THE READING RAILBOAD AND THE SCHUYLKILL VALLEY-THE REAUTIES AND TERRORS OF THE CATAWISSA-A HALT AT DANVILLE-ITS IRON FURNACES AND FOUNDRIES, ETC. -THE NEW RAILBOAD TO SUNBURY-WHAT ENERGY WILL DO-SUNBURY-THE RAILBOADS AND COAL-FIELDS-BUSINESS ON THE SUSQUEHANNA.

From Our Own Correspondent, WILLIAMSPORT, August 18.-Numbering among the best, if not in itself the best, managed railroads on this continent is the Reading. Its locomotives are of the most powerful description, and its cars and other accommodations are certainly unsurpassable. Leaving the depot at Thirteenth and Callowbill streets at 8.15 A. M. the traveller soon finds himself gliding over the smoothest of tracks, along the banks of the Schuylkill, at a rate of speed which even in these fast days is decidedly refreshing and stimulating. On every hand along the narrow valley, industrious hands find ample employment in the hundreds of manufactories and iron furnaces which dot the banks of the river, from the limits of the Quaker City to its source among the mountains of Schuylkill county. It is a valley which for resources and wealth has probably no superior on the globe, when its length and breadth enter into the consideration of the subject.

Leaving the main branch of the Schuylkill at Port Clinton, the tourist in search of scenery and pleasure takes one of the numerous branches of the Reading Railroad, and at the words "All right" from the conductor, we cross the main river and commence winding our way along the tortuous course of the Little Schuylkill, from which river this branch railroad takes its name. After numerous snake-like twistings among the hills and narrow defiles, we at length reach Tamaqua, where after changing our locomotive we push on at a fine rate of speed up one of the steepest of grades to the Mahanoy Junction, where we again change locomotives, and are

scon off again on the CATAWISSA RAILEOAD. A decent regard for the safety and feelings of those who travel over this celebrated railroad does not permit of running at a "lightning" gait, but nevertheless we skim along at a fair rate of speed. On the right, going west, far below us lie the most picturesque of valleys, dotted here and there with comfortable houses and barns which fairly glitter in their whiteness beneath a noonday sun. Here and there we catch a glimpse of what we at first suppose to be the banks of some mountain torrent, but which afterwards develops itself to be the Lehigh Valley Railroad. Here it lies hundreds of feet below us, running hither and thither among the hills, leoking like a silver cord forming a circlet about the base of a mound of laces. High up, on the left, are the mountains from the bowels of which the households and manufactories of Philadelphia derive their supplies of anthracite coal. Passing onward, the railroad, which but a short time since was many feet below us, is lost to view on the right, and our attention is called to the fact that it is now above us. Here for a while the two railroads run on a parallel line, but one considerably above the other, until at length we cross at an acute angle, and then again we find the track. which but a moment before was on our right and above us, has changed to the other side, and gradually goes sinking down, down, until finally it is lost to view among the hills and dense forests which surround us on every side. Passing on, now flying around the brink of some precipice, and again darting into some ent whose sides threaten to come tumbling down without a moment's warning, we find enough to occupy the attention without troubling ourselves about the probabilities or circumstances of what might be if things were otherwise. But the men who permit us to take an almost aerial flight have studied all the probabilities long before we were permitted to pass over this road, and with that peace of mind which a knowledge of all being right gives us, we lay back and lose ourselves in wondering how such a thing as running a railroad over such mountains ever entered the heads of its projectors. The wonderment is answered by the simple word "business." Now we stop for a moment among the trees to throw off a package of letters or take on a passenger or two, and then again we press onward. But now we come upon a portion of the route which strikes the beholder with amazement. What was grand before is now doubly so-awful and yet inspiring. The whistle sounds, the brakes are applied, and our train slows down. Glancing out of the window is seen, stretching directly across our path, a deep, narrow valley, with sides almost perpendicular. Directly in front of us is seen a row of timbers standing upright, like stakes upon the ground far below. Onward we go, and ere we are fairly aware of the fact we are upon the trestle work which supports the track. Down, far down beneath us, the tallest trees scarcely reaching half way up between us and the earth beneath, dogs bark and gleeful children clap their hands and cheer us. We hold our breaths instinctively, and an involuntary shudder fills the heart as we move over the creaking, groaning timbers; but all is safe. I have been on the top of

