Farmers' High School of Pennsylvania.

At a meeting of the Centre county Agricultural Society, held in Bellefonte, on Tuesday evening, Nov. 25, 1856, (Court week,) the subject of the attacks upon the Farmers' High School of Pennsylvania, lately published in the *Reading Gazette and Democrat*, over the signatures of "A Farmer" and "H. Shubart," was introduced by Gen. Geo Buchanan. He said the statements were calculated to injure the institution, and that such was the apparent intention.

Having no foundation in fact, and being opprobrious and insulting, not only to the donor of the lands, Geo. Irvin, and to the trustees, whose enterprise, energy and public spirit are above all praise, but also to the citizens of Centre county; he thought it the duty of the members of this Society—acquainted, as they were, personally, with the lands selected by the trustees for the site of the Farmers' High School, their fertility and productiveness, to correct the misstatements, whether undesignedly or intentionally made.

After some discussion, Hon. Jas. Burnside, of Bellefonte Gen. Geo. Buchanan, of Gregg township, John Baily of Ferguson twp & Jno T. Hoover, of Bellefonte, and Christian Odle, of Harris twp, were appointed a committee to report resolutions expressive of the sense of the society in reference to the Farmers' High School of Pennsylvania, and the location made by the trustees, who reported the following resolutions:

1st. *Resolved*, That for the promotion of improved agriculture, special practical education in all the arts connected with farming, is the great want of the age as yet unsupplied.

2d. *Resolved*, That the establishment of the Farmers' High School, of Pennsylvania, on the plan adopted by the trustees will meet that want in a manner at once the most complete, the most economical, and the most serviceable to the whole State.

3d. *Resolved*, That we have the most entire confidence in the ability, energy, zeal and disinterestedness of the trustees, and that their active devotion to the establishment of the institution will receive the lasting gratitude of all classes in the community.

4th. *Resolved*, That a more eligible location for the site of the school farm could not have been selected in Centre county, nor, as we believe, in any other county in the State.

5th. *Resolved*, That we fully endorse the statements of Hon. A. O. Hiester, in his reply to "A Farmer," and of the letter prepared by W. G. Waring, Esq., at his request in reply to Mr. Shubart; the facts stated being well known to the citizens of this county as undeniable truths.

6th. *Resolved*, That as the elevation of the agricultural community will benefit all classes, socially and pecuniarily, an appropriation should be granted by the State, sufficient to secure the opening of the Institution at the earliest practicable period.

7th. *Resolved*, That the improvements made and in progress upon the school farm, manifest the energy and good taste of those to whose direction they have been committed.

8th. *Resolved*, That W. G. Waring, who has been superintending the planting and preparation of the orchards grapery, nursery, gardens, etc., well known in central Pennsylvania for his zeal and knowledge in the science of horticulture and arboriculture, is one of our best and most respected citizens, a gentleman whose integrity no man in this community has ever doubted, and that John Harmon and Wm. Blair, whose statements he gives, are men of intelligence and truth.

The report of the committee having been read, on motion of Hon. Samuel Strohecker, of Miles, it was unanimously adopted, and Mr. Shubart most respectfully requested to visit the site of the Institution, and see for himself.

Whereupon, on motion of Hon. Jas. Burnside, it was

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting, signed by the President and Secretary, be forwarded to Hon. A. O. Hiester, together with the letter of W. G. Waring, Esq., prepared at his request. GEO. BOAL, Pres't.

Attest: Geo. Buchanan, Sec'y.

Bellefonte, Nov. 26th, 1856.

To the Editor of the Reading Gazette and Democrat.

Dear Sir—The fame of your paper has become much extended among agriculturists, of late, by the articles which have appeared in it on the subject of the Farmers' High School of Pennsylvania.

I have been requested to furnish you with names and data precisely exact, and from the ground itself, in order to meet the call of Mr. Shubart, as to the quality of the soil, its general yield, under present tillage; its market value; the supply of wood and water; and the healthfulness of the location—This I proceed to do.

