JOHN WILLES.

6

The London Athenaum, in a review of a series of sketches of celebrated Englishmen, entitled "Historical Gleanings," by James E. Thorold Rogers, which has just been published by Macmilian & Co., in London, gives the following interesting review of the career of the celebrated John Wilkes:-

Wilkes' expulsion from the House of Commons was the great event of a life which filled up seventy years of the last century, 1727-97. Of that long period, Wilkes was an active politician during thirty years, that is, from 1754, when he stood for Berwick-on-Tweed, till 1784, when as abandoned all political activity. Mr. kogers goes lightly, but not very good-naturedly, over the various incidents in Wilkes' career. It is an old story at the best, and Mr. Rogers has little or nothing to add to it. We see the distiller's son bred like a gentleman, marrying an heiress, ten or eleven years older than himself, and leading the life that men so settled or unsettled in marriage might in those days be expected to lead. We find him spending money lavisbly to obtain a seat in Parliament; but we may prpeat here what has before been stated in the Athenoum, that Wilkes did not attempt to enter on a parliamentary career as a means of repairing his supposed shattered fortunes. If he had been a place-hunter he would not have shown the hostility to Lord Bute and the Gevernment, which culminated in the famous No. 45 of the North Briton. Nor does Mr. Rogers give any reason for asserting that Wilkes' hostility would have given way if the Government would have officially employed him. To the modern sense the famous No. 45 seems not merely inoffen-sive, but mild and justifiable. It treated the King's speech as the speech of his ministers, and showed that King James was proved to be considered nothing more than the first magistrate in the realm, and that King George might well be content with the same position

Mr. Rogers here speaks of one of the best-educated men of his day, a man who had spent thousands to enable him to satisfy his ambition by entering Parliament, and was not more immoral than the distinguished persons with whom he associated, but who carried the fashion of immorality a little beyond the mode. Mr. Rogers speaks of Wilkes as a man who was living by his wits, and he describes him as an unprincipled adventurer. Even if Wilkes had been all this, the mistakes and malice of the Government converted the adventurer into a popular hero-for the issue of the General Warrant by which Wilkes, with printers, publishers, and others, were arrested, without being designated by name, led to all the triumph which ensued. The judgment of Chief Justice Pratt that such warrants were illegal, the protection which the habeas corpus afforded to persons so accused and imprisoned, and the heavy pecuniary damages which they who had acted illegally were condemned to pay, were triumphs for which the public were indebted, and continue to be indebted, to the resolution of Wilkes. But for him, we might still be liable to arrest and to being kept in prison at the mere will of a couple of envious secretaries.

The next mistake of the Government only increased the power and popularity of Wilkes. He was prosecuted for printing and publishing an obscene libel—a fragment of a poem called an "Essay on Woman." We have said before that Wilkes could not be proved to have written this parody on Pope and Warburton, and that it was never published till a copy stolen from Wilkes' house was read in the House of Lords by Lord Sandwich, who had previously heard it read in private, and expressed his delight at what now he affected to read with disgust. We have, on former occasions, protested against any idea of our being apologists for Wilkes' immorality, or for this wretched fragment of a dirty poem, a true copy of which probably does not exist, We refer our readers to the concluding parabut, as we have remarked before, Wilkes was graph of "Paul Clifford," where Wilkes' life, a better man than most of his accusers. He was infinitely superior, at all events, to Lord Sandwich. This exemplary peer, the "Jem-my Twitcher" of his time, scandalized moun-tebanks by his blasphemy, and had a volume of sermons dedicated to him by Warburton, or sermons dedicated to him by warourton, who compared Wilkes to the Devil, and then asked pardon of the Devil for damaging him by such a comparison. It must have been by some such parson as Risdale, who was the tool of Sandwich, that the profane parallel was made in the pulpit between that peer and our Saviour, with a shade of superiority awarded to the peer! Such were the man-ners of the times; and we must not judge of Wilkes by the manners of our own. It is hardly necessary to go over the wellknown story—Wilkes' journey abroad, his outlawry, his return, his imprisonment, his repeated elections for Middlesex, the scandal of which was at its height when the House declared that Luttrell, who had the fewer votes, was the duly elected member. "If once," said Wilkes, "the ministry shall be permitted to say whom the freeholders shall not choose, the next step will be to tell them whom they shall chose." The minis-try certainly did a good deal in those days to exasperate the people. There was a riot in St. George's Fields when Wilkes was released from prison, and in the tumult, provoked by the interference of the military, an eminent man was murdered. Lord Barrington conveyed to the troops the assurance of the pleasure with which the King had heard of the readiness of the soldiery to perform their duty, and the satisfac-tion he had in the thought that they would always perform such duty with alacrity. The word was as ill-timed as another charge of horse and foot. The last great service of Wilkes was rendered when, as alderman and sheriff, he protected one Whebley, who had dared to publish the debates of the House Commons. The protection was dis tasteful to the King, but it prevailed over privilege, and Mr. Rogers acknow-ledged that "Wilkes indicated the right of the people to learn the expressed opinion of their representatives, and therefore to keep them in check." This was not all. Let us set aside the individual, and note what was done by the public man. Wilkes weakened arbitrary power, secured liberty for the people, asserted the freedom of the press, prepared the way for a change in the once atrocious law of libel; and he not only stood up for free election by a free people, but was among the first who saw the necessity for parliamentary reform. The publication of "No, 45" and the prosecu-tion which followed seemed to prepare all parties for the inevitable contest which ensuch. Its importance and its issues struck every one. No wonder that "Forty-five" en-tered into everybody's thoughts and calcula-tions. Orthodox Tories discovered in it the Number of the Beast: the Heir Apparent should it in his father's ears; it was chalked on the soles of the shoes of the ambassador from the Emperor after the mob had stopped 1011 04240 his chariot for the purpose. A patriotic con-