monuments, and have felt that peculiar feel-

ing which I presume all persons experience in

looking downward from a high point, but I

never before experienced so peculiar a sensa-

tion as I experienced while looking down

along the side of the ear and seeing nothing

beneath but the hard ground and jagged

rocks which lay below us about one hundred

and thirty feet. In few words, there is no

realizing what I have so faintly endeavored

to depict but by actual experience. Five of

these structures were passed over on our

Tamaqua we find ourselves at

DANVILLE. This town is one of the most thriving in the State, and is situated on the North Branch of the Susquehanna, about two miles from its confluence with the West Branch. It is pleasantly situated on a high bluff, and is entirely surrounded by mountains of very respectable proportions. Like most other towns in this section of the State, Danville has almost an exclusive interest in a certain line of business. Here some of the largest and certainly the best arranged iron works in the State may be found. Hence, when the iron business is moving everything else keeps pace with it. Just now, considering the season, a fair business is being done. The population of the place is about eleven thousand souls, and a number of fine improvements are inprogress. Among these may be noticed the new State Lunatic Asylum, an edifice which when finished will be one of the largest buildings in the State. Its extreme front is eleven hundred and fourteen feet. When finished it will accommodate nearly five thousand people. The people of the place are of a generous, social disposition, and this, added to the

stopping place. On the opposite side of the river, and connected with Danville by a fine bridge, is the infant town of South Danville, a village which has sprung up within the past two years, and which promises great things in the future, through the instrumentality of the S. P. Case, or Sunbury, Danville, and Hazleton Railroad. This railroad traverses the right bank of the river, and when entirely finished will be one of the greatest arteries of the Hazleton coal fields. The building of the road is due almost entirely to the efforts of Mr. S. P. Case, of Danville, who has devoted almost a life-time to its construction. The road is in most excellent condition, and although not yet finished has most elegant cars and does a fine business. Its successful completion is one more evidence of what perseverance and zeal are worth. By this route we reach, on the Susquehanna,

fine hotels, makes the town a most agreeable

SUNBURY. Beautifully situated, about two miles below where the two branches meet and form the main river, is the town of Sunbury. It is one of the railroad centres of the State, and has no less than five different lines passing through or near its precincts. It is the northern terminus of the Northern Central Railway, and the southern or eastern terminus of the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad. Its population at this time is about five thousand souls, but the spirit of improvement appears to have broken out among its inhabitants, and the day is probably not far distant when Sunbury will be a successful rival among the inland towns of the State. Sunbury, like Danville, has its exclusive interests. Here it is railroads and coal. Everything depends upon the condition and facilities of the railroads, or the coalfields. The men talk of these interests in the bar-rooms, the women talk of them in the parlor, the children lisp them in the street, but withal there is a good business done in other lines of trade, providing always that the railroads and coal mines are all right.

The same troubles experienced in the coal regions lower down are experienced here. The miners rule supreme, and if only half I hear of their misdoings be true, they should be exterminated. They rule with an iron hand, and set both divine and civil laws aside whenever it suits their convenience. Nor does your correspondent see how this condition of affairs can be remedied so long as the Democratic party, as a party, protect these lawless people in the course they are now and have been pursuing for the past five or six years. I am re ninded of a case which occurred here a few days since, which is a fair sample of how some things are done and others not done. In some way or another a colored man and a miner got into a quarrel, and the result was that the African had too much muscle for the Hibernian, and knocked the Irishman down.

