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The Press.

VOL. 2—NO. 171. PHILADELPHIA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1859. TWO CENTS.

Dry Goods Jobbers.

JAMES, KENT, SANTEE, & CO.,
IMPORTERS AND JOBBERS
BRITISH, FRENCH, GERMAN, AND AMERICAN
DRY GOODS,
289 AND 291 NORTH THIRD STREET,
Above Race Street.
☞ Sole Agents for
MERRIMACK SECONDS
feb19 2m

PETER BERNER, JACOB BIRGER, JNO. WIEST, WM. S. BAIRD, DAN'L EAVIS.
RIEGEL, BAIRD, & CO.,
.....LATE SIEGEL, LAIRD, & CO.
IMPORTERS AND JOBBERS
IN
DRY GOODS,
No. 47 NORTH THIRD STREET,
PHILADELPHIA.
ALSO:
SPRING STOCK
Is now complete in all its departments, and ready for Buyers. Prompt-paying merchants, from all parts of the Union, are respectfully solicited to call and examine for themselves. feb16 3m

ANSPACH, REED, & CO.,
WHOLESALE DEALERS
IN
DRY GOODS,
No. 130 NORTH THIRD STREET,
(Southwest corner Third and Cherry sts.,)
feb16 2m PHILADELPHIA.

SPRING IMPORTATIONS, 1859.
SIBLEY, MOLTON, & WOODRUFF,
326 MARKET STREET,
PHILADELPHIA,
Have now in store a complete and
SPLENDID STOCK
Of new and choice styles
DRESS SILKS, ROBES A'LYONS
ROBES DEUX VOLANTS IN BAREGE,
GRENADINES, PARIS ORGANDIES,
JACONET, &c., &c.
Also a full line BONNET RIBBONS, PARIS MITTS, KID GLOVES, &c.
SHAWLS all qualities, Round Corner, Square, Stella Borders, Paris and Chantilla Lace Mantillas, new and desirable shapes, &c., &c.
We invite the attention of buyers to our varied Stock, feeling confident that we can offer inducements that will prove satisfactory, as our stock embraces some of the most desirable goods now in market. feb1-1m

SPRING GOODS.
The subscribers respectfully ask the attention of their friends, and all
CASH AND SHORT-TIME BUYERS,
TO THEIR
STOCK OF GOODS,
Believing it to be unsurpassed by any in this market. They are constantly receiving desirable styles of
DRESS STUFFS,
From New York and other sources.
FRANCIS LASHER & CO.,
feb10 1m 236 MARKET Street.

SPRING OF 1859.
JOHN B. ELLISON & SONS,
255 MARKET STREET,
IMPORTERS AND WHOLESALE JOBBERS OF
CLOTHS,
CASSIMERES, AND VESTINGS,
To which the attention of BUYERS is invited.
feb1-3m

SILKS AND FANCY GOODS.
ABBOTT, JOHNES, & CO.,
389 MARKET STREET,
Are now prepared to offer a large
AND ATTRACTIVE STOCK,
To which they ask
THE ATTENTION OF BUYERS.
feb1-2m

JAS. R. CAMPBELL & CO.,
Importers and Wholesale Dealers
IN
DRY GOODS.
LINENS, WHITE GOODS,
CLOTHS, CASSIMERES,
BLANKETS, &c.
No. 504 MARKET STREET.
feb1-2m

JOHN B. STRYKER & CO.
DRY GOODS.
BRITISH, FRENCH, AND AMERICAN
DRY GOODS AND CARPETS,
Bought exclusively at AUCTION, and sold low for CASH, BY THE PIECE OR PACKAGE,
AT
310 MARKET STREET, PHILADELPHIA.
feb1-1m

FITHIAN, JONES, & CO.,
WHOLESALE DEALERS
IN
FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC
DRY GOODS,
240 MARKET STREET,
Four doors below Third, South side,
feb1-3m PHILADELPHIA.

JOSHUA L. BAILY,
IMPORTER AND JOBBER
OF
FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC
DRY GOODS,
No. 243 MARKET STREET.
NEW GOODS receiving every day for
feb1-3m CITY AND NEAR TRADE.

MCLINTOCK, GRANT, & CO.,
Importers and Wholesale Dealers
IN
CLOTHS,
CASSIMERES, VESTINGS, AND
TAILORS' TRIMMINGS,
333 MARKET STREET,
(UP STAIRS,)
feb1-3m Philadelphia.

JOHN H. BROWN & CO.,
IMPORTERS AND JOBBERS
OF
FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC
DRY GOODS,
No. 307 MARKET STREET,
North side, above Third Street,
feb2-3m PHILADELPHIA.

