

# THE ARROW

SHOT FROM SHORT HILLS.

No. 1. NEW SERIES.

FEBRUARY, 1882.

PRICE, 5 CENTS.

## Railroad Time-Table.

Trains from New York to SHORT HILLS leave Christopher street and Barclay street ferries at 7.30, 10.10 and 11.10 A. M.; 2.30, 3.50, 4.30, 5.20 (Express), 5.50, 6.30, 7.45, 9.45 P. M.; and 12 P. M. on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

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THE SHORT HILLS COACH awaits the arrival of every train. On Sundays it carries passengers to the churches in Milburn and Springfield for 25 cents each.

JAMES MORRIS.

## Publisher's Notice.

AS THE ARROW has once formally declared itself dead, a few words of explanation may not be amiss in connection with its reappearance. The paper was originally a freak. It was printed a few times as a sort of burlesque on absurdity, and without any idea of permanency. It had no *raison d'être*, and was therefore dropped without ceremony when its parents tired of it. THE ARROW is now resurrected as an entirely different thing, or rather its name is taken for a different publication. The present idea is to see whether or no a small paper issued at stated intervals (monthly to begin with) and devoted to the interests of this neighborhood can be made self-sustaining. This journal is *not* started "to fill a long-felt want." The first thing is to try and create the want, and if successful in this to enlarge gradually and grow up with the country. The first number is offered without apology, although future issues will doubtless present a greater variety of matter.

### TERMS :

Single copy five cents; discount on quantities.  
Advertising space one dollar per inch each insertion.  
Address, "THE ARROW,"  
Short Hills, N. J.

## An Important Question.

WE devote a large space to the report of the Town Investigating Committee. It is a very important document and its publication, it is hoped, will revive the public interest in the subject, which had to a great extent died out owing to the long time occupied by the committee in preparing their report. The question now is: Has more than half the story been told?

## The Wyoming Meeting-House.

OUR neighbors at Wyoming want to build a meeting-house, and have published an appeal for contributions of money to help them in building it. They have also published a picture of the meeting-house which they want to build. It is to cost about three thousand dollars. Somebody has "donated" the land for it; and the congregation has pledged about eight hundred dollars for the building. Since 1875, when the First Presbyterian church of Wyoming was organized, religious services have been held in the railroad station-house; but, as the appeal states, these services have been discontinued on account of "the condition and unfitness of the building, and they are now entirely without a place of worship."

## Milburn Matters.

THE regular meeting of the Town Committee was held on Monday, February 13, at Washington Hall—J. D. Condit in the chair.

After the reading of the records of the last meeting the regular bills were read and acted upon.

Mr. Dearing moved the following resolution, which was adopted :

*Resolved*, That a warrant for the unpaid taxes for the year 1880, be issued by this committee, directed to Horace Park, the Collector, and that he be and he is hereby directed to make return of said warrant, with all proceedings thereunder in writing within four months from the date of said warrant to the Town Committee of this township.

The Collector reported having on February 1st filed in the office of the County Clerk the names of the delinquent taxpayers for the year 1881.

Justice of the Peace Simpson was present, and reported that he had at the request of the Collector issued a warrant for the unpaid taxes of 1881.

Mr. Dearing reported the expenditures on bridges in the township (by the Board of Chosen Freeholders), for the year ending February 13, 1882, to have been \$1,190.46.

A motion that when the Committee adjourn it adjourn to meet on Saturday, the 18th inst., at 9 o'clock A. M., for the purpose of hearing the yearly report, was adopted.

After considerable discussion as to what action the committee should take on the proposition made by the directors of the Mechanics' National Bank, the committee adjourned to meet on Saturday at 9 o'clock.