few hours afterwards the Irishman visited the hotel where the colored man was at work, and deliberately shot him down through the window. The assassin was arrested and taken before an alderman, but through ignorance was permitted to depart. He was no sooner free than he boasted to his companions of having done the deed, and this, in connection with other facts, induced his second arrest, and his ultimate trial before court. Men swore that they saw him do the deed, but the defense produced a number of men from among the man's companions who swore that they were standing by his side at the time the shot was fired, and that he did not fire it; and the assassin was acquitted. This is simply an expose of how swearing on the Bible is reduced to a science in the coal

A little log hut at the lower end of the town, near the Lutheran church, was pointed out to me as the birthplace of the Hon. Simon Cameron. The whole concern is not larger than a medium-sized stable. Numbers of stories are told about the boyhood days of the old General, but as most of them are of little interest to the general reader, I pass them by. One incident in connection with Mr. Cameron's early life, however, is so decidedly American-like, and so valuable as an example, that I relate it. Mr. Cameron's father was a very poor man, and had enough to do to support his numerous family without attending to their education, at that time a more expensive item than now; hence Simon and the other children were permitted to run around loose. As a boy Mr. Cameron did whatever happened to fall in his way, until at length, by the kindness of one of his father's friends, he was furnished with a small sum of money (a few cents) and ferried to the canal on the other route through the mountains, and I am free side of the river. Once affoat, Mr. Cameron to confess that I felt thankful when the last made his way to Harrisburg and was lost to one was left behind us. About three the view of his friends here until he turned bours and a half after leaving up as a contractor. From that time on his success as a man of business was upward and

onward, and from the little start he derived from the friend of his father dates his success in life. He is the architect of his own fame and fortune. Hon. John B. Packer, a relative of Mr. Cameron's, resides here, and is the owner of a magnificent mansion on Market street, near the river. He will probably be re-elected to Congress during the coming campaign.

SINGULAR ELECTRICAL PHENOMENON A tornado passed over some parts of Min-nesota a few days ago which was marked by the same characteristics as that which visited some parts of New York and New England about the same time. It was very severe in some towns, while in the neighboring places it was not felt at all, or at most was scarcely noticed, and it appeared to travel in a narrow path. A writer in the St. Paul Press, who witnessed the storm at Owatonna, in the southern part of Minnesota, gives the following account of its singular appearance

This morning at about half-past two o'clock this city was visited by the most terrific and destructive tornado which it has ever known. The round house of the Winona and St. Peter Railroad Company was unroofed, and a large portion of the walls demolished. The engine Clermont was nearly buried in the debris, but sustained no serious damage. The night watchman was in the house when it fell, but found safe refuge in the pit underneath the engine tender. The wheel of the windmill on the eminence west of the city was completely destroyed. This wheel was nearly one hundred feet in diameter. A large ice house was blown to pieces. The cheese factory was so badly damaged as to be unfit for further use without repairs, and I am told that the summer's accumulation of cheese must be removed.

The upper portion of the fronts of several buildings was blown off; awnings and signboards were badly damaged; trees and garden fences suffered severely, and chimneys and outbuildings were generally capsized. Some roofs were badly broken, and others damaged but little.

There was neither rain nor hail. There seemed to be one current approaching the city from the southwest and another from the southeast, and when I first noticed these currents they were quite distant from each other, but they rapidly approached, converging directly upon the city. When apparently a mile away there appeared midway between the two currents, and at a low elevation, a light, small at first, but gradually increasing, until it reached the size of an ordinary hogshead. Its base was parallel to the surface of the earth. The sides seemed to approach each other to an inclination of about thirty degrees. At the top of this cone, and apparently just separated from it, appeared a bright blaze, which shot towards the zenith in forked flames, I judge from ten to fifteen feet in height. The cone beneath the blaze seemed to revolve rapidly around an axis, vertical to the centre of the earth.