The soil is strong limestone, tempered with sand, into a loam, which works "like dough," yet does not run or bake, part is gravelly, and a narrow strip is quite stony on the surface; all is very retentive of moisture during drought. Its underlaid by limestone, which is easily on the top, and full of crevices lined with sharp sand, forming a perfect drainage, under every square foot.—In a few spots points of rocks appear at the surface, but there is not as much as one acre in the whole 400 which is unfit for cultivation, from this or any other cause. A good idea of the character of the soil may be formed from the fact, that several acres of wood were plowed lately by Mr. John Harmon, with a double Michigan plow, set to 9 inches deep. The draught required but two light horses, and although the surface was covered with a whole season's growth of dense sweet grass, forming a cushion under the foot, it is bound so perfectly that over large areas not even the point of a blade of grass is left visible. It lies in the range of Nittany Valley, a range not excelled anywhere for its natural adaptedness to wheat culture. Corn starts early, and opens well; clover grows luxuriantly and never heaves out. The surface slopes easily to the south east, and is well sheltered from injury by winter winds.

Yield.—John Harmon and Wm Blair, (Boalsburg P. O.) who cleared and occupied the greater part of the land in question, between the years 1844 and 1853, have handed me a statement of their crops. Mr. Harmon's account is a copy from his books, to the correctness of which he can certify.—It makes the average yield of wheat in fair seasons 20 to 27 bushels per acre, and of corn, in the ear, 110 bushels. In 1853 he gathered 3490 bushels from 34 acres, although no rain fell from planting-time till August 14th, sufficient to soak the furrows. Three successive crops from one field, were respectively 27½ bushels of wheat per acre; 28 bushels wheat (on stubbles) and 167 bushels of ears of corn. Mr. Harmon says he is confident that 180 bushels of corn in the ear per acre, can be raised from a twenty acre field on the farm in its present condition, in a fair season.

Mr. Blair's averages, are about the same as Mr. Harmon's, or higher. John and Emanuel Honts, now of Pine Grove Mills P. O., rented a farm adjoining the School Farm in the year 1841. They were young men, without means, other than some savings from daily labor, which enabled them to buy two old horses, and some implements. After farming six years they were able, from their share of the crops, to buy 70 acres of land, one mile west of the School Farm.—They remained there four years, during which time they bought 50 acres more, and then sold, and purchased another farm of 280 acres in the same range, on which they now live, raising an annual average crop of 3000 bushels of corn in the ear, and proportional crops of wheat, and are in independent circumstances.

Henry Pennington, Wm. Blair, Jeremiah Mayes, and Piersol Lytle, may be named among others, as men who have farmed on or near the School farm, and in a few years bought farms of their own from the proceeds of their crops, and who may be enquired of or about, through the Boalsburg Post Office.

The School Farm has the handsomest location that could be chosen, parts of five different farms having been cut off to favor it.

Value per Acre.—The only farms sold lately in the vicinity, were sold to R. M. Foster, late of Hamilton, Union county, and Wm. R. Foster, of Centre county, at seventy dollars per acre. R. M. Foster raised 100 bushels of corn to the acre, the present very dry and unfavorable season. Wm. R. Foster sold eight acres of his land lately at 125 dollars per acre, no improvements on it.—Piersol Lytle, referred to above, after paying for 100 acres and expense of clearing, by the crops grown on the land, bought and has mostly paid for over 200 acres more, in the woods, and away from roads, mostly at 40 dollars per acre.

I may mention here that Col. Young, one of the delegates from Allegheny county, to the meeting on the farm, for the election of trustees, declared, that he had travelled the States from Arkansas to Minnesota, and eastward, and he had *nowhere seen* so rich and handsome an agricultural section, as the one he had viewed that day, in the midst of which the School Farm is located, or one so newly improved, and at the same time embellished with so large and substantial buildings.