## Town Meeting.

A meeting of the citizens of Milburn Township, which includes Short Hills and Wyoming, was held at the Short Hills Music Hall, on Friday evening the 17th inst., W. R. Bliss, Esq., presiding, to receive the Report of the Special Committee on the financial affairs of the township. The committee presented the following

### REPORT.

The committee appointed at a meeting of citizens of the township of Milburn, held on the 1st day of November, 1881, to investigate

# THE ARROW.

the financial affairs of the township of Milburn, make the following report :

By way of explanation, in regard to the length of time we have taken for making our report, we have to say : The work of examining the town records has required the expenditure of a large amount of time. For several weeks we gave three and sometimes four evenings a week to this work. It was, of course, impossible for a committee of five business men to give their days or all of their evenings to this matter. For several weeks after our examination of the record was finished it was impossible for us to obtain a meeting of our committee for the purpose of taking final action on our report, on account of the illness or absence of one or more members of the committee. We have completed our work in as short a time as we were able.

As to the extent of our examination we have to say: The members of the town committee have met us on many different occasions ; have placed at our disposal the town records, and have given us much information and assistance in the prosecution of our investigations. We have made as thorough an examination as we judged would produce any good result of the town records from the year 1871 down to the time of our examination. We did not deem it necessary to go to the expense of having a full examination by an expert of all the town accounts. The result which we hoped to accomplish was, to introduce some greater degree of care and thoroughness in the transaction of the town business and in keeping the town records and accounts. We directed our examination to the point of finding out the nature of whatever looseness or irregularity there might be in those respects. For accomplishing this result, we considered that the examination we have made was quite as useful as one which should go into more detail of mere figures.

As the result of our examination we find the following facts :

### RECORDS AND PAPERS.

There has been great looseness and disorder in keeping the records and papers of town affairs. Except during the year 1877, no separate account of separate appropriations have been kept, nor has there been any statement in the Town Committee's records, showing the amount of moneys on hand available for separate purposes. The Treasurer's books have not been properly balanced since the spring of the year 1878.

### EXPENDITURES.

In many instances there is no record of any action of the town committee directing payments of money to be made. As far as the records show, the warrants on the Treasurer have been often drawn without any recorded action of the Town Committee.

### THE POOR FARM.

In the matter of the purchase of the poor farm which was made in the year 1879, under a vote passed at the town meeting, the amounts of \$2,500 paid for the farm, and \$102.37 paid for counsel fees on the examination of the title, were paid without any warrants being drawn for either amount. Aside from this point, these payments seem to have been proper payments.

In some instances supplies and materials for the poor farm have been furnished or purchased by members of the Town Committee, who have received payment therefor in contravention of law. The extent to which this practice has been carried, we are unable to state from the lack of proper records and vouchers.

As to the poor farm, no books of account have been kept by the overseer showing the receipts and expenditures of the overseer of the poor. The accounts with the overseer have been settled, according to the statement of members of the town committee, on the production only of bills and loose memoranda.

An examination of the expenditures on account of the poor farm, and for the support of the poor, for the year ending March 1, 1881, showed the following state of facts: The report of the town committee showed the amount of \$22,231.41 expended for the support of the poor, and the further amount of \$1,204.24 as expended on the poor farm. Your committee made a request for the vouchers for the payments included in these two amounts. Warrants had been drawn and were produced for all the payments in question. There were also produced as vouchers a limited number of bills for the payments covered by those warrants. But the bills produced did not cover all the payments. The bills produced for expenditures during that year for the support of the poor, amounted only to \$163.12. The bills produced for expenditures on the poor farm during the year amounted only to \$792.99. The deficiency under these two heads amounted together to \$870.94, of which deficiency your committee can find no record except the warrants before mentioned, drawn by the chairman of the Town Committee. As far as the records show, those warrants have been drawn without any vouchers and without any action by the Town Committee.

### ROADS.

As to the expenditures for roads, your committee find the following facts: The money expended for the roads forms about one half of the total town expenditures, having amounted for several years past to the sum of about \$1,600 yearly. The chairman of the Town Committee gave it as his opinion that the town had not received substantial benefit from more than fifty per cent. of the moneys so expended. It is our belief that much better results ought to have been obtained from the expenditures of money which have been made. Those expenditures have been made on warrants drawn by the chairman of the Town Committee, on bills presented by the overseers of the different road districts. In many instances, as far as the records show, no action on the part of the Town Committee has been had upon the particular bills. Nor has any evidence, other than the bills themselves, been required as to the amount of work paid for. The bills have not been verified by any affidavit or

other evidence. This has been the uniform practice for many years past.