fusion took possession of the popular brain, and one man is recorded as beginning a letter with the words "I take the Wilkes and Liberty to inform you;" and there was a founding of a new, or refounding of an old, club in the city of Cork, the members of which had names which contained forty-five latters; they met at a tavern where they spent forty-five pence each; every man drank forty-five wine-glasses of punch, in celebration of forty-five toasts, which were chiefly directed against the despotism of rulers in general. Perhaps the greatest triumph that Wilkes had, when the effervescence was at its greatest, consisted not so much in members of the Royal Family "lighting up" to save their windows, nor in lords, who hated the Tribune, having the panels of their carriages scratched all over with "No. 45," but in the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland appearing in their bal-cony to salute the Wilkes mob, and in Lord Bute illuminating his house so brilliantly (of course to protect it) that all South Audley street seemed in a blaze. We must not forget the chandler who sent to Wilkes a gift of forty-five dozen of candles !

The North Briton put Wilkes' life in peril at various times, but no one could seriously doubt Wilkes' courage. Lord Talbot challenged him on a passage in one of the num-bers, the authorship of which Wilkes would neither avow nor deny, till they had fought upon it. When they had exchanged shots he confessed himself to be the author of the insulting paragraph; but Lord Talbot, instead of demanding another shot, declared himself satisfied, and the combatants finished the affair by drinking a bottle of claret together. Wilkes did not seek this duel, and would have avoided it probably if he had been able, but once entered on the quarrel he bore himself becomingly. If there were some farcical incidents in this If there were some farcical incidents in this encounter there was a real tragic element in it menacing to Wilkes. He fought with a halter round his neck, for if he had killed Lord Talbot he would certainly have been hanged. With this knowledge he confided his daughter to the guardianship of Lord Temple before he went to meet what, no doubt, he wished he could have avoided. After this celebrated affair Wilkes could afford to this celebrated affair Wilkes could afford to disregard any sneer against his courage when he refused in Paris to fight a certain Scotch captain named Forbes unless the latter could find a second, or some one who could vouch for his being a gentleman. The grievance of Forbes was like that of the would-be assassin Dunn. A quip against Scotland or Scottish-men was an insult to them individually, but Forbes would have avenged it like a "man of honor," while Dunn meant nothing else than cutting Wilkes' throat to satisfy the honor of his country. The duel into which the North Briton brought Wilkes with Martin, Secretary of the Treasury, was the one most peri-lous to Wilkes. The North Briton not only attacked "a certain Secretary" as the basest of mankind, but identified him as having "a snout worthy of a Portuguese inquisitor." Martin charged the anonymous writer in the House with cowardly stabbing in the dark; and at that charge Wilkes avowed himself the author. A rather savage duel ensued, in which Wilkes fell, grievously wounded. In prospect of death, as it seemed, Wilkes gene-rously did his best to shield Martin from the consequences; but he could not control his wit, which would have its fling at the ruling powers.