1859 SPRING IMPORTATIONS 1859
DALE, ROSS, & WITHERS,
521 MARKET Street, and 518 COMMERCE Street,
PHILADELPHIA,
IMPORTERS AND JOBBERS
OF
SILK AND FANCY GOODS,
Have now open a complete stock, to which they invite the attention of buyers. feb1-3m

SHADEACH HILL,
35 BANK STREET,
IMPORTER OF
NEEDLES,
PEARL BUTTONS,
ELASTIC WEBBING,
BRAIDS,
CORDS, &c.
ELASTIC GOODS sold under Goodyear's Patent, and Sole Agent for Jason Hill's celebrated Gold Linnet Needles. jan27-th s 1m

Dress Trimmings.

EVANS & HASSALL,
51 SOUTH FOURTH STREET,
IMPORTERS AND WHOLESALE DEALERS IN
LADIES' DRESS TRIMMINGS,
Invite an early examination of their
NEW AND WELL-ASSORTED STOCK OF
CHOICE SPRING GOODS
Selected with direct reference to the
WANTS OF THE TRADE.
They call particular attention to their very fine variety of BERLIN ZEPHYR AND SHETLAND WOOLS. From their long connection with the well known manufacturing and importing house of
WM. H. HORSTMANN & SONS,
And their own acquaintance with all the MARKETS OF EUROPE, they are prepared to offer SUPERB STYLES at PERSUASIVE PRICES, to CASH and SHORT-TIME purchasers. fel-1m

J. & A. KEMPER,
33 SOUTH FOURTH STREET,
Importers and Wholesale Dealers in
LADIES' DRESS TRIMMINGS,
Call the particular attention of the Trade to their splendid assortment of FRENCH POMPONNETTE, and AMERICAN FUSCHIA BALL TRIMMINGS, RING PENDANT BUTTONS, &c.
We are prepared to execute large orders for Silk and Marseilles Fringes, Tassels, Cords, Buttons, &c., at our own Factory, feb2-3m

Umbrellas and Parasols.

SLEEPER & FENNER,
Wholesale Manufacturers
OF
UMBRELLAS AND PARASOLS,
336 MARKET STREET,
PHILADELPHIA,
Are now making more than one hundred and fifty different varieties of Umbrellas, of every size, from 22 to 40 inches.
Their assortment of PARASOLS is also very large, and for variety of design, styles, finish, and prices, exceeds that of any previous season.
Buyers who have not had S. & F.'s make of goods will find their time well spent in looking over this well-made stock, which includes MANY NOVELTIES, not to be met with elsewhere. feb1-3m

Hardware.

JUSTICE & STEINMETZ,
HARDWARE
COMMISSION MERCHANTS AND IMPORTERS.
MANUFACTURERS
OF
RIFLES & SHOT GUNS.
N. W. CORNER OF FIFTH AND COMMERCE.
Constantly on hand a large assortment of Ware, Pennsylvania Rifles, Fine Pocket Cutlery, and a general assortment of
DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN HARDWARE.
feb1-3m

Saddlery Hardware.

WM. P. WILSTACH & CO.
IMPORTERS,
MANUFACTURERS,
AND DEALERS IN
SADDLERY HARDWARE,
CARRIAGE TRIMMINGS,
AND HARNESS MOUNTINGS,
No. 88 NORTH THIRD STREET,
Between Market and Arch,
PHILADELPHIA.
THE LARGEST STOCK IN THE CITY.
☞ Sign of the GOLDEN STIRRUP. [feb2-1m

Shoe Findings.

LAING & MACINNIS,
No. 30 NORTH THIRD STREET,
Importers of, and Dealers in,
SHOE MANUFACTURERS' GOODS,
And all kinds of Shoe Tools.
UPPER LEATHER,
CRIMPING MACHINES.
LEATHER ROLLING MILLS.
SEWING MACHINE SILKS,
THREADS, and
NEEDLES.
ENGLISH, IRISH, and AMERICAN SHOE THREADS.
fe15-1m9r12

SHOE FINDINGS.
ISAAC BARTON & CO.,
35 SOUTH SECOND STREET,
IMPORTERS OF AND DEALERS IN
FRENCH AND ENGLISH LASTINGS,
SILK AND UNION GALLOONS,
LACETS,
FRENCH KID, PATENT LEATHER,
ELASTICS, BOOT WEB,
LINEN SHEETINGS, DRILLINGS, &c., &c.
feb3-1m

EDWIN W. PAYNE,
Importer and Dealer
IN
BOOT, SHOE, and GAITER MATERIALS,
Iron Building, N. W. corner ARCH and FOURTH Sts.
LASTINGS,
GALLOONS,
SHEETINGS,
FRENCH KID,
PATENT LEATHER.
CONGRESS WEB, TOILET SLIPPER UPPERS,
feb1-3m] SHOE THREADS, LACES, &c.

