Auburn Morning News

Official Paper of the County

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1878

School Statistics of New York.

According to the annual report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, recently sent to the Legislature, the number of school districts in the State is 11,287, an increase of 2 for the year. There are 436 school houses in the cities, and 11,395 in the towns, an increase of 277. There are 87 log school houses against 172 the year before. One hundred and five stone buildings gave place to brick or frame ones. The value of school houses and sites is $30,886,248.

The number of children of school ages last year, was 1,586,234, and the number attending the public schools, some portion of the year, was 1,023,715. There were pupils in normal schools, 6,200; in academies, 29,519; in colleges, 3,102; in private schools, 117,154; in medical schools, 2,078; in law schools, 627.

The number of common school teachers was 30,161. The aggregate of teachers' salaries was $7,915,633.51, an average of $401.04

The school moneys provided by the State for the year amounted to $3,173,165.27, of which $3,082,834.09 was raised by tax. The actual expense of maintaining the common schools was: In cities, $6,237,362.70; in the towns, $4,738,871.75,—a total of $10,976,234.45, a decrease of $462,804.33 from the preceding year.

The compulsory law is not enforced, except in the city of New York. Statistics of its operation are to be obtained.

The school commissioners have given more attention than formerly to their charges. It is recommended that legislation be had to increase the efficacy of the commissioners, and that they give their whole time and attention to their official duties.

The township system is advocated by the Superintendent. The present district system is held to be detrimental to the interest of education.

The new text book law has been put in operation, but has led to much confusion. The Superintendent thinks the act is so loosely drawn, and so liable to different constructions that further legislation is needed. He advises that the law be so shaped as to secure uniformity in the books used in a school, that the decision be made at the annual school meeting, that the choice of books be left to trustees and boards of education instead of the voters, that too frequent changes be guarded against, and that districts refusing or neglecting to comply with the law, be not permitted to share in the distribution of the school moneys.

The normal schools are discussed at considerable length by the Superintendent, who favors holding them to their strict duty, viz., the teaching of *how* to teach.

Cost of a Free Canal.

REPORT OF AUDITOR SCHUYLER TO THE ASSEMBLY.

STATE OF NEW YORK,
CANAL DEPARTMENT,
ALBANY, Jan. 17, 1878.

Hon. Jas. W. Husted, Speaker of the Assembly.

SIR: In answer to the resolution of the honorable the Assembly, of which the following is a copy to wit:

"Resolved, That the Auditor of the Canal Department be requested to inform the Assembly, in the possible event of the abandonment of tolls on the Erie, Champlain and Oswego canals, what would be the probable cost of their maintenance by the State, specifying the yearly sums required for all probable repairs the support of said canals named and the amount of additional taxes which would be imposed upon the people if the canals are made free."

the Auditor makes the following

REPORT.

The abandonment of tolls on any or all of the canals of the State requires, in the first instance, a radical change in the financial article of the Constitution, and the amendments necessary to effect that object could not become operative before January 1, 1881.

The taxes necessary to be levied for the payment of the principal and interest of the canal debt, and for maintaining the canals, would be assessed on the annual valuations of the real and personal property of the State, from and after the year 1881.

The aggregate valuation for the year 1877 ($2,755,740,318) was twenty-nine per cent. greater than for the year 1873, and the same ratio of increase would give us a valuation in 1881 of $3,554,905,010.

The interest-bearing canal debt which will remain unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending 30th September, 1881, will amount to $9,013,700, and the accumulation of the sinking fund applicable to its payment at the same date should amount to $4,102,103.14. The debt after applying the sinking fund would amount to $4,911,596.86, which if paid by a single levy would require an assessment, upon the estimated valuation of 1881, of one and three-fifths of a mill per dollar of valuation; or if paid by annual assessments until the debt matured, as we are now doing, the assessment for 1881 for contribution to sinking fund and payment of interest would be nearly three-tenths of a mill.

This debt of $9,013,700 does not fully mature until October 1st, 1893. The interest from October 1st, 1881, to the maturity of the debt will aggregate in the twelve years $4,767,421.50, and by paying the debt October 1st, 1881, the interest would be stopped and $4,767,421.50 saved in taxes. The saving would average nearly $400,000 per annum for the period of twelve years.

