LITERATURE.

OUR OWN AUTHORS.-There has grown up to cently in our city a deference to the writers of New York which is gradually verging into sycophancy. Whatever the New York editors say is accepted as truth; whatever the New York authors write is read with avidity; whatever her publishers issue is at once considered as standard. We have frequently controverted the idea that the publications of any houses are better than those of our own. We have often contended that, considering the inferior facilities of the Quaker City, she often receives news ahead of the metropolis. Let us now mention want the writers of Philadelphia have recently done or purpose shortly to do.

William V. McKean, Esq., editor of the Ledger, has nearly completed the third volume of the "Annual Register," of which he has had charge since the scheme was designed. It is rumored also that he has in course of preparation a work relative to some of the details of the late war. There is no one better fitted to perform the task of treating of recent events than Mr. McKean. For years he has made such details a specialty, and is most thoroughly posted in all the statistics and minutie relative to important batties, political or martial, and the influence they exerted on the national history.

Thompson Westcott, Esq., editor of the Sunday Dispatch, has recently said before the public a work, published by subscription, entitled the "Test Oaths of the Revolution." The history of the production is interesting. A few years slace, an old document was found among a mass of waste paper, and which was ordered to be sold by the Recorder of Deeds. It proved to be the test oath which each Pennsylvania citizen of doubtful loyalty was compelled to sign at the conclusion of the war of 1776. To it was appended thousands of signatures. It were sold to a publisher, who determined to issue it in book form, and called on Mr. Westcott for a history of the oaths as an introduction. A better selection could not have been made, as there is not a gentleman in our city who can surpass him in a familiarity with our municipal lore. The result is a delightful and instructive work, singularly appropriate to our own times. We will refer to it on some future occasion.

The author has been for years directing his time and talents to the preparation of a "History of Philadelphia."He has already brought it down to the opening year of the century. We earnestly hope that he will conclude his labors, and give our citizens an opportunity of securing a copy of an authentic and complete history of Philadelphia. The annals of Watson are interesting, but are so disjointed as to lose half their value. Mr. Westcott's work will be full, extensive, and interesting, and will fill a void in our libraries.

Speaking on the subject of works on municipal history, we may refer to an interesting little pamphlet by Casper Souder, Jr., of the Bulletin, on "Carpenters' Hall." It is an extract from his "History of Chesnut Street," and has been published in aid of the fair for the "Soldiers' and Sailors' Home." We have just enough of the extracts given to make us long for a popular edition of this valuable record of our leading thoroughfare.

Among the members of the Press Club who are about issuing works we may mention Emerson Bennett, Esq., the popular novelist. He is about to publish another of his thrilling Western stories, in which daring adventure and muscular activity are so admirably displayed. We do not know which to admire most, the originality of situation or the easy fluency of expression which characterizes all of Mr. Bennett's works. It is entitled "The Phantom of the Forest," and will appear as a serial in the Saturday Evening Post. Apropos of works forthcoming from members of the Philadelphia press, we may mention two promised volumes of poems, one from A. E. Laucaster, Esq., and the other from Mr. Kane O'Conseen. The ability of the authors is a bledge for the attractive nature of the productions.

Dr. R. Shelton Mackenzie, literary critic of the Press, has in course of preparation a volume of "Personal Reminiscences," of the great men he has met.

In connection with reminiscences, we may mention appropriately that another series of recollections, although different from those of Dr. Mackenzie, will shortly appear. We refer to the adventures of Signor Blitz, the ventriloquist. Having travelled all over Europe and America. and, probably, Africa and the Sandwich Islands, for the last thirty years, it is impossible that the Signor should not have had many comical adventures. These he has constantly jotted down in a diary, until at last he has volumes of the most amusing anecdotes in his manuscript record. Of these he is selecting the best, and will shortly lay them before our reading community. He has read us a number of these recollections, and we can vouch for their being both unique and racy. His style is piquant and pleasant.

The work from the presses of J. B. Lippincott & Co., entitled "Poetical Tributes to the Memory of Abraham Lincoln," which has had so extensive a sale, is a compilation of J. N. Plotz, Esq., of Philadelphia. It deserves all the patronage it has received.

Henry B. Hirst, Esq., the author of "Endymion," is preparing a third edition of that work. The reputation which it acquired as one of the finest poetical efforts of our native authors, has completely exhausted the first two editions. In the next, in addition to the revised work, will be found the tributes of later date, including those to President Lincoln, J. Barclay Harding, Esq., General Birney, and others. It will probably be ready by February.

