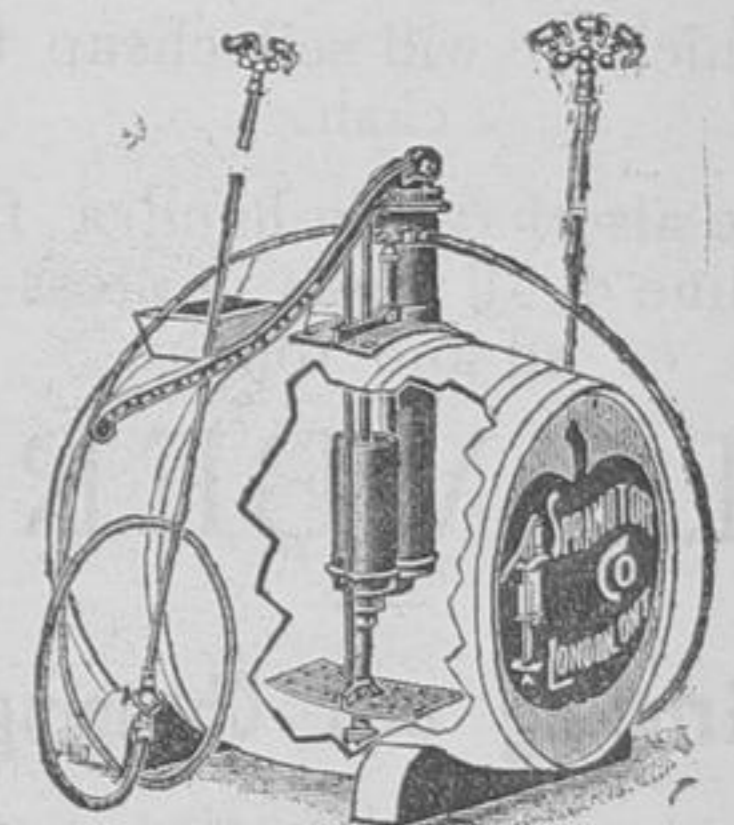
The concert in the Masonic Hall on Monday night was pleasing to both young and old, and the little folks did credit to their teacher, Miss Long, who has had them in training for the last ten days. They went through their Kindergarten exercises and songs with very few mistakes. Miss Edith Keffer and Miss Gertrude Stewart each sang a solo, a reading was given by Miss M. Morrison and the Harmonica Club and the Male Chorus of Hope, contributed a number of selections to the programme. Mr. J. T. Saigson acted as chairman, and the concert was a success both financially, and as to numbers.

The funeral of the son of Mr. Jacob Graham of Aurora took place to the cemetery here last Thursday.

Mr. T. Cousins is having a belfry built on his new shop, and intends to put a bell in before long.

Miss Long wishes to thank the Masons of Maple for the use of their hall which they kindly placed at her disposal for training the children and for the evening of the concert.

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Wheat, red, per bush	0 70	0 66
Wheat, goose, per bush	0 65	0 63
Oats, per bush	0 37	0 00
Peas, per bush	0 61	0 00
Barley, per bush	0 42	0 00
Turkeys, per lb	0 11	0 12
Dressed Hogs, per cwt	5 20	5 40
Cheese, per lb	0 06	0 08
Chickens, per pair	0 25	0 40
Ducks, per pair	0 60	0 80
Butter, in pound rolls	0 17	0 19
Eggs, fresh	0 14	0 00
Potatoes, per bush	0 85	0 00
Apples, per bbl	0 00	0 00
Hay, clover	6 00	7 50
Hay, timothy	8 00	10 00
Straw sheaf	6 00	7 00

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