"It's clear enough," said the wounded suf-ferer, "that Martin did not use Government powder." This was uttered with the more delight as it struck at both Government and its servants. The most of Wilkes' brightest utterances are too well remembered to need being repeated. His reputation in Paris as a wit has not died out. "I have been told by M. Louis Blanc," says Mr. Rogers, "that his witticisms are even now stock French stories, as Sydney Smith's jests are with us." We regret that the biographer has not given us some sample of the *esprit* which has received the stamp of Parisian sanction. In England, one of the best things ever uttered by Wilkes has been preserved by Lord Lytton, but not without a "slap in the face" of the utterer.

Scots who could laugh at both jests. When his wound in the duel with Martin prevented him from defending himself in the face of Parliament, the Government party, which body suspected that he was de-luding them, Wilkes declined to receive the physician sent officially to visit him, but requested the attendance of the King's physician and the Sergeant-surgeon, on the ground that if he was to be watched, a couple of Scotchmen were the most proper fellows to act as spies. This is rude wit, but all Scotchmen were not irreconcilably of-fended by it. It was nothing that Dr. Johnson should say of him "Jack is a gentleman and a scholar," but it was much that Lord Mansfield, a Scotchman who had (as it was said) drunk the Chevalier's health on his knees, should testify that Wilkes was "the pleasantest companion, the politest gentleman, and the ablest scholar he ever knew." After this evidence from an enemy, the tattle of Mrs. Boscawen and the enemy, the tattle of Mrs. Boscawen and the fine gentleman's malice of Walpole signify little. The lady affected—when Wilkes was made Chamberlain of London—to fear for the orphans whose funds would pass through his hands. Walpole described one of the pictures at the Exhibition of 1779, containing contrains of Miss Wilkes containing portraits of Miss Wilkes and her father-two beings who loved each her father—two beings who loved each other above everything else on earth, as Wilkes "looking—no—squinting ten-derly at his flanghter." He further called the group a caricature of the Devil "acknowledging Miss Sin, in Milton." In face of these witnesses, it need only be said that Wilkes died in straitened else said that Wilkes died in straitened circumsaid that Wilkes died in straitened circum-stances. No farthing of public or official money was ever unlawfully touched by him. If he had been careful of his own, he would, no doubt, have been more deserving of the abiding love of his only child; but she in-herited the fruit of his better action. "When the great processes W. Beener all d the great proconsul," says Mr. Rogers, allud-ing to Warren Hastings, "was under impeach-ment, Wilkes faithfully supported him; and Hastings was not forgetful of benefits, least of all of benefits conferred at that crisis." Nor was his wife. Mrs. Hastings offered Miss Wilkes a home at Daylesford; and the offer could be accepted without humiliation. The whole story of the mutual love between Wilkes and his child will remind the reader of the affection which existed between Atterbury and his daughter. In reading Wilkes' letters to his daughter

it is as necessary to remember the manners and outspokenness of the times as it is, when judging of him in other respects, to judge from a contemporary point of view. Undoubtedly subjects are mentioned in that correspondence which no father would now bring to the notice of a child; but, this objection apart, the letters display the wit, the scholar, the thinker, and the experienced politician. Here is one remark about which there cannot be two opinions:--"Amongst the regular and the thinking the superiority of parts is neither felt on the one side nor acknowledged on the other in the same extreme that it is among the dissolute." This is undeniable; and it reminds us of the withering contempt with which Wilkes spoke of his companions at Medmenham Abbey, with the exception of Dashwood, in whom he recognized a certain imaginative power. He made as full recognition of the conscience within, and of the necessity of its being heeded. "Any strong presentiment is founded, whence arisen I know not, but always attended to, as Socrates did to the whispers of his good genius. With all these ideas, I am certainly the least superstitious of men; but I never did neglect any such inward warn-ings of futurity." It is well known that in what are called the Riots of London Wilkes acted so firmly and promptly as a magistrate that he received the thanks of the Privy Council. The retired "demagogue" wrote to his daughter:-- "The raging of the seas puts me as well as the Psalmist in mind of the madness of the multitude." Later, when the Whigs proposed that the Prince of Wales should be Regent, with kingly power, as his inherent right, but failed, the Irish Parliament hastened to adopt the proposal and to place Ireland, at least, under the rule of an irresponsible Regent. Wilkes wrote of this mischievous act of the Irish legislature in this wise:-"The Irish Parliament justify Swift's remarks that they are to an English Parliament what a monkey is to a man-but now they have the mischie vous qualities of the monkey without his imitative qualities." To return to an illustration of his love for his daughter: here is a pretty idea prettily expressed:--"I cut off all the rose-buds of the trees in our little garden (which is a secret) to make them blow at the end of the season, when I hope to enjoy your company there after our trees." We conclude with observing that the popular gratitude towards Wilkes has not died out, at least in one particular sense. There was a time when publicans suspended his head from their sign-posts, the better to attract customers. "The fellow," said an angry old Church-and-King lady, "swings everywhere but where he should be swinging !" Those signs of the popular regard have not entirely disappeared. Wilkes' Head Wilkes' Head squints invitation to the thirsty over a Staffordshire public house at Leak-with-Lowe. Another does the same office in Bridges street, St. Ives. Not very long ago, Wilkes figured as one of "The Three Johns"—a tayern sign in Westminster, Bloomsbury, and Pentonville, The personages were John Wilkes, John Horne Tooke, and Sir John Glyn, Serjeant-at-Law the last of whom enjoyed his little day as Wilkes' counsel, and his nominee for Middlesex when Wilkes himself was in prison. The prisoner triumphed when the House erased from their journals the censures they had flung at him; and he must have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity of which he once availed himself of assuring the King, whom he had so often exasperated, that he (Wilkes) was less of a Wilkite than any other of that party throughout the kingdom.