WM. JOHNS & SON,
(Successor to the late Jos. T. Johns,)
Importers and Dealers
IN
SHOE STUFFS AND TRIMMINGS,
LASTINGS,
GALLOONS,
[LACETS, &c., &c.
AT THE OLD STAND,
Northeast corner of FOURTH and ARCH Streets.
feb1-1m

THE WAREHOUSING COMPANY
OF PHILADELPHIA.
DIRECTORS.
PATRICK BRADY, ALEXANDER HENRY, A. J. PLEASONTON, WM. H. STEWART, | ELINY VISE, GEO. L. HARRISON, WILLIAM NEILSON, S. S. CRAWFORD.
PATRICK BRADY, President.
S. S. CRAWFORD, Vice President.
WILLIAM DUNN, Treasurer.
WILLIAM NEILSON, Secretary.
CLIFFORD S. PHILLIPS, Warehouse Keeper.
THE WAREHOUSING COMPANY OF PHILAD'A
ARE PREPARED TO
RECEIVE GOODS ON STORAGE,
Whether in Bond or Duty Free, at Current Rates, and will issue receipts or warrants therefor.
Application may be made at their
OFFICE, IN THE
TOBACCO WAREHOUSE,
FRONT AND DOCK S T.
20-y

HANDSCRUBS AND CLAMPS.
HANDSCRUBS.
No. 1. $2¼c. per doz. | No. 5. $1 12 per doz.
2. 75c. " | 6. 1 25 "
3. 87c. " | 7. 1 50 "
4. 100c. " | 8. 1 75 "
CLAMPS.
6 Row, $1.25 per dozen.
7 Row, $1.75 per dozen.
8 Row, $2.25 per dozen.
HENRY C. ECKSTEIN,
48 North THIRD Street Philadelphia

BLANK BOOKS AND STATIONERY.
DAVID M. HOGAN, Blank Book Manufacturer, Stationer and Printer, No. 100 WALNUT Street, is prepared at all times to furnish, either from the shelves or make to order, Books of every description, suitable for Banks, Public Offices, Merchants, and others, of the best quality of English or American Paper, and bound in various styles, in the most substantial manner.
Order for JOB PRINTING of every description. Engraving and Lithographing executed with neatness and despatch.
A general assortment of English, French and American Stationery.
Concerning Mr. Hogan's contribution to the Franklin Institute, the Committee say—"This display of blank books for banking and mercantile use is the best in the Exhibition. The selection of the material is good, the workmanship most excellent, and their finish and appearance neat and appropriate." no30-tf

MINTON'S ENCAUSTIC TILES for Floors.
Ornamental Chimney Tops for cottages.
Garden Vases and Fountains.
Vitrified Pipe for drains and water conductors.
Imported and for sale by
S. A. HARRISON,
feb15-tf 1610 CHESTNUT Street.

OLD COPPER COINS, AMERICAN SILVER, and U. S. CENTS purchased at a high premium by M. OGGAN, 48 North TENTH St. feb5-3t*

Millinery Goods.

1859 NEW 1859
STRAW GOODS HOUSE
THOMPSON & JENKINS,
No. 528 MARKET STREET,
Invite the attention of buyers to their extensive stock of Ladies' Straw and Silk Bonnets, Misses' Flats and Bloomers; Men's, Boys', and Children's Hats; Artificial Flowers, Ruches, Trimmings, &c.
Being exclusively engaged in this branch of business, purchasers will find it to their interest to examine our stock before purchasing.
THOS. F. FRALEY, (formerly of Willcock, Rogers, & Fraley,) now engaged with the above house, solicits from his friends an examination of the stock of Messrs. Thompson & Jenkins. feb15-2in

MILLINERY AND STRAW GOODS.
A MOST COMPLETE AND CHOICE ASSORTMENT
OF
RIBBONS of every description,
BONNET SILKS AND CRAPES,
ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS, RUCHES,
And other Millinery Goods.
ALSO
STRAW GOODS,
OF EVERY CONCEIVABLE VARIETY.
Is now open for examination by, and sale to, CASH AND PROMPT SHORT-TIME BUYERS.
At a small advance upon first cost.
Those desirous of saving money in their purchases should give us an early call.
ROSENHEIM, BROOKS, & CO.,
431 MARKET STREET,
feb14-3m (Late of No. 32 South Second St.)

HATS, FURS,
STRAW GOODS,
ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS, RUCHES, &c.
HOOPES & DAVIS,
MANUFACTURERS AND DEALERS,
Nos. 19 and 21 South Fourth Street, (up Stairs,)
PHILADELPHIA,
Have on hand an entirely new and complete stock of the above goods, laid in for CASH, to which the attention of buyers is invited.