In several years the expenditures have been in excess of the appropriations. One appropriation of \$1,000 was made in the year 1876 to meet such excess of expenditure of previous years. In the year 1877, we find that the Town Committee contracted liabilities for town expenses to an amount in excess of the appropriations of \$344.50. This proceeding on their part was in violation of the law. This deficiency was afterwards met by an appropriation made in a later year at a regular town meeting. During the same year we find that an expenditure was made for hotel expenses, amounting to \$102.70. It should be added that such expenditures had been customary in previous years, and had been allowed and paid by previous Town Committees.

We find that in many instances the official bonds of town officials have been cancelled without proper examination or audit being had of their accounts. In our opinion, such bonds should in all instances be held until all questions of official liability have been finally and definitely settled.

In one year we find that several payments were made by the town treasurer for which he was not able to produce warrants.

### THE COLLECTION OF TAXES.

It is in the collection of taxes that we find the most serious neglect and irregularities.

By the minutes of the Town Committee, it appears under the date of 19th April, 1875, that there was at that date an amount of unpaid taxes in arrear for the years of 1871, 1872, 1873 and 1874 of \$5,712.30.

By the reports of the Town Committees for the successive years, 1876—1881, it appears that there were in those years arrears of taxes uncollected at the date of each annual report on the taxes of the preceding year to the following amounts, respectively :

	Total amount of the Duplicate.	Amount of Arrears.
For the year 1875 .....	\$10,465 30	\$2,956 01
" " 1876 .....	15,674 99	3,061 04
" " 1877 .....	15,705 55	740 39
" " 1878 .....	14,999 92	1,776 06
" " 1879 .....	18,032 51	2,761 02
" " 1880 .....	15,200 36	2,218 40
		\$13,514 22

On these arrearages there have been subsequent collections. But as to the amounts of these subsequent collections we were unable, owing to the condition of the records, to get any accurate statement.

The machinery provided by the law for the collection of taxes is ample and sufficient. The neglect on the part of the officials charged with this duty of collecting taxes, has been in our judgment inexcusable, and it has in practice compelled the tax payers who pay their taxes voluntarily, to pay much more than their share of the public expenses. Ordinarily the enforcement of the payment of taxes which have not been paid voluntarily has been delayed to the latest period allowed by law, instead of being made at the earliest moment fixed by the Statute. As a result of this delay and neglect it has happened that the arrears of taxes for the year 1879, the amount of which we are unable to ascertain, have been possibly altogether lost to the town.

As to the taxes of the present year, 1881, a matter which has excited considerable public attention. The position is as follows: The collector, who was elected at the town meeting in March, 1881, failed to qualify. The Town Committee made several unsuccessful attempts to appoint a collector who would qualify by giving the ordinary bond. After many difficulties the Town Committee appointed Mr. Horace Park collector, who has qualified by giving a bond in the sum of \$1,000. In our opinion, the fixing of so low an amount for the collector's bond is a precedent which should not be followed, although in the present instance we cannot see that any other course was practicable under the existing circumstances.

The delay in the appointment of a collector, and in his qualifying, and the failure to comply with some other requirements of the Statute, raised grave legal doubts as to whether the taxes of the year 1881, were collectable. To put that point at rest, the Town Committee submitted a statement of the facts in relation to the levying of the tax to the Honorable Cortlandt Parker, for his opinion. Mr. Parker gave his opinion that the tax of 1881 was collectable under the law. Your committee thereupon made a printed recommendation which has already been made public, that all citizens of the township pay their taxes, and a large amount of the taxes of the year has been paid to the collector.

### RECOMMENDATIONS.

Your committee, in closing this report, make the following recommendations as to the future management of the township business and finances :

1. Separate accounts should be kept of each appropriation and of the expenditures made thereunder.
2. No warrants should be issued except on vote of the Town Committee properly recorded.
3. No payment should be ordered by the Town Committee except

# THE ARROW.

on the production of vouchers properly itemized and properly verified.

4. All taxes should be collected at the earliest time allowed by law.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Dated Milburn, Feb. 17th, 1882.