Mr. C. D. Gardette has had bis poeticel works issued in book form, by Bunce & Huntingdon, of New York, under the title of "The Fire Fiend, and other Poems." To deny to this author ability would be unjust, but we are perfectly free to question his literary power. We will speak in detail of the book in a few days.

We regret to lose from our circle Rev. C. W. Dennison, the well-known author of a number of biographies, including those of Sheridan and Grant. He sails for Great Britain, to establish in London a weekly journal devoted to American interests. It is to be called The Republican, and will contain sixteen pages, in the form of the New York Albion. Such a publication is much needed, and our Reverend friend has our best wishes for success. He will also correspond with papers in Boston, New York, and our own city.

An effort is to be inaugurated to secure a special fund, at the disposal ci the Press Club, but to be used only to give pecuniary aid to such journalists as may be so situated as to be in absolute need. A similar fund exists among our

merchants, manufacturers, and professional men | n the piece, of course, but these have been gradually generally, and it is desirable that the newspaper traterulty be similarly situated. The sad fate of G.W. Cutter, author of the "Song of Steam," who died a few days since in the Washington Almshouse, is a powerful argument in aid of some such step. It will be modelled after the Press Fund of Great Britain, over which Dickens presides, and will be devoted to dispensing unostentatious charity among the indigent of the profeesion. No steps have yet been taken, but the effort has our warmest sympathy and support.

AMUSEMENTS.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC. - Faust is not an opera for the Italians. It is essentially German - forman in spirit, German in conce tion, and German in tradition. We have seen it here in perfection: Himmer, Herrmann, Madame Frederici, and Madame Johannsen have given us our first impression of this music, and no other artists can efface it. Certainly not the artists who appeared last evening. Miss Keilogg is the best of the quartette; but her voice incks the sympathetic qualities or Frederics. Mivs Kellogg has, however, very much improved, since she last sang here, in style and dramatic power. She acted with more animation than usual and looked very

But she did produce the effect that we have been accustomed to. Her entrance was too dignified. Who does not remember Frederici's innocent village shyness and grace? The romanza at the spinning-wheel, though transposed for Miss Kellog, did not appear to suit her voice. The cabalella she acted with in" finite grace, and sang brilliantly. Signor Lifre, the new tenor ("Faust"), as a careful artist; his style is good; he sings smoothly, managing his voice artistically. But his voice is wanting in power, and does not possess the sympathetic qualities that should especially belong to a tenore di grazia. An indifferent actor, he is, unfortunately, in his personal appearance and in his attitudes, ungraceful. The best thing he sang-which was well sung, too-was 'Salve dimora" The grand duett of the third act produced latle effect, though Miss Kellogg sang it with great expression, but Signor Irfre was weak and cold. Signor Antonucci, the basso, has a voice of very little power, though its quality is good. He did not in one instance miss the spirit of the music. Of the new artists he was the least successful. He did not attempt to portray the fien 4 6 othe has drawn and Hermann gave us, making him a common Ita ian opera villain, and theref re taking from the coloring of the play and the individuality of the music. Signor Bellini, with his fine sonorous. voice, his grand dramatic style, made "Valentine" the most satisfactory part of the evening. Madame Ficher is a singer de troisieme ordre, so that "Seibet" sunk into insignificance Altogether, with our memories of the artists who for us created Faust, we cannot consider the performance of last night as a success. The chorus was good, H. Bergfeld's Fanfare having its share of applaus; and being encored. The orchestra here is full, complete and admirable, so that we look to the Africaine with confidence, and the orchestration of Meyerbeer requires that each incividual should be-what he is, almost without exception, in this orchestra-a great and accomplished musician. This evening the grand musical 'event for which Europe wai ed ten years will take place. Madame Carozzi Zuechi, one of the best educated artists, an artist endowed, too, with soul, tenderness, and power, will appear. Mazzolmi, a tenor of the Verdi school, dramatic, and with a grand voice; Bellini, Madame Bosisio, and other artists, new to us, will appear. L'Africaine is got up in the grandest style. The music has received the favorable judements of all the capita's of Europe. We hold our rank amongst musical cities, and are now to hear for the first time the grand final, artistic colmination of the life of the man immortalized already by the Huguenots and Robert le Diable. We give the plot, so as to avoid the inconvenience of reading the librotto as the opera proceeds :-

