



# The Lancaster Inquirer.

VII.-NO. 3. LANCASTER, PA., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1883.

OLD SERIES, VOL. XXXII.-WHOLE NO. 1942.

PAPER FOR MONEY.  
All the Paper for Government Notes, Bonds,  
Receipts, and Money, is Made at  
this Office.

considerable difficulty. The law might  
have been made so as to be easily  
handled, and that it was an act to be  
repealed; but he did it, and so vigorously  
did that he made it a law.

BENEDICT ARSOLINS WIFE.  
Was the Countess of the husband's Con-  
templated Execution. A brilliant woman's  
Character in America and England.

later been considered to be a rate in your  
department and your fellow citizens.  
Exhibit some of these noble qualities  
which have placed you on the list of our  
most noble and patriotic citizens.

THE "GREAT COMMERCE."  
Mrs. Lydia Smith, Thaddens Stevens' house-  
keeper for twenty-four years, relates  
the manner in which the editor of the  
Lancaster Inquirer was freed, under the law  
of 1780, from the bondage of slavery.

Postmaster's Salaries.  
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SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 1883

## "THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD."

A History of Its Workings in Chester, Lancaster and Adjacent Counties.

The "History of the Underground Railroad in Chester and Neighboring Counties of Pennsylvania," published at the office of the *Friend's Journal*, and printed by John A. Hiestand, has just been issued. The book, as has been noted in the *INQUIRER*, was principally compiled by Dr. R. C. Smedley, of West Chester. He died in January last, and the work has been finished by Robert Purvis and Marianna Gibbons. The volume contains almost four hundred pages, and its appearance throughout is highly creditable to the printers of the *Examiner* office.

The Lancaster county people sketched who assisted fugitive slaves on the road to freedom are William Wright, of Columbia; Samuel W. Mifflin, of Columbia, now living in Delaware county; Daniel Gibbons, his wife Hannah and their son Dr. Jos. Gibbons, all of Bird-in-Hand; Dr. J. K. Eshleman, of near Strasburg; Thomas Whitson, of Bart; Jacob Bushong, of Bart; Jeremiah Moore, of Christiana; Caleb C. Hood, of Bart; Lindley Coates, of Sadsbury; Joshua Brinton, of Salisbury; Thomas Bonsall, of Christiana; Lewis Peart, of Lampeter; Joseph P. Scarlet, of Sadsbury; Joseph Smith, of Drumore; Oliver Furniss, of Little Britain; John Neal Russell, of Drumore; and those concerned in the Christiana Riot. Some of these men and women are living, but most of them are dead.

Notwithstanding some very astounding inaccuracies of fact and date, and the palpable lack of editing which the work has received from the successors of Dr. Smedley, much interesting matter is found in it. It is a pity that so laudable an undertaking as that of Dr. Smedley's should not have received that close revision which would have made it thoroughly reliable and at the same time have added to its compactness, its arrangement and its literary merit.

Somebody should write and publish in book form the true history of the Christiana slave riot in 1851. It would be "mighty interesting reading" if the bottom facts were reached and related, a thing that could not have been done for many years after the occurrence. Now, however, there can be no reason for concealment on the part of any one. Nearly the third of a century has elapsed since the affair took place, and it is to have an authentic history it should soon be forthcoming.

And this reminds me that Lancaster county should have an Historical Society. With the wealth and extent of an empire, and rich in historical facts, she has no organized association to garner and preserve them. Let us have one by all means. There are hundreds of important historical facts, known to but a limited number of our people, that could by this means be made to do good service.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1883