FIRE AND BURGLAR PROOF SAFE	FINANOIAL.	FINANDIAL.
REMOVAL.	NEW LOAN.	
1-41174 (A++) L 4981 (A+2)	A ALVEL SHL	
FARREL, HERRING & CO.	COLUMN AND ADD ADD	CITY WARRANTS
No. 629 CHESNUT Street	City of Allegheny Six Per	OTT WARRANTS
TO TO	ony of Anoghony Six Fer	Polonia on The Structure - 100
No. 807 CHESNUT St., PHILADELPHIA.	Cents,	Bought and Sold.
Fire and Burglar-Proof Safes		and the source
(WITH DRY FILLING.)	FREE OF STATE TAX.	barriere and the second states.
HERRING, FARREL & SHERMAN, New York. HERRING & CO., Chicago. HERRING, FARREL & CO., New Orleans. 2911	We are offering a limited amount of this Loan	DE HAVEN & BRO.,
J. WATSON & SON,	At 90 Per Cent. and Accrued	And a state of the second state of the second
FIRE AND BURGLAR-PROOF	Interest.	No. 40 South THIRD Street.
SAFE STORE		and the second second
NO. 53 SOUTH FOURTH STREET, 8816 A few doors above Obsenut st., Philat	The interest is payable first days of January and July, in Philadelphia, FREE OF STATE TAX. We recommend them as an unquestionable se- surity for investment.	6 II) PHILADRLPHIA.
	The debt of Allegheny City being comparatively small, the security offered is equal to that of the City	the second se
and the second se	of Philadelphia, the difference in price making them a very desirable and cheap security.	
HARDING'S EDITIONS		CITY WARRANTS
01	WM. PAINTER & CO.,	BOUGHT AND BOLD.
THE HOLY BIBLE.		
ANTEN DELEMIN AND DECOMPOSITION DEC	Bankers and Dealers in Govern- ment Securities,	C. T. YERKES. Jr & CO.
AMILY, FULFIT, AND PHOTOGRAPH BIBLES,		
FGR	No. 36 South THIRD Street,	NO. 20 SOUTH THIRD STREET,
WEDDING AND BIRTHDAY PRESENTS.	noi co count thing choor,	PHILADRLPHI
ALSO, PRESENTATION BIBLES FOR	1 26 8m PHILADELPHIA.	GLENDINNING, DAVIS & CO.,
HURCHES,	BANKING HOUSE	No. 48 SOUTH THIRD STREET.
CLERGYMEN,		PHILADELPHIA.
SOCIETIES AND TEACHERS, ETC.	07	GLENDINNING, DAVIS & AMORY,
New and superb assortment, bound in Rich Levant	JAY COOKE & CO.,	the second se
Turkey Morocco, Paneled and Ornamental designs, qual to the London and Oxford editions, at less than		No. 17 WALL STREET, NEW YORK. BANKERS AND BROKERS.
No. 326 CHESNUT Street.	Nos. 119 and 114 S. THIRD St.,	Buying and selling Stocks, Bonds, and Gold Commission a Specialty.
A TABLE AND A TABLE AND A TABLE AND A		Philadelphia house connected by telegraphic with the Stock Boards and Gold Room of New York. [13
TRENGTH, BEAUTY, CHEAPNESS COMBINED!	PHILADELPHIA.	D W TANKTOON & CO
HARDING'S PATENT CHAIN-BACK	Dealers in Government Securities.	B. K. JAMISON & CO.,
	Old 5-20s Wanted in Exchange for New.	P. F. KELLY & CO.,
PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS.	A Liberal Difference allowed.	BANKERS AND DEALERS IN
For Wedding, Holiday, or Birthday Presents, these albums are particularly adapted.	Compound Interest Notes Wanted.	Gold, Silver, and Government Bonds
The took trade and dealers n fancy articles will ind the most extensive assortment of Photograph	the second s	At Closest Market Rates,
Albums in the country, and superior to any hereto- ore made. For great strength, durability, and hearness Harding's Pattern Chain back Like	Interest Allowed on Deposits.	N. W. Cor. THIRD and CHESNUT Sts
cheapness, Harding's Patent Chain-back Albums are anrivalled. Purchasers will find it greatly to their advantage to examine these new lines of goods be-	COLLECTIONS MADE. STOCKS bought and sold on Commission.	Special attention given to COMMISSION ORDERS
fore making up their orders for stock.	Special business accommodations reserved for ladies.	in New York and Philadelphia Stock Boards, etc.
Also, a large and splendid assortment of new styles of Photograph Albams made in the usual manner.	We will receive applications for Policies of Life	WATCHES, JEWELRY, ETO.