The first act introduces us to "Inez." the betrothed of "Vasco di Gama," the mariner. Of course the match is oppo ed, and "Inez" is compelled to marry 'Don Pedro," after being assured that "Vasco" had perished at sea, Contrary to expectations before the "Vasco" turns up and appears here. 'Vasco' turns up, and appears be fore the Royal Council of Portugal, and proposes to add Yast hiknown lands to the territory of that singdom it ships and means are given to prosecute another voyage. To prove that such lands do exist, he produces two Indians whom he purchased in the siave market, whose complex on and language differ from those of all known nations. The Council reject his proposals, and discredit all his assertions. "Vasco" is innignant, rates the Council soundly for their ignorance and bigotry, and is consequently thrown into prison together with his slaves.

The second act discovers "Vasco" in prison, his slave "relika" watching. That he has rescued her from harsh slavery, and been kind to her, is suffifrom harsh slavery, and been kind to her, is sufficient to engender in her heart a passionate love, of which he knows nothing. The other slave, "Nebusko," loves her secretly, while he honors her as his queen in her own land. Jealons of "Vasco," he endeavors to kill him, but is prevented by the watchild "Selika." In the meantine, "Dos Pedro" has got possession of all "Vasco's" pians and charts, through "Netusko," and has procured himself to be preclaimed governor of all the undiscovered counties, and also ships and men to enable him to look ries, and also ships and men to enable him to look for the land which he goes out to govern. Urged by "Inez," he procures the release of "Vasco," tells him what he has done, and after purchasing "Selika" and "Nelueko," leaves him, to embark with his wife on a voyage of douottul issue.

The third act discovers the whole party on ship-

The third act discovers the whole party on ship-board. It seems to be a happy family until Vasco di Gama appears on the deck (he having procured a snip, in which he followed the course of his beloved Inez) and informs Don Pedro that a storm is coming on, that the ship is close to a dangerous coast, hard to weather in a storm, and infested by predatory Iu-dians. Before Don Pedro, in a flush of gratifude, can imprison Vasco below, the storm comes on, the ship is struck by lightning, and the crew are severely struck by the Indians, who swarm over the deck and

ship is strack by lightning, and the crew are severely struck by the Indians, who swarm over the deck and take the whole party prisoners.

The fourth act presents 'Selika'' as Queen, the ship having foundered fortuitously on her own shores. 'Don Pedro'' and all his saliors, having been despatched and probably eaten, the ladies are reserved for the delicate attentions of the sacrifice. 'Vasco'' the sacrifice of course is saved and wanderny being a sea-dog, of course is saved, and wandering along forforn and wretched, naturally sines, which along forform and wretched, naturally sings, which betrays him to the savages, who, singing themselves, are not at all moved by his vocal display, and are on the point of clubbing him, when "Seilka" rushes in and arrests their savage intent. Of course, the "Grand Priest of Bramah" is immediately called in to investigate the matter. "Seilka" boodly avows that "Vasco di Gama" sared her from slavery, and married her in a Christian country, consequently tent he is her husband, to prove which delicate fabrication she calls "Necuska" as witness. The gentle savage swallows his disgust, determined to sacritle sayage swallows his disgust, determined to sacrifice timelf for the woman he loves, and takes his oath that "Selika's" story is strictly correct. This being perfectly satisfactory, the lowers are left to their laptures. "Vasco" being accustomed to box the compass and look sut for a change of wind, discovers that he positively adores "beliga," and has just clasped her to his beating heart when, in the grove hear by, he hears the voice of his beloved "Inex" chanting her death song. What he felt being too great chanting her death song. What he telt being too great for expression, the curtain is considerately dropped. The fifth act reveals the misery and the magna-nimity of the "Queen Sei.ka" Being satisfied that her love is unrequited, she sets the lovers free, and as they sail from the perficipal port of entry of her kingdom she seeks the umbrageous shadow of the Upns tree, and dies a martyr to her generosity and love.