## THIS AND THAT.

Mrs. Lydia Smith, Thaddens Stevens' housekeeper for twenty-four years, who was in Lancaster last week attending the wedding of Dr. Henry Carpenter's daughter, told me that she was born in Adams county in the very house to which James Buchanan's father first went when he landed in this country. There he found the friend of his boyhood, Joshua Russell, who had preceded him in the search for home and fortune in the new world. The report that she was born in slavery and rescued therefrom by Mr. Stevens, Mrs. Smith attributes to the fact that Mr. Stevens' first housekeeper, Keziah Shannon, was at one time the chattel of a Carlisle, Pa., man named Shannon. From him she ran off and found her way to Gettysburg. Mr. Stevens ascertained that by the law of 1780 she was entitled to her freedom. She obtained it after a legal contest with her former master. Keziah removed with the family of John McCleary, who kept hotel in Gettysburg, to Westminster, Md., where she married a mulatto named Ephraim Wolrich. Soon afterwards he was offered for sale. Twice Keziah walked from Westminster to Gettysburg and begged Mr. Stevens to buy her husband. She did not supplicate vainly; but within a year's time her recreant husband behaved so badly that Stevens was compelled to turn him out of the situation he had given him in his own Gettysburg home. This so distressed the poor woman that she hanged herself in the chimney corner on the evening before the day fixed for their departure from the house of their benefactor. Here Mrs. Smith's mother, who dropped in to make a call, found her. Prompt medical aid restored the poor woman to consciousness. The very next night in their new home near the Gettysburg poor-house, Dr. David Horner was instrumental in again frustrating her determination to die. "Ah," said Mrs. Smith, "I have heard Mr. Stevens say she was the handsomest woman that he had ever seen." But consumption and a brutal husband soon accomplished what she had twice vainly endeavored; and, in the first six months of 1837, Mrs. Smith, then Miss O'Neill, standing at the window of her Gettysburg home, saw carried to the little Catholic church-yard near by wife, husband and little boy. Long years after, Bill, the only surviving issue of this unfortunate and unhappy alliance came to Lancaster and sought aid from Mr. Stevens, and by him was helped to New York city, where he engaged as a waiter on the great ship Central America that sailed away and never reached port again. Such is the story of Thaddens Stevens' first housekeeper as it was told to me by the last woman who presided over his domestic affairs. Mrs. Smith now lives in Washington; she keeps a boarding house at 515 Fourteenth street, adjoining the Ebbitt House.

Publisher, Elwood Griest  
b.1824- d. 1900

Lancaster Inquirer, June 9, 1883

The underground railroad book which Wm. T. Smedley, late of West Chester, had almost ready for the printer at the time of his death and which Robert Purvis and Marianna Gibbons have completed, is now in type at the office of the *Friend's Journal* in the *Examiner* building, this city. If this does not prove a readable volume it will be because the subject has been improperly handled.

Lancaster Examiner, August, 1883

## AGENTS WANTED

-FOR THE-

## Underground Railroad

BY THE LATE  
DR. R. C. SMEDLEY,  
OF WEST CHESTER, PA.

This work, written by the late Dr. R. C. Smedley, of West Chester, Pa., contains a full and correct account of the workings of the anti-slavery people in Chester, Lancaster and neighboring counties. It also contains a large number of interesting anecdotes of adventures and thrilling escapes of slaves and those who lent them their assistance, most of which have never appeared in print before. The lives of those who had charge of "stations" on the underground railroad together with large numbers of workers is given, consequently it is an interesting work to very many families in the counties from which these incidents have been gathered. It is, in fact, a sort of a family record for it treats mainly of local affairs. Almost everyone in Southeastern Pennsylvania is acquainted with some one who figures in the work and for this reason agents should have no difficulty in selling large numbers of books. It is illustrated with portraits of the principal parties whose lives are portrayed and also the principal "stations."

It is printed on heavy white paper, contains 408 pages and bound in cloth. The price is \$1.50 per volume.

For terms to agents address

J. COMLY HALL,  
West Chester, Pa.,  
Or, "THE EXAMINER," Lancaster, Pa.,  
aug29-1883

News articles photographed from originals

Courtesy Lancaster County Historical Society,

July 2007

Research & design -Randolph Harris, Lancaster, PA

For LancasterHistory.org's

'It Happened on the Square,' April 6, 2012

See reverse

## THE "GREAT COMMONER."

Mrs. Lydia Smith, Thaddeus Stevens' House-keeper for Twenty-Four Years, Relates Some Anecdotes.