patriotism and morals find harsh treatment-where he is called "the Drawcansir of Liberty;" but where he is allowed to have said "one excellent thing, for which we look on you with benevolence-nay, almost with respect;" namely, words that are acknow-ledged as being both witty and wise, and which are to the effect that "the very worst use to which you can put a man is to hang him. Wilkes may have been "dull in Parlia

ment;" he did bright things there, but he said his brightest among his private friends. His wit was easy and brilliant; not played off for wit was easy and brilliant; not played on for effect, but often uttered for the conveyance of truth. "How far does the liberty of the press extend in England?" said the Prince de Croy to him, at Calais. "I cannot tell," was the reply of Wilkes to the Governor, "but I am trying to know." Like Chesterfield, he uttered more with then he much the uttered more wit than he wrote. It was bold-often impudent; but spontaneous. When the King was about to go to St. Paul's to offer public thanksgiving Wilkes expressed a hope that Lord George Germain (who had been charged with showing less valor than discretion at Minden) would be appointed "to carry the sword" before his Majesty in the procession. His innuendo eut as sharply as his wit. At the time that George the Third was treating his brothers with severity, the audacious member for Middlesex took occasion to praise the fraternal affection of the King of France; "unlike," he said, "the gloomy tyrant . . . -and then he paused, while every ear was pricked up to catch his words, "Louis the Eleventh." The loyalist men could not keep from laughing. Of course, the King of England could not be expected to be glad at Wilkes' election to the Mayoralty of London. A rumor was circulated that the Lord Chancellor, on Wilkes being presented to that official, would signify to him that the King did not approve of the citizens' choice. "If he dares," said Wilkes, "I will tell him to inform the King that I am as fit to be Lord Mayor as he (Lord Bathurst) is to be Chan-cellor," and as Wilkes would have kept his word, the formal approval of the election was duly made. The man who did not fear kings was not likely to be in awe of aldermen. was not likely to be in awe of aldermen. There was, however, some want of courtesy in the wit he applied to the awkward attempt at carving a pudding by Alderman Burnell, who had been a brick-layer—"Take a trowel to it!" As for the wit by which he expressed a seeming hatred to the Scotch, it was made all the sharper by the rage with which it inspired Scotchmen. He seemed to hate the nation when he really hated only an individual bewhen he really hated only an individual belonging to it, in which he recognized an enemy to the British country and constitutien. If, when he was committed to the Tower, he wounded the pride of Lord Egremont, by refusing to be confined in the same room where that Lord's father had been a prisoner for his Jacobitism—if he provoked the anger of Bute by further desiring that he might not be lodged in any room in which a Scotchman had been kept—there were many