The brilliancy of this air-fiend became constantly more intense as the currents approached each other, and its revolutions became proportionately more rapid, until in the shock caused by the collision which occurred on Cedar street, some fifty feet north of the public square-a terrific and deafening sound was heard, followed by a dispersion of some fifty fragments of electrical light, in apparently solid form. These were seen ricocheting in every direction, approaching the earth, and withdrawing from it in fantastic though appalling gyrations. The scene of this phenomenon was the region of the greatest disaster. The wind blew sharply, but did not do the damage. There was a fierce and terrible force in the air, not in the air itself, which pothing could withstand. Single shingles were plucked from roofs. One picket was torn from the fence while its fellows were unmoved. A single row of onions in a neighbor's garden were torn from the ground, and the others left to grow and ripen undisturbed.

The foregoing facts furnish data upon which I base the following theory:—The excessive heat of the two preceding days was such as to produce great disturbance in the atmosphere, and give rise to the formation of strong aerial currents, which, after becoming complicated, rioted awhile in close combat, and then separated, perhaps by electrical force, formed again in different quarters -two strong channels of moving air emerging upon a common centre. Approaching each other, the space through which the electricity inherent in the air was diffused became rapidly less, and still less, at the same time it would be carried along by its own adhesion to the moving mass of clouds.

It thus became gradually condensed, and by its own motion, together with the constantly increasing pressure of the approaching currents, forming walls through which it could not break, and the friction caused by the mobility of its own particles upon them-selves intensified the heat until it became first luminous, then lambent, then concentrated in tangible form, and finally yielding to the power of its own explosive force, burst asunder, forming numerous balls of concentrated fire, which discolored and spent their fury on surrounding objects.

Traces of this tornado are visible as far east as Lewiston, unattended, however, by any serious damage.

-The first building society of St. Paul, Minn. has been in a flourishing condition for some months past. At a recent meeting for the election of officers, \$2000 were distributed to four members at the usual high premiums.

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The tolls on the present commerce of Lake Superior would not only pay the interest on these bonds, but large dividends also to the Stockholders. This trade will be increased immensely next season when the grain from the great wheat-producing regions of Minnesota shall pass by this route (as it necessarily must) to the seaboard, by way of the railroad from St. Paul to Duluth, now just completed. Send for maps and circulars.

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W A S H I N G T O N, D. C., NOTICE-PAVING PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE. The Commission appointed by "An Act to Provide for the Paving of Pennsylvania Avenue," approved July 8, 1870, is authorized to select and determine the best kind of Pavement to be used in paving Pennsylvania avenue, and to have said thoroughfare paved therewith from the northwest gate of the Capitol to the crossing of Fiftcenth street, west. Ave. The of lating season to the season of sainty days.

Through RATES to all points in North and South Carolina, via Seaboard Air Line Railroad, connecting at Portsmouth, and to Lyuchburg, Va., Tennessee, and the West, via Virainia and Tennessee Air Line and Richmond and Danville Railroad.

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No charge for commission, drayage, or any expense of tansfer. The Commission met and organized in accordance with the above law, and proceeded to the election of a President and Secretary. It was decided to invite a President and Secretary. It was decided to invite all patentees, owners, or inventors of any of the improved pavenients, or whatever material composed, whether of stone, wood, asphalt, concrete, or any other kind, to furnish accurate and detailed drawings or models, descriptions, specifications, including the nature of the foundation to be laid, how packed, and, in fact, all information as to their construction and durability. This information is desired to enable the Commission to decide to the first instance upon the general nature of the material to be used in paving the avenue, and then to specify the

stance upon the general nature of the material to be used in paving the avenue, and then to specify the preference that may be agreed upon in regard to some particular method to be adopted. A reference to the law public, Na. 144) will give the required information as to how the payments for said pavement will be made. It is provided therein "That the cost of laying such pavement shall not exceed the sum of four dollars per square yard." The estimated area of said pavement is in the neighborhood of sixty-five thousand (65,000) square yards. All communications in relation to pavements should be addressed to the Secretary, Gen. N. MICHLER, Office of Paulic Buildings, Grounds, and Works, U.

office of Paulic Buildings, Grounds, and Works, U. S. Capitol, WASHINTON, D. C. 729