The cost of collection, superintendence and ordinary repairs for the fiscal year ending 30th September, 1873, was as follows:

For the Erie canal	$693,472 19
For the Champlain canal	139,216 52
For the Oswego canal	45,549 24
Total	$877,237 95

Assuming that this sum represents the minimum cost for the three canals, it would require an assessment upon the estimated valuation of 1881 equal to one-fourth of a mill per dollar of valuation, and if with those canals there be included the Cayuga and Seneca and the Black River canals, an assessment of four-fifteenths of a mill would maintain them all at an aggregate cost of $950,768.16; or, if assessed upon the valuation of 1877, it would require a tax slightly in excess of one-third of a mill.

From what has preceded it will be seen that a brief answer to the resolution of the Assembly would be this:

In the event that tolls should be abandoned on the Erie, Champlain and Oswego canals after October 1, 1881, the additional taxes which would be imposed upon the people, in consequence of such change of policy, would amount to one-fourth of a mill per dollar of the estimated valuation; and with the Cayuga and Seneca and Black River canals included, four-fifteenths of a mill per dollar of valuation, the rate diminishing with the increasing valuation.

This estimated tax for operating the canals is actually less than what is now necessary for the annual supply of the sinking fund for the payment of the interest and principal of the debt.

But I have shown that by the prompt payment of the debt and stopping of interest, there would be an anual saving in taxes of nearly $4 0,000 from October 1, 1881, to October 1, 1893, in which event the additional taxes which would be imposed on the people by making the canals absolutely free during the debt period would only amount to $950,768.16 per year, or about one-seventh of a mill for each dollar of the estimated valuation of 1881.

The canal debt now outstanding was contracted under the third section of article seven of the Constitution, to provide means for the enlargement and completion of the canals.

The section required that there should be appropriated and set apart in each fiscal year, out of the surplus revenues of the canals, as a sinking fund, a sum sufficient to pay the interest as it fell due, and extinguish the principal within eighteen years of any loans made in pursuance of it. The loans to carry on the enlargement were made for a period of eighteen years, and while the work was in progress loans were also made, on the credit of the sinking fund, for a period of eighteen years, to pay interest on loans. As the stock issued for the payment of the loans matured, it was paid from the sinking fund until exhausted and then from the proceeds or deficiency loans; or, in other words, the debt was renewed, and not extinguished, as the Constitution evidently intended it should be, either by the imposition of adequate tolls or by taxation.

The existing debt grows out of these deficiency loans, and if allowed to run to maturity, it will involve a period of thirty-six years, upon the largest portion of which $2.16 will have been paid in interest on each dollar borrowed!

Since it has become certain that neither principal nor interest will be derived from the revenues of the canals, would it not be preferable and for the interest of tax-payers, especially as the State has no other debt, to stop the interest? Is it not a proper question to submit to the people?

So far as the debt is concerned the Constitution makes ample provision for its payment. The creditor is secured. His debt must be paid either from the canal revenue or the proceeds of taxes.

As to the maintenance of the canals, the constitution, as it now reads, is practically indifferent. As that instrument has been interpreted of late, it says to those officials whose duty it is to fix the rates of toll, and to the Legislature when the concurrence of that body is required: "You may freely exercise your judgment as to rates of toll, or, in your discretion, you may them entirely;" and yet it prohibits the disbursing officers from spending for one year's maintenance a greater amount than the gross revenues of the previous year. So long as that limitation remains, our canals are liable to be closed, any moment, for want of the necessary funds to operate or repair them.

Many persons, from the language of the limitation clause, have gained the impression that the revenues collected in one year are available for expenditures the succeeding year. It is not so. Every year's expenditures for maintenance are necessarily paid from the earnings of the same fiscal year.

The canal question has ceased to be one of revenue. It has become practically this: Shall we maintain our canals or abandon them?

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GEORGE W. SCHUYLER,
Auditor.

The Murder Trial.

The People vs. Hoppins, for the Killing of Proudfit.

Continued from third page.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 23.

Court met at 9 o'clock.

Mrs. Smith recalled; shown a paper; recognized it as the letter found in Lina's room after the poisoning; (letter offered in evidence); Mrs. Smith thought that Ed had read it. Letter read as follows:

Dear Parents, Brothers and Sisters:

Forgive me, but I have committed a great crime and care not to live; I haven't spent a happy day or moment for a number of months; I have tried to act natural, but found no pleasure anywhere: there is one person who might have saved me from this; but he thought I was trying to deceive him. He knows why I die; God alone knows what I have suffered; oh, death is the only relief; you are all very dear to me, and it is hard to to leave you, but it is best. I once enjoyed religion; oh that I had continued to serve God; I would not have been where I am now; oh, if I was the girl I was when I went to the valley; I had always said I would never cause you any trouble; but I have fallen, and am forever ruined. I hope you will all meet in heaven; I trust you will, but I shall never go there. Think of me as lost. I might have been a christian now. The Bible says, the vilest sinner may return, but it is better that I die than live as I am; you will soon forget, and it is better that you should; tears prevent my writing, and I bid you

Farewell Forever,

LINA.

