



A Family Newspaper—Devoted to Politics, Literature, Morality, Foreign and Domestic News, Science and the Arts, Agriculture, Markets, Amusements, &c

NEW SERIES, VOL. 6, NO. 49.

SUNBURY, NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, PA., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1854.

OLD SERIES, VOL. 14, NO. 23.

TERMS OF THE AMERICAN.

THE AMERICAN is published every Saturday at \$10 PER ANNUM in advance...

SELECT POETRY.

THE PRINTING PRESS.

Although we do not rank ourselves with those who make an interminable clatter about the importance and potency of the press...

ceived into the church but a few weeks before. She was the bearer of the message to me from Paine. I stated this circumstance to F. Kohlmann...

"Mr. Paine, I have read your book entitled the Age of Reason, in which all your other writings against the christian religion, and an ad at a loss to imagine how a man of your good sense could have employed his talents in attempting to undermine what, to say nothing of its divine establishment, the wisdom of ages has deemed most conducive to the happiness of man. The christian religion, sir—"

IMPORTANT CHURCH STATISTICS.

From the returns of the late census, Rev. Dr. Carlin has condensed the following facts relating to the number of churches, aggregate accommodations, value of church property, and average value of church property, which we copy from the National Magazine:

Table with columns: Denominations, Churches, Members, Property, etc.

Foreign News.

Arrival of the Canada.

LATER FROM EUROPE. OPENING OF PARLIAMENT. The Queen's speech. Increase of the Army Recommended—Russian Ambassadors About Leaving London and Paris—Removal of the French and English Ministers at St. Petersburg.

Two French officers have also been sent to report upon the general condition and strength of the Turkish fleet.

There were current several rumors of a naval engagement in the Black Sea, in which the Russian fleet was destroyed. This, however, needed confirmation. A portion of the Turkish fleet had gone to Egypt, for the purpose of shipping 12,000 well trained troops, including a regiment of heavy artillery, and a regiment of riflemen.

E. B. MASSER, ATTORNEY AT LAW, SUNBURY, PA. Business attended to in the Counties of Northumberland, Union, Lycoming and Columbia.

HENRY DONNEL, ATTORNEY AT LAW, Office opposite the Court House, Sunbury, Northumberland County, Pa.

WM. M. ROCKEFELLER, ATTORNEY AT LAW, SUNBURY, PA. Dec. 13, 1851.—ff.

M. L. SHINDEL, ATTORNEY AT LAW, SUNBURY, PA. December 4, 1852.—ff.

DOCTOR I. W. HUGHES, OFFICE on Broadway, near the Episcopal Church, Sunbury, May 14, 1853.—ff.

N. M. NEWMAN'S, City's Rose, Norwegian street, Pottsville, Pa.

Plumbing Shop, [AS CONSTANTLY ON HAND A SUPPLY of all sizes of Lead Pipe, Sheet Lead, etc.]

CONFIDENCE can be placed, to the fullest extent, in the use of the Serpentinae of Mrs. HERR of Philadelphia.

W. M. MCARTY, BOOKSELLER, Market Street, SUNBURY, PA.

JUST received and for sale, a fresh supply of EVANGELICAL MUSIC.

Shamokin Town Lots. (WH subscriber is now prepared to exhibit and dispose of Lots in the new Town-Plot of Shamokin.)

LEATHER. FRITZ & HENDRY, Store, 29 N. 3d street. PHILADELPHIA.

MICHAEL TRACY, Wholesale Dealer in Confectionary, Fruits and Groceries, 624 MARKET STREET, above sixth, south of the next door to Red Lion Hotel, Philadelphia.

FRESH Vanilla Bean of a superior quality just received and for sale by H. B. MASSER.

JOES.—All kinds of Boots Shoes and slippers for sale by G. ELSBERG & CO. Market street, opposite the Post Office.

JUSTICE'S FEE BILLS For sale by H. B. MASSER. Sunbury, 1851.—ff.

THE PRINTING PRESS.

The Printing Press, there is mighty power in the flap of its iron wing. It finds its way to the peasant's bow, and the palace of the king.

What a waking up of slumbering mind, From the gloaming dreary past. Has the press achieved, to bless mankind, Since the twilight days of Faust?

It shakes the curtain of olden time, Behind which the Genii hide, Like snow in a sunshine slide. With usages old, and gray, and stark, It crumbles and down they fall.

Of the Press bath its sweet and bitter rills, For missions of good or ill— It warns to life or it blights and kills, At the operator's will.

With the printing press, a potent power, To judgment the Judge it brings: It turns and rebukes, and triumphs o'er, The pride and the pomp of kings.

O, the mammoth modern Printing Press, It can bend a nation's will; Awaken to rage or suppress, With the trickling of a quill.

That war, with blood red fangs may gloat, O'er leaps of slain no more; Nor through the cannon's sulphurous throat, Send forth its thundering roar.

O, the Printing Press, when men of worth Shall be its power control; Like streams in desert shall break forth, Men's noblest power of soul.

Then ho! for a free, unshackled Press, With its thunder-bells to bear, On the bulwarks of unrighteousness And oppression everywhere.

We arrived at the house; a decent looking elderly woman (probably his house-keeper) came to the door and inquired whether we were Catholic priests; "for," said she, "Mr. Paine has been very much annoyed of late by ministers of other denominations calling upon him, that he has left express orders with me to admit no one to-day but the clergymen of the Catholic church."

"The Bible, sir," said F. Kohlmann, still attempting to speak, "is a sacred and divine book, which has stood the test and the criticisms of able pens than yours; pens which have made at least some show of argument, and—"

"Your Bible," returned Paine, "contains nothing but fables; yes fables; and I have proved it to a demonstration." All this time I looked on the monster with pity, mingled with indignation at his blasphemy.

"But there is no God," and again, a little after—"Yet if there should be, what will become of me hereafter?" Thus he will continue for some time, when on a sudden he will scream as if in terror and agony, and call out for me by name.

Such was the conversation of the woman who had received us, and who probably had been employed to nurse and take care of him during his illness. She was a patient, yet seemed very desirous that we should afford him some relief in his state of abandonment, bordering on complete despair.

With its trickling of a quill, Commissioned with burning, truthful words, From a powerful, caustic pen; 'Twill turn the edge of a thousand swords—Beard the lion in his den.

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"That's enough, sir, that's enough," said Paine, again interrupting him: "I see what you would be about; I wish to hear no more from you. My mind is made up on that subject. I look upon the whole of the Christian scheme to be a tissue of absurdities and lies, and Jesus Christ to be nothing more than a cunning knave and an impostor."

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It will be seen from the above that the Methodists are the most numerous and most wealthy of all the number. The Baptist, in point of numbers, are the next, and the Presbyterians next in wealth, and very near the same as the Methodists. But if all who claim to be Presbyterians, such as Orthodox Congregationalists, German Reformed, &c., be added, as these have who are classed as Methodists, then the Presbyterian order will foot up second in numbers, making 3,174,111, and first in wealth, making \$27,356,462, nearly double the amount of the Methodist, and almost one third of the aggregate of all the denominations named in the catalogue.

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