Wood.—There is about 40 acres of woodland, so situated that it shelters much of the farm. It consists of an unusual variety of timber, in young and vigorous growth, being now from ten to 30 feet high. For adaptedness to the special educational purposes of the farm, it could not be selected of better size, position, or character. The management of it will afford ample illustration of the whole art of forest culture, whereas, large, fully grown trees, could afford no advantages, but those of grander appearance, and immediate fitness for being chopped down and split up. As lumber, rails, and coal, are conveniently obtainable from the mountains, it is not considered wise here, to hold a large amount of rich valley land occupied with timber.

One of the two pieces of woods, lies just behind the college buildings, and will form a beautiful academic grove.

As to the "ominous" word "barren" it was applied by the earliest settlers, who entered Nittany from the valley of the West Branch, to the upland, of the east end of the valley, which was then covered with a low growth of oak sprouts—now fine rail timber, where left uncleared. For a long time they confined their culture to the narrow flats along the streams, and did not discover the value of the upland, which forms the great body of the territory. The name they applied was naturally extended to all land in the valley similarly situated, but of course becomes obsolete as the land is cleared and occupied.

Waters.—The supply of water is as abundant, and its quality as good as could be desired, even by a professed water-curist. True, there is no *surface* stream, nor are there any of the attendant disadvantages, no ravines, no bridges, no hilly or stony lanes, no washing away of soil or manures, no inconveniently situated buildings, brought to the steeps of the water side, because the water cannot be taken to them, no exposure of man or beast to the miseries and precipitous perils of a winter-day's watering.

Water, like fire, is a good servant, but a bad master, and requires to be kept under constant and thorough control, to prevent the always injurious consequences of *excess*, either *in* the soil, or *on* its surface. Such control is attainable on the School Farm, in the fullest perfection. The entire natural and acquired fertility of the soil can be retained within the boundary lines, and within reach of the roots of crops. An ample supply of soft water is now at convenient command, by turning a cock or using a chain pump, and abundance of "clear healthy spring" water, of the best quality, can easily be made to flow through all the buildings, in the driest season, by a simple self-acting apparatus, either from the well, to which Judge Heister refers, which is 56 rods from the site of the college edifice, or from a well which may be sunk near the building, or in the higher ground north of it.

About 120 rods from the farm line, is "Centre Spring" marked on the State maps as one of the most remarkable springs in the country. The water is extremely clear and pure, and sufficient in volume to drive a furnace and four run of millstones, immediately below the source. At least three or four branchlets of the stream flow from the School Farm, in underground channels, where it is *most desirable that water should flow* when not in use.

But if there were no other than cistern water on the farm, it would be held as no objection here. Our practising physicians agree that the use of cistern water, properly collected and kept, is conducive to health, and it is very much used in this section. Judge Hiester speaks of the excellence of cistern water, which he drank here, in the months of July and October. The farm, on which he drank that water, has no other, and it is located in the same range of once called barrens; nevertheless, it could not be bought at $140 per acre. The residents and workmen on the farm, all prefer the water from the cisterns to that of the beautiful and noted spring from which Bellefonte derives its name.

Healthfulness.—The testimony of one of our oldest and ablest physicians has been voluntarily given on this point in the August No. of the Farm Journal, (p 234.) Hon. Dr. Strohecker of Rebersburg P. O., Centre co., Pa., who is, I believe, a native of your county, can be referred to on this or any other subject, connected with the matter under discussion. The truth is, that both the water and the air are *eminently healthful*, the prevailing winds blow fresh from the pines of the Allegheny, and there is not within scores of miles, either stagnant water, or any other cause of deterioration to the air. Young men from crowded towns, or miasmatic river bottoms, may here acquire both sound health and good physical development, under the light and varied labors, in the free air, which will be required to illustrate their studies.

Having now given plain and careful statements on the points requested, I must beg leave for a paragraph or two in addition.