Lancaster Letter in the *Phila. Times*.

"Upon that very table upon which you are now taking notes Mr. Stevens wrote his last will," said Mrs. Lydia Smith to the writer, as we sat to-day in the library room of Thaddeus Stevens' old Lancaster home, No. 45 South Queen street. The appearance of both house and housekeeper evince the flight of time, and, while a barber's pole now stands sentinel at the entrance of the old Commoner's law office and a wooden Indian dressed in war-paint and decorated with tobacco leaves tells the story of the bachelor-statesman's parlor, advancing age has wrinkled the face and whitened the hair of the once handsome and yet prepossessing quadroon woman who for twenty-four years managed the domestic affairs of Thaddeus Stevens. She now owns this place, as well as two other dwelling houses in this city and some property in Washington, where she lives and keeps a boarding-house, adjoining the Ebbitt House. She pays frequent visits to this city and has two rooms—the library and the bed room of Mr. Stevens—reserved for her own use.

## STEVENS BAPTIZED A CATHOLIC.

"Mrs. Smith, it is both affirmed and denied that Stevens, just prior to his death, was baptized in the Catholic faith. What are the facts?"

"Out of those very windows," was the emphatic reply, as she pointed to the street, "Mr. Stevens once looked across to yonder pump and said that he would rather go a hundred miles to be administered to by one of those pure-tender Sisters whom he had seen in Washington, than to send across the street there for all the clergymen in the country. On the afternoon of the day of his death, 11th August, 1868, I said to him: 'Would you have any objections to being baptized?' 'No,' was his reply, and just after two colored men, many of whom from all parts of the country came to the house to pray for his recovery, had left, two hours before his death, Sister Lauretta O'Reilly, of Washington city, baptized him. And," continued Mrs. Smith, whom it must be remembered is a devout Catholic and herself claims to have induced Stevens to this step, "I believe that he is safe in heaven to-day."

## THE LANCASTER INQUIRER.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1883.

The other day I saw a letter written a few weeks ago by Mrs. Smith, Thaddeus Stevens' old housekeeper, in which she distinctly states that while lying on his death-bed the "Old Commoner" was baptized in the faith of the Catholic church.

MR. STEVENS AND THE SLAVE HUNTERS.  
Lancaster Inquirer.

The following hitherto unpublished letter, which fully explains itself, was written by Thaddeus Stevens to Hon. Jeremiah Brown, of Fulton township:

LANCASTER, Jan. 9, 1847.

Dear Sir: I learn that the man-stealers of this place have taken means to obtain authority from Maryland (which they soon expect) to arrest and take into slavery two colored girls who lately lived with you, and your brother Slater.

Ellen Jackson and Emeline Raines—They are thought to be now with Whitson. It is said they belong to Wm. C. Norris, Baltimore. Will you see that they have immediate notice to flee to a city of refuge? They should not stop short of Canada.

There is a regular chain of agents and spies of the slave holders in this and all the adjoining counties. I have a spy on the spies, and thus ascertain these facts. All this, however, must be a secret or we should lose all advantage, which we now have.

These are the 5th set of slaves I have warned within a week.

I doubt not you will attend to the cause of human rights.

Yours truly,

THADDEUS STEVENS.

HON. JEREMIAH BROWN.

A few days after the receipt of the above letter, two men, armed with a warrant and accompanied by a constable, arrived at the residence of Slater Brown, in Fulton township, shortly after dark. They entered the house without knocking. Mr. Brown was reading a newspaper, when one of the men took up a light without any ceremony and proceeded to the kitchen. Mr. Brown, who suspected their business, followed. The girl, fortunately, was in the cellar with Mrs. Brown, where they next attempted to enter. Mr. Brown planted himself against the cellar door and forbade their going further without producing their authority. This created somewhat of a rumpus which was overheard by those in the cellar and by the time the warrant was read the fugitive had escaped by another door. In the meantime a messenger was despatched next

Lancaster Daily Examiner, October 31, 1883

## IN SLAVERY DAYS.

## HOW CAPT. RAUCH BECAME A SPY.

A Letter of Thaddeus Stevens Explained—How George Hughes Was Outwitted—An Interesting Letter for Our Old Inhabitants.