WELLINGTON CAMPBELL,  
JESSE B. ROGERS,

DELANCEY CLEVELAND,  
ALBERT STICKNEY,  
Committee.

After the reading of the Report, the following Resolutions were adopted:

*Resolved.*—That the Report of the Committee be accepted, and its recommendations be agreed to.

*Resolved.*—That a copy of the Report be sent to the Town Committee, with the respectful request that it be entered upon the town records, and that the recommendations contained in it be followed, as far as is practicable, in the management of the town affairs.

*Resolved.*—That the thanks of the citizens of Milburn be hereby given to the gentlemen composing the Special Committee, for the complete and satisfactory manner in which they have discharged the duties and labors imposed upon them.

## A Social Event.

On the evening of the 16th, Mr. and Mrs. William I. Russell gave a party at their residence, "Sunnyside," Short Hills, to which the well-worn society adjectives "brilliant and successful" may be truthfully applied. The interior of "Sunnyside" has been recently and richly decorated, and appeared to great advantage on this occasion with the concomitants of evening lights and a profusion of flowers, which were tropical in their luxuriance, and were artistically arranged in vases, festoons, hanging balls and mantel banks. Many of the costumes displayed were worthy the practised pen of a Jenkins—an appendage which THE ARROW unfortunately does not possess. Of the supper and the dancing we feel somewhat more competent to speak; and they were, both of them, simply delicious. The guests present were:

Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Hartshorn, Dr. and Mrs. Rosé, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Bliss, Mr. and Mrs. G. M. S. Horton, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Sloane, Dr. and Mrs. G. H. Benjamin, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Bradbury, Miss Bradbury, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Deen, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Humphrey, Mrs. Winant, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. C. Foyé, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Pitcher, Mr. and Mrs. Valentine Marsh, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Vail, Miss Montgomery, Mr. G. K. Haswell, Miss Ball, Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Root, Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Copeland, Mr. G. W. Copeland, Miss Copeland, Mr. J. F. Chamberlin, Miss Graves, the Misses Traphagen, Dr. Wellington Campbell, Mr. Chas. Campbell, the Misses Campbell, Mr. A. H. De Rongé, Mr. Chas. De Rongé, the Misses De Rongé, Miss Russell, Mr. Clark Cort, Mr. De Lancey Cleveland, Mr. J. H. C. Nevius, Dr. Burling, Mr. A. B. Jennings, Mr. J. E. Cox, Mr. W. C. Cox.

## "The Informals."

ONE of the main institutions of Short Hills is "The Informals" Social, Dramatic and Musical Club, the entertainments of which have furnished and are still furnishing a vast amount of good, solid, hearty enjoyment to its members and their guests. The club was an outgrowth of a dancing class, which met at the Music Hall through the spring of 1881, the participants in which found their periodical meetings so pleasant that the latter were kept up after the former had "graduated." No regular organization was effected, however, until November last, when, the number regularly attending having largely increased, a business meeting was held and an association formed with the name already given.

*The Informals*, as a club, have no more definite aim in life than to have a good time; and this laudable purpose is attained in various ways. One of the pleasantest features of their evenings is the little stage entertainment with which almost every one of their regular bi-weekly hops is prefaced, and which forms a charming subject for discussion over the refreshments which bisect, as it were, the dancing programme. There exists in the club a good deal of versatile talent, extending to authorship as well as to performance; and this talent, freely exercised and ably supported, gave the club an unusual treat at its last evening (Feb. 8th). On this occasion was presented, for the first time on any stage, an original three-act drama "of contemporaneous human interest," entitled *Our Japanese Ambassadors*. The plot of this play is briefly as follows: *Mrs. Gushington*, a wealthy leader in New York swiftness, burns to eclipse all previous social efforts by producing at one of her *soirées* the members of the Japanese Embassy, which, she learns, is temporarily sojourning in the city. In this desire she is heartily seconded by her lovely daughter. The case naturally presents difficulties, so *Mrs. G.* invokes the aid of the majestic and well-nigh omnipotent *Brown* (the lamented sexton of Grace Church), in accomplishing her object. *Brown* finally undertakes the matter, but, on approaching the