CHAS. HALLOWELL, late of the firm of Chas. Hallowell & Co., long known to the trade, would be pleased to see his friends at the warerooms of Messrs. Hoopes & Davis. feb5-3m

JNO. G. FALCONER & CO.,
DEALERS IN
RIBBONS,
SILKS, AND MILLINERY GOODS,
No. 727 CHESTNUT STREET.
feb7-1m

STRAW AND MILLINERY GOODS.
Having removed from our old stand, 45 South Second street, to
725 CHESTNUT STREET,
BETWEEN SEVENTH AND EIGHTH,
We are now prepared to exhibit to our numerous patrons a new
COMPLETE STOCK
OF
STRAW HATS, BONNETS,
MISSES' AND CHILDREN'S HATS,
BLOOMERS, CAPS, &c.,
FANCY AND CRAPE BONNETS,
FRENCH FLOWERS,
RIBBONS, LACES,
RUCHES, &c.,
Embracing in all an assortment unequalled in this city, and we respectfully invite the attention of merchants to our Spring Stock.
Cash and short-time buyers will find it specially to their interest to give us a call.
LINCOLN, WOOD, & NICHOLS.
feb9-3m

J. HILLBORN JONES,
Importer and Manufacturer
OF
SILK AND STRAW BONNETS,
LEGHORN and PANAMA HATS,
ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS, RUCHES, &c.
Tasteful
NO. 432 MARKET ST.,
Below FIFTH. feb1-3m

Fancy Dry Goods.

SPRING TRADE.
H. DUHRING & CO.,
Nos. 26 and 28 NORTH FOURTH STREET,
Have just opened their recent
IMPORTATIONS
OF
ENGLISH AND GERMAN
HOSIERY,
GLOVES, AND SMALLWARES,
And solicit an inspection of their complete and well-assorted stock,
ESPECIALLY ADAPTED TO
SOUTHERN AND SOUTHWESTERN TRADE.
feb3-3m

BURNETT, SEXTON & SWEARINGEN
Are now opening at their Store,
No. 409 MARKET STREET,
Above Fourth, North Side,
A HANDSOME ASSORTMENT OF
NEW SPRING STYLES
OF
FANCY DRY GOODS,
OF THEIR OWN IMPORTATION
And selection, which they offer for sale to buyers from all parts of the United States, on the most liberal terms
feb9-3m

MARTINS, PEDDLE, & HAMRICK,
IMPORTERS AND DEALERS IN
HOSIERY, GLOVES, and FANCY NOTIONS,
No. 30 NORTH FOURTH STREET,
FIVE DOORS BELOW THE MERCHANTS' HOTEL,
Offer for sale the most complete stock of goods in their line to be found in the
UNITED STATES,
Consisting of HOSIERY of every grade,
GLOVES for men, women, and children, comprising an assortment of over 500 kinds,
UNDERSHIRTS AND DRAWERS,
LINEN BOSOM SHIRTS and COLLARS,
LINEN CAMBRIC HANDKERCHIEFS and SHIRT FRONTS.
LADIES ELASTIC BELTS, with clasps of entirely new designs, with an endless variety of Notions, to which they invite the attention of
FIRST-CLASS WESTERN AND SOUTHERN BUYERS. feb1-1m

MCCAULEY, BROTHER, & BREWSTER,
23 NORTH FOURTH STREET,
Have just opened an entire
NEW SPRING STOCK
OF
HOSIERY, GLOVES, and FANCY GOODS,
To which they invite the attention of first-class buyers.
Our stock is particularly adapted to the
SOUTHERN TRADE.
feb1-2m

SCHAFFER & ROBERTS,
429 MARKET STREET,
IMPORTERS AND JOBBERS
OF
HOSIERY, GLOVES,
SMALL WARES, COMBS,
BRUSHES, LOOKING-GLASSES,
GERMAN AND FRENCH FANCY GOODS,
AND
TAILORS' TRIMMINGS.
feb1-3m

SITER, VAN CULIN, & GLASS,
IMPORTERS
AND
WHOLESALE DEALERS
IN
HOSIERY,
GLOVES,
FANCY GOODS, ETC.
NO. 423 MARKET STREET,
feb1-1m 4DOYR FOURTH, PHILADELPHIA.

CLOTH STORE.
HENRY D. NELL,
NEW STYLES
FANCY CASSIMERES AND VESTINGS
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.
Nos. 4 and 6 NORTH SECOND STREET.
feb14-tu th tf

The Press.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1859.

Impressions of Washington—No. 5.