My young friends will think I have done them great injustice in accepting their invitation, but I knew that it was the last time, and I tried to forget the troubled future in so doing.

Miss Hoppins Cross-Examined: Figures on the back of the letter are mine.

Isaac M. Hoppins; am the father of defendant; always lived in Sterling; been a farmer; Edmund has made his home with me except five or six years that he has been with Mr. McKnight and Mr. Hunter. He went to Oswego and Fulton to school; Lina had lived at home mostly up to the time of this occurrence; was very healthy, bright, musical; of full flesh; at least a quarter heavier than now; since the occurrence she has been much depressed; hasn't talked much and never cheerfully; reluctant to engage in conversation; tried to avoid her friends; sang a good deal before this occurrence; now not at all; Was a great reader before, but now she reads but little; only goes into society when strongly urged; same general testimony given of Edmund, as to his condition before and after the affair; he had taught school two winters before; but has never since; I went after Ed and his sister the night of the poisoning; they went right to the room where Lina was; I went there just after; think he was asking her her motives for the offence and what she had taken; she said 2 oz of laudanum; and after a little he took the vial and tasted it and threw it away, saying, "That must'nt be seen." He was walking with Lina a good deal that night; took particular care of her that night; I heard a good deal of conversation between them; Ed's condition was characterized by rouness of eyes; continuous weeping and walking to and fro in the manner described by the other witnesses; I walked with Lina some; the doctor, Mrs. Smith, and I guess my wife did; we made strong efforts to have her vomit; finally succeeded at about 10 o'clock I think; substance of conversation between Lina and Ed, was regret for what she had done, expressed on her part; she said three or four times, "Do let me lie down and die." Her condition was talked over between him and her more than between any of the others; she seemed to take the blame on herself; wouldn't have blamed me or any of us if we had turned her out of doors; think it was about 4 o'clock or after when I went to bed; think Ed was up then; heard Ed and Lina talking once after this in the parlor; the subject was her trouble; can't tell just what was said; I gave Lina's letter to Ed to read; remember nothing said about where Lina got her medicine; was at home when Lina's child was born; Ed was there; I observed his eyes were very red; some groaning; making gestures with his hands and clasping them; heard him talk some that night; remained at home that time about two weeks before he left; he went to Oswego a short time that spring; then came back to Hunter's; he weighed now only about 140; previously his weight had been 175 or 180; the white of his eyes appeared red; think I had to speak several times to him on a few occasions before I could gain his attention; wife's health was good down to time of this trouble; weighed 180; almost always did her own work; was occasionally troubled with palpitation of the heart; had had it for a number of years; after the poisonning, within a year or a year and a half, her flesh wasted to 125, I think; she died last June, I think; Dr. Kyle was there, and she consulted him at different times, perhaps from one to two years before the poisoning; think he gave her nothing; her heart attacks were less frequent afterwards than before; first that I saw of paralysis was a lack of use of her left hand, about the first of February, 1877; she was then doing her work; next noticed the paralytic stroke in February; from that time she had no use of her left side; she could talk some, but her speech was thick; Ed. was there frequently, and was very attentive and kind to her; she said to him, on one occasion, in substance, that this had been brought about by Proudfit; she spoke of it several times after; when these things were said to Ed., I often saw him with tearful eyes, nervous, excited more than at other times; I had often been awakened by my wife's weeping and mourning; told Ed. his mother was wearing away with grief; I think the last words she said were to Ed—"that villian that killed us all;" she was conscious but a few hours after this; think I never heard her speak again; she lay, I think, at this time on her left side, with her face toward the south; both she and he were weeping at the time; her age was 62 when she died; never had any sickness myself except ague; it always deranged me; my father was 64 when he died; I frequently heard him say his future destiny, he feared, was bad; he would walk the house with exclamations that it would have been better for him if he had never been born; noticed this for 15 or 20 years before he died. He was always a very sedate, sober man; he was a church member, very devoted, during my memory. Have a daughter who married Frank Duell; two years ago her condition was characterized by glassy eyes; repulsion of her friends with improper language; it happened 18 or 20 years ago; she was married and had one child; she did no work for nearly six months; they had a doctor who now lives in Oswego; she used personal violence to my wife once; she struck her; could see no occasion for it; I came in and saw that there was a misunderstanding between her and her mother; just came in the door as my daughter drew up and struck her; Mrs. Duell's face and eyes were very fierce and glassy; think her conversation was broken and incoherent; I have a brother Lyman; nearly 80 now, I think; saw him about ten years ago; his physical health was good; thought his mind a little affected; he would say one day that he would do some particular thing the next day, and soon after would speak of doing something else.