NEW CHESNUT STREET THEATRE.-The Sleeping Reanty continues in unabated attraction at this theatre, and is doubtless in for a long run. Almost every evening some new points and local jokes are added by the dramatist of this theatre, Mr. Benjamin E. Woolf, who has adapt d the piece for our stage. Miss Josie Orton, Mr. Lennox, Mr. Chapman, Miss Cappelle, Miss Annie Ward, and Mr. J. Ward are established as exce lent burlesque artists, and we think |Mr. Sinn's company never appeared to better advantage than in this de ightful extravaganzs. The scenic effects of the play are really magnificent, and the transformation scene at the end of the .piece is acknowledged by all to be the most beautiful work of stage art ever seen in this country. There are faults

corrected, while wholesome additions are being made constantly. The audience last evening was very large and fashionable, and the applause was divided between the actors and the scenery with sudgment, but with real enthusiasm.

I We were pleased to observe that nearly every one remained to see Mr. Wooli's new comedictta, Caught at Last, in which Miss Josie Orton, Mr. G. H. Clarke, and Mr. Walter Lennox acted with great taste-This piece is entirely original and is full of drollery, without getting vulgar. It is rather more pleasant than funny. The situations are neatly arranged and the characters drawn from life, and only a little exaggerated. The love-dallying scene between Miss Orton and Mr. Clerke was well played, and caused a great deal of merriment. Mr. Lennox did very well in his "Peter Spykish" character, and looked the stolid Schwabian to a f. The comedy is rather too verbose, and unless acted rapidy drags unpleasantly. A second rendition may obviate this unpleasan ness.

To-night, and every evening until further notice, The Sleeping Beauty and Caught at Last will by given. This bill is as full of fun and pleasantry as any one could desire. See the pictorial aunounce ment elsewhere.

We should like to see Mr. Woolf's best farce, That Nose, produced at this theatre. It is an intensely

WALNUT STREET THEATRE, - Faust and Marque rite continues to draw. Sam's Little Game, of which we shall give an account, met with immense applause.

ARCH STREET THEATRE -Still as ever, Lost in London.

THE GRAND benefit of the Actors' Art Union, offered by Messrs. Grover & Sinn, comes off to-morrow afternoon at half-past 2 o'clock. It is a dramatic festival no one should miss.

NOVEL HUMOROUS ENTERTAINMENT .- Our readers must not forget that Mr Stephen Mussett ("Jeemes Pipes," of Pipesville) will give h s budget of oddities, drelleries, jokes, music, sense, and nonsense at the Assembly Buildings, on next Friday evening. The lecture will be airy, light, and pleasant, and will be the eighth of the Press Club course.

MATTERS OVER THE RIVER.

THE COURTS.-The January term of the Camden county courts commences on the 9th instant. A large amount of business is to be disposed of, and a protracted term is expected There are thirty-four prisoners awaiting trial and the action of the Grand Jury, besides the other items of business which that body will find to be disposed of. It would be a blessing to Camden city and county if the Court could de-vise and cause the establishment of a proper place of correction, where delinquent half-grown boys might be taught self-respect under the mild exactions and chastisements of law. For there are scores, even in Camden, on the high road to ruin.

BIGAMY .- Previous to the October term of the Camden County Courts, Justice James M. Caseady, of Middle Ward, committed a man named George H. Haiues to the County Jau, charged with bigamy. He was convicted of the charge, but subsequently escaped from the jurisdiction of the law, and iled to the West Indies, thus forfeiting his bail. After remaining there a short time he had the hardihood to return to Camden, where he was taken again into custody and recommitted to prison.

HANDSOME TESTIMONIAL.—A few days ago the congregation of the Third Street M. E. Church gave a gratifying surprise to their pastor, Rev. Mr. Vansant, by presenting him with a large and magnificently bound Photographic Eible Album, containing portraits of all the officers of the church. The modent was a pleasing and marked exhibition of the esteem in which the congregation hold their beloved

MINISTERIAL CALL,-The Rev. Mr. Hedden, who has officiated for two or three years past as pastor of the Fourth Street Baptist Church, has resigned his pastoral charge of that church, and accepted a call to the Twelfth Baptist Church of Philadelphia. He preached his initiatiory sermon on Sabbath last,

IMMERSTON.-On Sunday evening the Rev. Mr. Davies, pastor of the Tabernacle Baptist Church, administered the ceremonies and performed the ordinance of baptism, by immersion, in that church. There was a large congregation of spectators present, although the weather was

SUDDEN DEATH .- On Sunday evening a lady named Holl, residing in Camden, died very suddenly, from a severe attack of fever. She had been married only one week, having been led to the altar on Christmas eve.