In a former article, we alluded to JOHN RANDOLPH's satirical designation of Washington, as "a city of magnificent distances," which certainly is incorrect now. A correspondent, who is old enough to recollect the circumstances under which Mr. RANDOLPH spoke, has favored us with some memoranda. He says: "When Mr. RANDOLPH sneered at Washington as a city of magnificent distances, it was literally true, and the almost impassable condition of Pennsylvania Avenue, during the winter season, made the distance from the Capitol to the Treasury buildings appear much longer than it is. This arrangement of the public buildings was at the suggestion of General WASHINGTON, that the Capitol should be at such a distance from the offices as to prevent the too frequent visits of members to interfere with the clerks. A great portion of the ground on Pennsylvania Avenue was a swamp, and blackbirds congregated there in the season almost innumerable as blacklegs, and the cormorants upon the Treasury, who now infest this city. For a number of years a large portion of this distance was covered with woods. Crawford's Hotel, at Georgetown, was the head-quarters of a mess of from fifteen to twenty Federalists. In 1817-'18, Mr. RUFUS KING, Senator in Congress, had his room there, and was driven to the Capitol in his carriage, drawn by four splendid black horses. CRAWFORD had a large coach, called the 'Royal George,' drawn frequently by six horses, to carry the members of Congress who boarded with him to and from the Capitol. JOHN RANDOLPH boarded for some years at Semmes's Hotel, Georgetown, and it was said that he gave all his pay for the board of himself and servant, JUBA, and the keeping of two horses. He gave his landlord to understand that he despised talking about dollars and cents, and whenever he had a friend to dine with him and drink wine, the bill must be handed to JUBA the next day, who would liquidate it."

We are reminded, also, that we have incorrectly said "up to the Capitol, from the President's house"—inasmuch as the White House is higher on the Potomac than the Capitol. So it is—but we got a habit, in our youth, of saying *up* to Dublin, or *up* to London, or *up* to Paris, whatever part of Ireland, England, or France we might be in.

This is the place, perhaps, to notice the curious fact that the Capitol, (unlike the Pantheon in seven-hilled Rome, which it resembles in many things, dimensions, rotundo, dome, and all,) perpetually perpetrates the incivility of turning its back upon the metropolis, of which it is the crowning ornament. What really is the rear, faces that part of Pennsylvania Avenue, which is interrupted, about midway, by the White House. The actual front of the building looks eastward, *from* the main part of the city. I have been told, on good authority, that in the earlier part of the present century, the most "genteel" residences were eastward. But

"Westward the course of Fashion takes its way,"

and, as might be expected, when the President's residence, and the public offices were situated in the west, the officials and their clerks would naturally aggregate in the same direction, convenience and other causes combining to effect this result.

What a singular thing it is that, all over the world, Fashion fixes her quarters in what BYRON calls "the west and worst end" of the town. It is so in every capital which I have visited. Even in small cities, where one would think that Fashion could have no lead, and take no stand, the same may be generally noticed. It is as inexplicable as a reel in a

We follow the example of the crowd, and passing up (or down?) Pennsylvania Avenue, reach what may be called the back front of the Capitol, climb up the ascent of marble steps, and enter the Rotundo, now rather crowded with the scaffolding employed by the builders up of the new dome. That dome!—when *can* it be finished? There are sundry pictures in the Rotundo, which may come under notice, by and bye. Some of them might be of the highest caste of Art, but, at least, those oil paintings have not faded, and blistered, and paled, and chipped off, and mildewed, like the flashy frescoes in that architectural gilt ginger-bread edifice, the new Parliamentary Palace of Westminster. *There*, the building being erected within a few feet of the miasmatic Thames, partly upon made soil rescued from that river, and with one of the main sewers of Westminster flowing directly under the centre of the fabric, the damp, deleterious air, and other concurring causes, have already begun the decay of the really beautiful frescoes which MACLISE, DYCE, COPE, WARD, and other eminent living artists were largely paid for executing. The damp has permeated the lime in the mortar of the walls, and the plaster upon which those frescoes were executed, and they are in rapid decay already. So much for the experiment of transferring fresco-painting from the dry Italian climate to the humidity of foggy and smoky London.

The Capitol stands with its back to the city. A lively lady whom I met in Washington society (where I knew not which was the brighter, her wit or her eyes,) suggested to me that this was emblematic of many of the Legislators who assemble within its walls, and literally turn their backs upon the constituents whose interests they were to represent in the Great Council of the Nation.

In the wing of the Capitol next the Potomac, the House of Representatives have their hall of session. In the other wing, on the left, as you face the Capitol, coming up (or down?) the Avenue, from the White House, is the newly-erected Senate Chamber, first occupied during the present session. What is to be done with the old Chambers is undetermined, as yet. Probably, in fullness of time, when the State has a little money to spend gracefully, works of art, by American sculptors or painters, may be purchased, as national property, and be placed in these stately halls, forming the nucleus of such a National Gallery as the successive rulers of France have built up in the Palace of Luxembourg in Paris—where the works of living French artists alone are esteemed worthy of being placed. On an artist's death, his works are transferred to the Louvre, even yet—though denuded of the art-spoils of many subdued nations, which NAPOLEON had crowded therein—perhaps the very finest Palace of Art in Europe.