Cross-Examined—This occurred, I should think, two or three times; Mrs. Duell has six children, now; has lost two; was sick at the time of her trouble; don't know what her bodily infirmity was; doctor's name was DeWitt; father was nearly blind for about ten years before he died; I became manager in all business; his talk on all but religious subjects was rational; on this subject it was connected, merely apprehension for his future destiny; he was hopeful at times, and then troubled; had suffered from a rupture since he was 30 years of age; I was troubled with ague up till I was towards 25 years old; first I recollect was when I was about 10 years old; recollect three severe attacks; the fever that followed them always made me delicious; never was out of my head at any other time; the redness of Edmund's eyes seemed to continue for hours, and whether he had been weeping or not.

Re-Direct—Cause of father's blindness was a cataract; never had any sickness but the breach.

Darwin C. Knapp, Weedsport: Am an attorney and Pension agent; known Hoppins from his childhood up; visited the family frequently; was at the Hoppins' in the month of October, 1876; was there three days; Lina was not at home; Ed was not at home; had seen Mrs. Hoppins last, before that in April, '75, I think; she had lost probably one-quarter of her weight in that interval; in October, she was around at her work, but complained that she was dying of grief; stated this several times; was less cheerful than before; I was at her funeral; saw Edmund Hoppins there; it was difficult to have conversation with him; refused to talk; avoided conversation; same general appearance and habits as described by other witnesses speaking of the same time; knew Lina before the poisoning; was always in full flesh and cheerful, a great hand to sing; should think she was one-third lighter now than then; have tried to talk with her; was very hard work to engage her in conversation; have seen her perhaps 6 or 8 times since the poisoning; never have heard her sing during that time; don't think I have heard her laugh; I know Lyman Hoppins; saw him last in 1860 and 61, in Michigan; he was keeping house with the family; there would be days at a time when he wouldn't answer questions unless repeatedly urged to it; said he had been in comfortable circumstances but had lost his property, and would just as live die as not; they kept a man there to watch him all the time for fear he would kill some of the family; they wouldn't leave him alone; a physician was visiting there while I was; heard a conversation between the physician and Lyman Hopins' wife; Lyman was a carpenter, and would often tell of work he had engaged, and I afterwards learned that such was not the case; would often speak of going on a visit and fix a time, but would never go; Lyman had a son James; I went to his house to attend the funeral of his child; he acted very strangely; did not want to converse with me; I was riding out with him, he pointed off into the distance and wanted to know if I saw a light there; I said I didn't and he said that it was his guardian angel; this happened several times; said "wherever I go if I am out at night I can always see that light;" the Hoppins family seemed to have more love among its members than any family I ever knew.

Cross Examined—Haven't seen Lyman Hoppins since '61; he had no property that I knew of; he didn't do any work then; saw Lyman Hoppins the last time he was east; have lived in Weedsport since '63.

Albert J. Hoppins: Am a brother of Edmund; older; was living about 22 miles from father's home, in '73 and '74; have seen my brother frequently since Lina's trouble; heard of Proudfit's intended coming home in June, '77; saw my brother about that time, at my house; saw my brother about the 11th of July; I said I understood Proudfit was coming back; he said something about prosecuting him; he acted strangely; walked back and forth, wringing his hands; we were there perhaps 15 or 20 minutes; I advised him not to prosecute him; just after the trouble came out, I slept with him one night; he was very restless; spoke about the trouble; said he could hardly endure it; saw Ed at the time mother died; he wandered from room to room; walked very fast, then perhaps sat down for a moment or two; then up and walking again; you couldn't talk with him—he wouldn't answer; he was very absent minded; he was always very talkative before; noticed him at the festival with Miss Turner; he didn't take any part in the festivities; noticed a difference in his appearance a short time after he came; he kept apart by himself; didn't talk with me after he first came; he went away before the rest; Ed.'s weight had been 175 or 180 for about three years previous to the trouble; several times I noticed he looked haggard and thin. Had a conversation with mother as to her trouble; I told Ed that the trouble was killing mother; this was after my talk with mother. Witness described Miss Hoppins' condition before and after the trouble substantially as detailed above. Ed and Lina were always very loving together; he always got her a good many presents; she was very frequently with him.