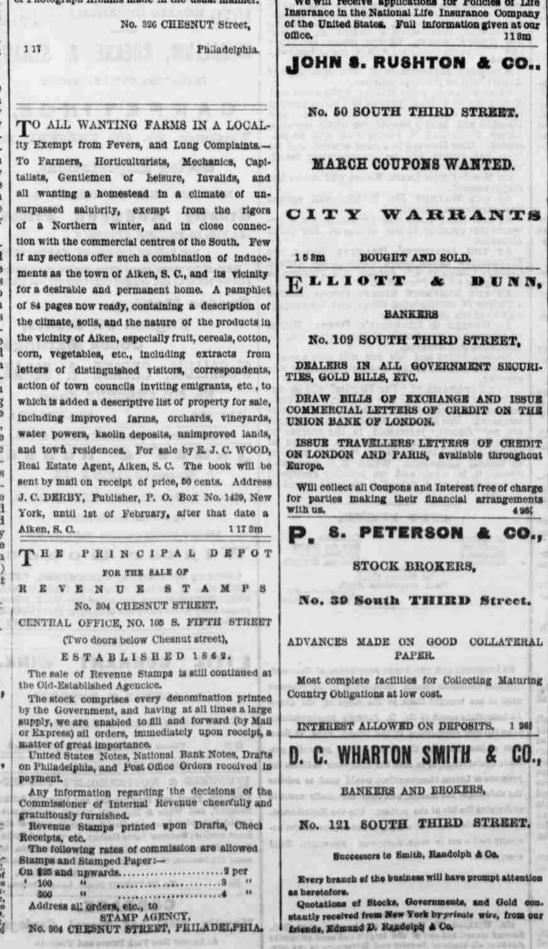
FURNITURE.



NEW DISCOVERY.-ELIXIR J. F. BER-NARD-TONI STHENIQUE. ANTI-DYSPEPTIC. The several observations made by the bast physicians of the Faculte de Paris have proved that the sicknesses arising from impoverishment of the blood or nervaus ex-mandion, viz. - Amenia, Chlorosia, Sympathiame, Phithisto, Diabetes, Albumineria, Scorbut, etc., etc., are radically cured with the ELIXIR J. F. BERNARD, General Depot-A. BERNARD, No. M CEDAR Street, 2d floor. For sale by all remenciable druggists. 31 turbe

TATES AND THE .

TOTAL TE REPERTED A. D.C.



LEWIS LADOMUS & CO. DIAMOND DEALERS & JEWELERS. WATCHES, JEWELRY & SILVER WARE. WATCHES and JEWELRY REPAIRED. 802 Chestnut St., Phila-Ladies' and Gents' Watches AMERICAN AND IMPORTED. Of the most celebrated makers. FINE VEST CHAINS AND LEONTINES In 14 and 18 karnt. DIAMOND and other Jewelry of the latest designs. Engagement and Wedding Rings, in 18 karat and coin. Bolid Silver-Ware for Bridal Presents, Table Outlery Plated Ware, etc. 115 fmwi RICH JEWELRY, JOHN BRENNAN DIAMOND DEALER AND JEWELLER. NO. 13 SOUTH EIGHTH STREET. PHILADELPHIA. 8 2 mwi 9mrp RSTABLISHED 1825. A E WATCHES, JEWELRY, CLOCKS, SILVERWARE, And FANCY GOODS. G. W. RUSSELL. NO. 38 N. SIXTH STREET, PHILADELPHIA HOWARD WATCHES. A THE FINE AMERICAN WATCH AT THE VERY LOWEST PRICES BY ALEXANDER R. HARPER, Successor to John M. Harper, Agent for the Howars Watch. No. 308 CHESNUT STREET, BECOND STORY. 1 19 2m WILLIAM B. WARNE & CO Wholesale Dealers in WATCHERS AND JEWELRY, 8 E. corner SEVENTH and OHUSNUT Street 8 201 Second floor, and late of No. 25 S. THIRD St. WIRE WORK. GALVANIZED and Painted WIRE GUARDS. store fronts and windows, for factory and warehous windows, for churches and cellar windows, IRON and WIRE RAILINGS, for balcontes, offices cemetery and garden fences. Liberal allowance made to Contractors, Builden and Carpenters. All orders filled with promptnes and work guaranteed. ROBERT WOOD & CO. stathem No. 1186 RIDGE Avenue Phila annen A ant bedannte en specialization at market più en service attende at anno 1998. Alla dei bergendart a de eren main attende versa della consider scherare attende attend

17 MIL CONTROL BUILDERAW

HATS AND DAPS.

should like a singler street out