The peculiar ascendency of principle in this country and in England, is significantly indicated by the fact that, with us, "the popular branch of the Legislature" had prior occupancy of the new Hall prepared for them, the Senate having to delay until the present session, whilst, in England, the Lords successfully insisted upon having *their* House completed, and gorgeously fitted up, in advance of "Her Majesty's Faithful Commons," and actually were in full use and occupancy of their fillagree *salon*—full of arabesque and stained glass and carving, and gilding, and heraldic emblazonments—several years before the Commons could transact business in their less richly decorated Hall. *There*, the Aristocracy have the preponderance—*here*, the People.

In a preceding article, when comparing the lighting of the different Legislative Chambers of the United States, France, and England, we stated our belief that the instantaneous and perfect lighting of the Senate and Hall of Representatives, (by ingenious mechanism manufactured by CORNELIUS & BAKER, of this city,) was infinitely superior to any other mode. We stated also what changes were necessarily made in the English House of Commons, in consequence of the excessive loftiness of the room, contrary to the known laws of acoustics, so that, though a member might easily *speak*; it was very difficult to hear him. Changes were made which, it is true, placed the beautiful ceiling, of carved stone and wood, wholly out of sight, but also made the speakers audible. We did not then know that Mr. JOHN SKIRVING, our townsman, actually suggested the successful alteration. In a letter, now before us, dated March 6, 1856, (only a few months before the writer's death,) Mr. JOSEPH BROTHERTON, M. P. for Salford, thus communicated with Mr. SKIRVING:

"You wish me to state in writing what occurred in England a few years ago, relative to the alteration of the new House of Parliament. The alterations were first suggested by you, in February, 1850, to the best of my recollection. You called on me, and I asked you if you would like to see the new Houses of Parliament. I recollect that we walked down together, and that as soon as you entered the House of Commons, you said: 'This room will never answer—the members would never be able to make themselves heard.' I asked you what made you think so? You replied that 'the ceiling was too high,' and of the wrong form or shape for speaking—the underside of the galleries were also wrong, as they would 'destroy the sound.' I mentioned the subject to the Architect and to other persons, and I believe to some members of the Government. The Architect was induced to try the experiment, and the result was as you predicted. A temporary ceiling was made and suspended, by means of tackle, to a given height, the form of the ceiling was made curved, and it was found to improve the room so much, that a considerable sum was appropriated to make the alterations."

Whoever visits the Capitol during the Extension must make up his mind to the bustle and hurry of workmen of all kinds. In fact, "confusion worst confounded," seems here to be realized. But, out of this present Chaos, a beautiful Order will emerge, some fine day—if we can only live long enough to witness it. If Captain MEIGS live for two-score years more, depend on it, the Capitol will not be finished, one hour before the termination of that epoch. Why, by precipitancy, should this gallant gentleman kill the unsering animal which so pleasantly and profitably lays the golden eggs of place, pay, and perquisites for himself?

From the gallery, which is much easier of access than it seemed to my unaccustomed eyes, but then, I was conducted by our friend, Mr. J. D. HOOVER, (every body's friend I might call this popular gentleman,) I looked down upon the Collective Wisdom of the nation, in session in the Hall of Representatives. A glance round the House—a look of curious inquiry at that most courteous gentleman, Speaker ORR—a nod from several members who were pleased to recognise me—a hearty smile from MCELHONE, busy at his Congressional reporting—and, the business being routine and not very interesting, I hastened to the other wing, in hopes of getting a good place in the gallery of the Senate—to which many were hurrying, the report being that Mr. DOUGLAS intended speaking on the recent death of his friend, Mr. HARRIS, of Illinois.

Treading rapidly upon the tessellated pavements—made by the late HERBERT MINTON, of Staffordshire, and also universally adopted in the interior of the English Houses of Parliament—we mounted up what will be a magnificent stair-case, the ballustrades of a warm, blue-gray Tennessee marble, already showing rich beauty. The gallery reached, and a good seat fortunately obtained, what is there to do but look around? Yes, to listen and to ask questions. Right before me, radiant with youth, grace, and loveliness, I observe Mrs. DOUGLAS, naturally attracted, with others, to join in another triumph of her distinguished husband. R. S. M.

☞ The following criticism of an interesting work noticed at length some time since in our columns, is copied from the *Historical Magazine*, and is believed to have been written by American BANCROFT.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE PHILOMATHEAN SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO TRANSLATE THE INSCRIPTION ON THE ROSETTA STONE. [DECEMBER, 1858.]