Oriental diplomats, is met by a decided negative. Here is a dilemma for *Brown*. *Mrs. Gushington's* party and peace of mind are at stake. So is his own reputation for infallibility, to say nothing of a little matter of \$4,000, which *Mrs. G.*, in her eagerness, has readily promised to advance for the expenses of procuring so rare an honor. Failure on his part is out of the question. A desperate plan suggests itself, which he at once adopts; and chancing to meet a few ragpicker, a belligerent Frenchman and a couple of adventurous Hibernians, all of whom are ready to turn an honest penny in his service, he takes them into his confidence and his house, and, after careful drilling, transforms them into full-fledged Orientals, all flowery robes, pigtails, and the concomitant paraphernalia. Backed by this formidable retinue he presents himself at the appointed hour at the *Gushington* mansion; and introduces to the enchanted hostess the honorables *Probang Chow*, *Rum Sower*, *Wuu Lung*, *Leen Shin*, and *Gin Sling*. These noble Japs—from Mott street—address themselves promptly to the task of entertaining their entertainer with native choruses and some remarkable jugglery. Perhaps the most startling feat in the latter category was *Probang Chow's* snake charming, a highly successful and realistic act. The sagacious and highly cultivated serpent danced merrily enough to the "Hartford Guards," but walked off on an agonized tail at the very first symptom of "Grandfather's Clock." *Mrs. Gushington* and her daughter are naturally delighted with the amiability and skill of their distinguished guests, and all goes on delightfully till the third and last act, in which *Probang*, with his coparceeners, strays away from *Mrs. G.'s* parlor, and gets into her kitchen, where he recognizes an old friend and compatriot in *Bridget*. The ensuing scene of conviviality is unfortunately cut short by the entrance of the ladies who, with *Brown*, are seeking the truant Japs. The *dénouement* is simply intense. *Mrs. Gushington* detects the fraud which has been practised upon her and hysterically denounces all concerned. *Brown* attempts a feeble but ineffectual explanation and the curtain falls upon a reckless chorus of the Celtic Orientals. The cast in this representation was as follows:

<i>Mrs. Gushington</i> , .....	MRS. VAIL.
<i>Miss Gushington</i> , .....	MISS MONTGOMERY.
<i>Brown</i> , .....	MR. BENJAMIN.
<i>Simon Solomon</i> , }	MR. HUMPHREY.
<i>Probang Chow</i> , }	
<i>Monsieur Fricasse</i> , }	MR. VAIL.
<i>Gin Sling</i> , }	
<i>Pat Malloy</i> , }	MR. DEEN.
<i>Leen Shin</i> , }	
<i>Wuu Lung</i> , .....	MR. BLISS.
<i>Rum Sower</i> , .....	MR. CAMERON.
<i>James</i> , .....	MR. COPELAND.

For the next entertainment which is to take place at the Music Hall, on the evening of Feb. 30th, the following stage performance is announced:

IL JACOBI.

A BURLESQUE OPERETTA IN THREE ACTS.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

*Jacobi*.—A retired boot black, now a millionaire who returns to his native land to wed the maiden of his youthful love.

*Lucy Ann*.—The fair maiden of his choice.

*Sophonisa*.—A young lady of fortune and feeling.

ACT I.—A Street.      ACT II.—A Bank Parlor.

ACT III.—A Street.

*Music written expressly for this occasion by many of the Most Celebrated Composers, Ancient and Modern.*

For the near future *The Informals* have underlined a number of dramatic and musical attractions, which will be noticed as they occur.

MEMBERS of the Short Hills Club will give at the Music Hall on the evening of February 21st, a subscription fancy dress ball to a number of invited guests.

The new street lamps, although not quite as numerous as they might be, greatly add to the comfort of evening travel in Short Hills.

It is notorious that the 4.30 P. M. train from New York, due at Short Hills at 5.37, never arrives on time, but is always from ten to twenty minutes late. What is the matter?

The meeting-house of the Presbyterian Church at Springfield, whose steeple may be seen from Short Hills, is more than one hundred years old.

CHARLES B. PEET, President.

JAMES R. PITCHER, Secretary.

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