Since the publication of Mr. Stevens's letter in the *DAILY EXAMINER* on last Saturday we have received the following very interesting communication from Captain E. H. Rauch, which substantially sustains us in our explanation of that letter to Judge Brown in reference to who the "spy on the slave hunters' spies" was. The Captain has had his reward in living to see the system, which made such a course as he pursued in his relations with Hughes justifiable, wiped from the statutes of every State in the Union.

DEMOCRAT OFFICE,  
MAUCH CHUNK, Oct. 29, 1883.

Editor of Examiner.

An unknown friend kindly forwarded me a copy of the last number of Major Griest's *Inquirer*, containing the Stevens-Brown letter of January, 1847, in regard to two fugitive slave girls. The same mail also brought our regular exchange *EXAMINER* of Saturday

## STEVENS' "SPY?"

In publishing in last week's *INQUIRER* a letter written by Thaddeus Stevens to Jeremiah Brown, of Fulton townships, we asked if any one could tell who the spy was, which Mr. Stevens said he had on the spies of the slaveholders. In reply, Mr. Hiestand, in Saturday's *Examiner*, says:

"As to the last question, we can give some facts which will throw some light upon it. At the time mentioned in Stevens' letter, 1847, there lived in Lancaster a notorious slave catcher named George Hughes; he came from Baltimore and was at times elected a constable in Lancaster. He was the trusted agent of the Baltimore and Southern slave catchers. He was brutal and illiterate, and had his correspondence done for him by others. He, about this time, had a room, or sort of an office, on East King street, somewhere between Lane's store and the Farmers' Bank. At the same time E. H. Rauch, still well remembered by our oldest citizens, and now the editor of the *Mauch Chunk Democrat*, kept the toll-gate on the Philadelphia turnpike, at the east end of Witmer's Bridge. He was a great friend of Mr. Stevens, hated slavery and slave hunters, and was ready for any service that would aid the runaway slave to reach what Mr. Stevens called 'a city of refuge.' Rauch and Hughes became acquainted and intimate, either by accident or design, and Rauch became Hughes's confidential clerk, attended to his correspondence, and, of course, had a full knowledge of all the secrets between Hughes and the slave-catchers of Baltimore and other places South. Rauch, of course, concealed his opinions about slavery from Hughes, and apparently entered heartily into the plots, plans and schemes for catching runaway slaves, and sharing the handsome rewards offered by the slaveholders for their runaway chattels. After Hughes' death, Rauch, in speaking of his 'business' venture with Hughes, said it was one that was not a success. They never were able to declare a 'dividend' on the investment. Mr. Stevens' letter tells the whole story.

Captain Rauch could relate some interesting incidents of the days when slave hunting was an exciting business along the border of Maryland."

The New-York Times,  
Saturday, November 3, 1883.

## THAD STEVENS'S ALLIES

INTERESTING REMINISCENCES OF  
THE DAYS OF SLAVERY.

HOW RUNAWAY NEGROES WERE SAVED FROM  
CAPTURE AND AIDED ON THEIR WAY TO  
CANADA.

From the Lancaster (Penn.) Examiner.

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LANCASTER, Jan. 9, 1847.

DEAR SIR: I learn that the man-stealers of this place have taken means to obtain authority from Maryland (which they soon expect) to arrest and take into slavery two colored girls who lately lived with you and your brother Slater—Ellen Jackson and Emeline Raines. They are thought to be now with Whitson. It is said they belong to William C. Norris, Baltimore. Will you see that they have immediate notice to flee to a city of refuge? They should

community sides correct and coward with I to some his efforts on a tremely dis contempt. It slate of Geo fice in every sation, loss the door age Mr. Hood re fully apore it may not young, and see a differ our day of orised if the yourself tell the negro-ch public." I e and hopes as When I w Collectornah happened to corner and a position, and