Here we have a contribution to historical literature distinguished by accuracy, patient research, ingenious talent, and the bright and ever attractive enthusiasm of youth. Its authors are Messrs. Hale, Jones, and Moore, of the University of Pennsylvania; and they dedicate it to Henry D. Gilpin, in acknowledgment of his kind encouragement and aid. The work was occasioned by the gift to the University by Mr. Thomas K. Conrad of a fac-simile in plaster of the Rosetta stone. It opens with a history of the discovery of that monument, of its transfer to England, and the publications which it occasioned; then follows a new and very carefully prepared translation of the Greek text of the inscription. Next, the relations of the Demotic dialect to the hieroglyphic and Coptic are briefly traced. It is characteristic and described, and an instructive sketch is given of the history of discoveries made in it. This is the preparation for a complete translation of the whole Demotic text of the Rosetta stone, made, as we infer, by Charles R. Hale, with the aid of the Coptic. It is believed to be the only perfect version of the Demotic text. At this point Mr. Henry Moore takes up the tale, and in a clear and concise paper gives an outline of the character of the ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics and of the successive studies which at last led to the discovery of the hieroglyphic alphabet, as well as of the ideographic signs. The hieroglyphic alphabet is then given, and the hieroglyphic inscription is published line by line, accompanied by an interpretation and elaborate illustrative notes. Then follows, in an uninterrupted form a clear and perfect translation of the whole hieroglyphic inscription, as far as it has been preserved. After this the inquisitive reader is entertained by a full account of Ptolemy Epiphanes, whose apotheosis is the subject of the statute inscribed on the Rosetta stone. The volume is concluded by an appendix, which contains on two quarto pages a fac-simile of the Demotic text of Rosetta, an analysis of the last line of the Demotic with corresponding passages of the other texts; the whole of the Greek text, with its lost parts restored, some of them from conjectures, due entirely to the sagacity of Mr. Hale. Finally, the Demotic alphabet is given with concise illustrations and commentaries. The work, which we suppose has just issued from the press, is a labor of love as well as of learning, and bears marks of having been pursued to the end in a joyous spirit, with a fidelity of research that was quickened at every step. It is richly decorated with illuminations and plates, which lead the inquirer through the doorway of the temple of Isis at Dendurah into the mysteries of the Egyptian world. Here are the cerulean lotus and the white; the deity of Phtha and his shrine; the three principal Egyptian deities receiving offerings from a king; the dragon fly; the grasshopper; the butterfly; pelicans; the growing papyrus; the fort in which the Rosetta stone was discovered; the ruins of Memphis; the island of Philio, with the river Nile and the stately fruit-bearing palm trees; and a full-length portrait of Ptolemy from a drawing by an Egyptian artist of the olden time.

We commend this unique book to our readers; they will find all that they most care to know about the Rosetta stone in learned pages wreathed with roses, illustrated by plates and illuminated by beautiful and ever-varying arabesques; and they will find what is best of all, evidence that the generation which is to take our places, is animated by an earnest and disinterested love of science and of art.

SUICIDE.—Squire Sayers, an old man living with Henry Sayers, his son, in the township of Meridian, in Ingham county, Mich., two and a half miles southwest from Okemos, shot himself on Saturday last, through the body, and died on Sunday. The deceased was a soldier and pensioner of the war of 1812.

HERMAN & CO., diamond setters and jewelers, New York, were robbed on Saturday last of a diamond bracelet, a gold watch set with diamonds, and a small box of diamonds, valued in all at about $4,000. Gershom Cohen, a brother-in-law of one of the firm, is supposed to be the robber.

AN ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE.—Samuel Turner, alias John Johns, confined in jail at Parkesburg, Pa., awaiting the requisition of the Governor of Delaware, attempted to escape on Thursday night last, by removing the irons from his ankles, but failed in the effort.

RICHARD SMETHER, a negro, executed a deed of manumission in Cincinnati, a few days ago, in favor of Thomas Williams, also a negro, and who had owed him labor and service in Louisville, Ky.

APPOINTED.—The Governor of Maine has appointed the Rev. C. C. Cone a Justice of the Peace and of the Quorum, for each and every county in the State; an office *rarely*, if ever before, bestowed upon the clerical profession.

Dr. EGDAILE, a celebrated mesmerist, recently died in England. He had such remarkable power as seldom to fail in making patients insensible, by a few passes of his hands, to the severest surgical operations.

DEDICATED.—The new M. E. Church on Vine street, in Harrisburg, Pa., was dedicated on Sunday last by the Rev. Dr. Bartine.

A CENSUS of the city of Detroit, which has just been taken, shows a total population of 82,450. In 1850 the population was only 21,057.

ICE GATHERERS at Cumberland, Md., have been charged twenty cents per load—a charge never heard of before.

AN IMPOSTOR, calling himself Colonel May of the Mexican "gallant charge," is humbugging the residents of Jersey City.

Ætna Insurance Company.