Cross Examined—Had been away from father's home about 12 years; been in the service 2 years; in Michigan about six months; the last conversation I had with Ed, where he broke off suddenly, was at my house; don't recollect the subject. I once asked him to continue the conversation; can't say whether he finished it or not. At the church festival I tried to engage him in conversation several times; he did answer some questions; think he was at my house the 11th of July; between 5 and 6 o'clock, I think; gave my brother no reason for not prosecuting Proudfit; didn't advise him not to use any violence on Proudfit then or at any other time.

Mrs. Kate Mills.—Am a sister of the defendant; age is 44; was at home and helped take care of mother during her last sickness; lived about 22 miles from father's; generally went there two or three times a year; witness described mental and physical condition of her mother before the attempted suicide as already given; I went there 6 months after Lina's poisoning; Lina was at home; her paleness and decrease of flesh, lack of cheerfulness were unlike herself; her child had been born at that time; mother was almost as much changed as Lina; she showed it in her manner and conversation, and in her falling off in flesh; didn't see mother again till I was telegraphed for to come to her sick bed; was with her twelve weeks before she died; when I came her face was drawn around, her left side was helpless, I could hardly understand her conversation; she partially recovered and then could talk somewhat easier; think the other side was affected before she died; she sat up in bed to take her food; Ed came home quite frequently, and always spent his nights in the room with mother when there; she spoke to him of the "trouble that's killing us all," several times; he tried to have her recognize him several times; she would say "yes, its my good old Ed;" spoke with Ed frequently of the trouble that was killing us all; told him of mother's being constantly reminded of the disgrace and shame by the presence of Lina and her child, while he, the villain was at liberty; Ed didn't engage in conversation as before; wasn't as friendly and affectionate; always thought there was a peculiar look between Edmund and his mother; shown by their manner of meeting; always cordial; kissing when they met; this continued as long as they lived; he was an unusually good brother and son; mother relied on him more than the others; Ed acted at the funeral as though he had lost his best friend; think I haven't been home but once since the funeral.

Cross-Examined—My brother showed trouble all this time; it was true also of the other members of the family.

Recess till 2 o'clock.

Terrissa Jarrod: Age 77; knew Aaron Hoppins from the time I was 17 years old till he died; knew him very well; husband's name was Caufield Jarrod; Aaron Hoppins used to be in a state of despair; walking the house, crying and talking about being lost hereafter; he was blind when I first knew him; he had no bodily disease that I knew of; I saw him nearly every month; he did some of his business, but not much.

Cross-Examined—He died between 1830 to 1840, I think; was acquainted with him about 20 years or more; he had children older than I; I used to try to cheer him up; he was a very pious man.

Re Direct—Knew nothing about Lyman.

Melissa Barnes: am a sister of the defendant; age 37; am a widow; lived at my father's; was not there at the time of the poisoning; came there a few days after; found my mother and Lina there when I got there; mother looked pale and seemed feeble; she was crying when she met me; seemed to have lost flesh and her appetite; she never seemed to recover from the shock; she was downhearted and cried a good deal. Heard some conversations between Ed and mother; she would often say, "Oh Ed, the villain that's killing me; I'm dying by inches;" then be interrupted by weeping; Ed would seem almost frantic at these times; he grew down-hearted and thin; had previously been a very happy dispositioned boy; I often told him that she cried a good deal in the night and was restless; I knew of this because there was only a thin partition between her room and mine. Ed would often cry and took down and wring his hands. Sometimes he would answer questions, sometimes not; I spoke to him about mother's difficulty in walk; told him that she had fallen at two different times the winter before she died; she sprained her ankle on one occasion; she was troubled with this about a week; this was supposed to be a partial shock of paralysis; remember seeing Ed at home in June, '77; my father and I were in the sitting-room when he and Miss Turner came; he had heard of Philip Proudfit's return; this was after the church festival; at the house that night he looked wild and agitated; would wring his hands and walk back and forth; he said, "Oh, dear, I can't have him come back;" he scarce ever called him by name; always spoke of him as the villain; he repeated his sighs over and over again; he spoke saying "the trouble has killed my mother;" I was present the last time my mother was conscious; we had just gotten her up on the lounge, (Ed had his arms around her); I said, "Mother, do you know who that is?" she said, "I guess I do, it's my dear old Ed," then, "the villain that's killing me;" Mother was deranged for nearly a year; Dr. Dewitt attended her, with Dr. Kyle as counsel.