TERRIBLE EXPLOSION AT COLUMBIA, PA. - A Furnace in Ruins—One Man Killed, two Others Severely Injured.—An extra issued from the office of the Columbia, Pa., Spy, gives the annexed account of an explosion at Cordelia Furnace, which occurred on Friday evening:

"About half-past 7 o'clock on Friday evening

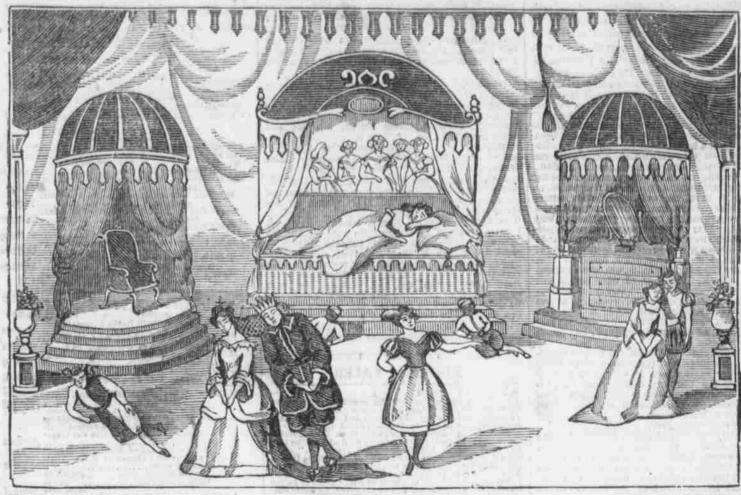
our citizens were startled by a loud report, causing the windows in all parts of the borough to shake. Every one rushed out to see what was the cause, but none could tell. A messenger soon arrived with the startling intelligence that the boilers at Cordelia Furnace, situated about two miles from Columbia, on the Reading and Co-lumbia Railroad, had been blown up. On reaching the scene of the disaster we found that the furnace was a total wreck, and the wood-work on fire. Of four boilers only one remained whole, and that was carried off about one hundred yards. Two were bursted completely. The half of one was carried about five hundred yards into a neighboring field, and the other was against a large wagon, demolishing it completely. The debris was scattered in all di-rections for hundreds of yards around the fur-nace. The houses in the vicinity were shaken as though by an earthquake, breaking all the windows and many dishes in the cupboards, Children seated on chairs were thrown violently

"John Lutz was instantly killed. He was gaged in filling, with Shiffer, and was blown from that over the casting house, striking the bell, carrying it with him. He was found in a run about one hundred yards off, with his head and one arm blown off. He leaves a wife and several children. Jeremiah Conkling was severely injured. George Shiffer also severely injured. Daniel Neff was buried by the debris, but was rescued without serious injury. Mrs. J. L. McMichael in the outhouse at the time of the explosion, and it was shattered by pieces of boiler and splinters, but she fortunately and almost miraculously escaped without injury. The furnace belonged to our townsman, Colonel Kauffman, and great regret is expressed for the unfortunate affair. The furnace was rebuilt during the summer, and every thing put in the most complete order for the successful manufacture of pig iron. Now everything is in a shapeless mass of ruins, and the loss is very great. No cause is assigned for this great catastrophe.

-On Thanksgiving-day, a young lady at Westboro, Mass., after a short acquaintance, married a returned soldier. On the following morning the young bride donned her cloak and bonnet. and evading her husbaud's question as to where she was going, left the house, and took the next train of cars out of town. She has not since

been heard from. —The London (C. W.) Free Press says that a curious and unlooked for development has taken place at Delaware, while sinking the "Proneer" oil well, on the property of the Delaware and Ontario Petroleum Company, in that a vein of tin ore has been met with at a depth of 203 feet in the rock. The vein has a thickness of eight inches, but its breadth is of course, at present, NEW CHESNUT STREET THEATRE.

"THE SLEEPING BEAUTY."



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Third Parts and One Hundred and Sixty four Years stier the Piece is over PAET FIRST. PERIOD. 1983.

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Alinsticisy. Miss Brown
FART SECUND PERIOD, 1891.

The Princess Is a-belie, aged is all but an
hourer so who has grown out of long
c othes, longs to close her imprisonment,
but needlessly suffers woes attic, erratic,
operatic, phiegmatic, and not at all
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