At the present day no discreet person who has acquired property by his own efforts and skill, or from the labors of honored sires, neglects to avail himself of the means so easily accessible to protect and preserve his acquisitions, by the payment of a small but adequate premium to a prudent and responsible underwriter. To suffer the loss of the labors of years or a life-time, excites in the public mind but little sympathy, so easily are the means at hand to guard against such an unfortunate contingency.

But, while all sensible persons appreciate the importance of insurance, there are many who do not discriminate in the underwriter they select. Without disparagement to others, in behalf of the Ætna Insurance Company, of Hartford, we submit the following sketch of its history and progress, which has been so highly appreciated by the owners of property in the United States as to become at least one of the leading underwriters.

This company was organized in 1819, under a perpetual charter, with a capital of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and liberty to increase it to five hundred thousand dollars. From time to time, with the increase of its business, the capital was made full, and as a discriminating public have bestowed their confidence in greater and greater measure with each passing year, the company in 1857 obtained an amendment to its charter, authorizing a further increase of capital of one million dollars, one half of which was at once added, and it is only a question of time when the authorized capital will be made full. The capital at present paid in cash is one million dollars, with additional assets, accumulated from profits, amounting to $357,920 09, which amount, with the capital, is invested in securities of the most reliable character, the value of which, as detailed in another part of this paper, can be readily ascertained by any one, and to the simple statement of facts and figures, we therein set forth, we beg to call *especial attention, and invite the most rigid scrutiny.*

The income of this company for the year 1819, the first of its existence, was about $5,000, while in the year 1858, being the thirty-ninth since its organization, its income was $1,654,567 75. The company has paid losses during the past year amounting to $773,601.11, and for the whole period of its existence $11,268,807 50, without a known instance of a single day's delay or extension for the want of means. Although it has paid the large amount named above, it has at the same time paid satisfactory dividends to its shareholders, and has also made a large portion of its capital as well as its accumulations of *from the net profits alone.* The success therefore, which has attended this company, is believed to be unparalleled by any fire underwriter in this, or perhaps in any other country.

This success has not been the result of mere chance, but is owing mainly to certain fixed rules, to which the managers rigidly adhere, which gave him a singular shape. The officers demanded a salary and were rewarded by finding seven chickens, which he had deposited in two bags, slung around his waist. As he could not give a satisfactory account of the means by which he had acquired the fowls, Montgomery was arrested before Alderman Shoemaker, and committed to prison. The fowls saw swaddling in due form, in the Seventeenth-ward station house.

THE WEATHER.—Yesterday was really beautiful: a precursor of spring, with its balmy, its tenderness, and its trees almost blossoming. The rain had gone, and with it the frost; and the mire, and the snow, and the heavy lowering clouds that have darkened our fair town for so many days past. Everybody was joyous—everybody was happy. The streets were filled with busy merchants and smiling ladies, and aged denizens hurrying to and fro. The zephyrs with temperate breezes from the South, and with the warm and golden sunshine from the skies. The evening was even more charming than the day—as clear and as calm as a midsummer's night.

INTERESTING LECTURE.—This evening one of the most interesting and instructive lectures of the season will be delivered by Rev. H. B. Osborn, at Head and Haydn Hall, corner of Eighth and Spring Garden streets. The subject will be "Smyrna, the Turks, Gibraltar, Constantinople, and the Lebanon;" the costumes of the different nations will be represented by a number of ladies and gentlemen who have kindly consented to appear in the different costumes peculiar to the countries. The subject selected for the occasion is an extremely interesting one, and as the proceeds are to be applied to charitable purposes, we trust a large audience will assemble at the Hall this evening. See advertisement in another column.

DEATH OF A WELL-KNOWN CITIZEN.—Mr. Chas. W. Carroll, a prominent member of the American party of this city, died on Tuesday afternoon. The deceased was twice nominated by his party for important offices—first as candidate for Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas, and afterwards as Recorder of Deeds. He was a man of many generous social qualities, a most pleasant companion, and an ardent friend. He early espoused the American cause, and adhered to it faithfully through all the changes of politics. His funeral will take place on Sunday afternoon, from his late residence, on Frankford road, above Adams' street, Nineteenth ward.

BOSWELL & WILSON, Agents, 216 Walnut street.

TURNPIKES CONTEMPLATED.—Efforts are being energetically made by the residents of the different neighborhoods in Bucks county, for the making of a turnpike road, from Centreville, in Buckingham township, to the village of Pineville, in Wrightstown township; one from Sandtville, in New Britain township, to Doylestown, a distance of four miles; one connecting the Spinnerville turnpike, which was finished last autumn, with Centre valley, in Lehigh county, a distance of eight miles; and one from Quakertown station, on the Lehigh Valley Railroad, to Springtown, a distance of four miles.

NEW CARS.—The Fairmount Passenger Railway Company are having built six cars, which will have several improvements over those now in use. This company have now got their road in first-rate running order, and