Cross Examined—Said some one told him at the festival that Proudfit had come back; think he said it was Charles Smith that told him; this was the latter part of June. He generally shed tears when this subject was mentioned.

Grace Crossman: Live at Sterling Valley; daughter of Charles Crossman; knew Elias Van Vleck; Van Vleck was present when father was subpœnaed before the Graud Jury last fall; Van Vleck said he didn't know anything about the matter. Think I saw Hoppins the Wednesday before the homicide; saw him in Hunter's store; he was very sober; he was always talking to me, but this time scarcely answered; he was scowling; think he was changing some boxes when I went in; I staid there 10 or 12 minutes; I got some waist-lining. I asked him how he liked my new hat and he didn't answer; thought it very strange; we were always joking together.

saw him the Monday after the homicide; Mr. Cobb the constable was there; he was very sad indeed.

Cross Examined—Mr. Van Vleck spoke just after the subpœna was served on father; was the only occasion when father was subpœnaed and Van Vleck was there; in the store, I asked him what made him so down-hearted, and he said "nothing." Then I said he needn't look so mad and he didn't give any answer.

Mary E. Hunter, wife of John Hunter, of Sterling Valley: Hoppins lived with us three years; I saw him almost daily while he lived at Jas. Hunter's; I knew him very well; I saw him at the store and in the house before the homicide; a few days before I was in the store and Dr. Proudfit came in and spoke to me; Ed came up; stood by us; then walked back and afterwards came up again after Dr. Proudfit was gone; he looked very wild. Then he went away again and came back and asked me if I had seen Proudfit; I told him I had not; his eyes were very glassy and wild; he watched me very closely. Had seen him at my house about a week before, in the afternoon; said he wanted to talk with me; he said "where did you hear that Proudfit had got back?" I told him Dr. Proudfit had told me Phil was at the Bay; he turned very white, and shook like a leaf, and said, "he mustn't come back; he killed my mother;" he said, "I don't know whether you are my friends or not;" I said that we were; that he couldn't help what Lina had done; he said he had spoken to Lina, and told her that if she would behave herself and be a good girl, he would be a good friend to her all her life; he said Lina had told him that she hadn't been guilty of any other person only Philip Proudfit; he trembled all the time he stood talking to me; said he went to Cal Green, and Cal had said that he vowed he had never had anything to do with Lina; at another time he said of Proudfit, "he has come back to provoke me;" I said, "Ed, don't you touch him;" he said, "I don't intend to; I don't have anything to say to him; I have written to my friends to that effect;" he was walking back and forth all the time, moving his hand all the time; he didn't stay there very long; Thomas, my son, called him from the store.

Cross Examined—Ed first mentioned Green's name in the conversation in the bath room; had no previous conversation with Green; he spoke as if some one had told him about Green.

Charles Smith, Sterling: Known the Hoppins about 13 years; saw the defendant at the church festival, June 22, 1877; heard that day of Proudfit's return; told Hoppins of it that evening at about half-past eight; he first came in and took an active part in the gathering till I told him; then he said "is that so?" He dropped his head and went and sat down in the back part of the church and his girl went and sat down by him; don't think he staid over 20 minutes or so after I told him; he was more cheerful before than he was after it; I saw him on the fourth of July on the edge of the village; he was umpiring a game of ball.

James Hunter, Sterling Valley: Hoppins was in my store a little over three years; then went to Clifton Springs; staid there about a month and staid there till December 7th; worked for me till January, '75; saw him soon after the poisoning; think I saw him a few days after it; he was very much excited; he wanted to know if I knew where Proudfit was; he cried some; I saw him occasionally after that; he was sad; wasn't as lively as previously; came back into my employ in September, '75; staid there till July, '77; he was quieter and had a sad expression; was not nearly as fleshy as when he first worked for me; in '74 he weigbed 180. A few days previous to the homicide he was frequently very much excited and very absent minded; would face customers and not notice them; was very attentive to customers down to this time; be made mistakes in making entries; would charge for a pound of sugar and carried out the price for 10 pounds; never saw anything of the kind before.

Continued on fourth page.

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