Judge Heister in a private letter, gives assurance that Mr. Shubart is a gentleman, who will conduct a discussion with fairness. Were it not for this assurance, I should feel great reluctance to notice Mr. Shubart's communications at all. The sneering insinuations against the noble generosity of Gen. Irvin, and against the lofty philanthropy of the trustees of the Institution, have the appearance to every one knowing the real facts of the most malicious and criminal slander conceivable, because aimed at some of the best men, and at one of the most beneficient enterprises of our state and time.

I have read communications from many friends of agricultural in various parts of the State, enclosing "A farmer's" letter and asking information regarding it. Those who *know* all about the location of the farm school, speak of Mr. Shubart's articles in terms that he might wince to hear. *They cannot* attribute *good* motives to such outrageous misstatements, and wicked calumnies. Others, who have not seen the location, ask in manifest alarm, whether there can be a *shadow of truth* in the allegations, each one declaring at the same time, that he finds it impossible to conceive that men, known over all the State, for their eminent success as practical farmers, and thorough business men, should end a laborious examination of so many offered sites, by choosing any other than the very best, or should jeopard an institution on which so much hope centres—one, with which their names will ever be associated, and which is to them, a charge involving much unreturned expense and care, by locating it anywhere but in a situation combining all the essential advantages.

Who the "highly respectable gentleman, known throughout Pennsylvania, for his zeal to *promote* agriculture, who has *minutely* examined the location of the farm school," and has aided Mr. Shubart to his conclusions—is—I confess I am curious to know, and entirely at a loss to guess. Mr. Shubart will, it is to be hoped, visit the ground, and see for himself. I have been engaged in preparing ground, and in planting on the farm, and have therefore examined it as minutely as months of opportunity and different instruments and implements would allow, and have not, in my capacity, been able to find any fault at all with the location unless it be, that it has *too few faults* to allow sufficient opportunity of proving and exhibiting to students, on the home grounds the master of human skill over natural difficulties. All the objections, that have been charged against it, including its seclusion, from the idle crowds of any large town, seem to me to be, in the actual truth of the case, among its most positive advantages.

W. G. WARING.

Near Boalsburg, Pa., Nov. 24, 1856.

The Watchman.

EQUAL AND EXACT JUSTICE TO ALL

BELLEFONTE, PENNA.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 1857.

STATISTICS OF THE OLD YEAR.

Fires.—During the year just passed 227 fires have occurred, where the amount of property destroyed is estimated at over 20,000,000 dollars. The aggregate loss is set down at 21,159,000 dollars. If the amount of property destroyed by fires, where the loss was under 20,000 dollars were added, the total would probably reach twenty-five or twenty-six millions of dollars.

The number of human lives lost by fires during the year, is 183.

Emigration—The emigration during the past year exceeded, considerably, that of the year before; but it is still much less than of any previous year, except 1849. The number of emigrants is 141,915; there were 44,090 from Ireland; 55,856 from Germany, and 28,691 from England. The total number of passengers that arrived at New York during the year is 182,234.

Deaths of Old People.—Twenty-two men have died during the year over 100 years old, and the same number of females. A slave woman in Virginia attained the age of 127; another in Louisiana 124, and one 120.

Steamboat Accidents.—The number of steamboat accidents in our lakes, rivers and bays, which have been attended with loss of life, or injury to persons, is 29. The number killed, 358, and wounded 127.

Death of Old Soldiers.—During the year just expired, thirty revolutionary soldiers have died. The number on the pension list in July last was 514.

Gas Statistics.—During the year 1856, in Philadelphia, the quantity of gas manufactured at the gas works in Philadelphia under the Trustees, has amounted to four hundred and thirty-four millions of cubic feet. Total lights supplied by all the works, 332,556. During the same period, there has been laid 49, 991 feet of street mains. The entire length of mains belonging to the *Trust* is 1,132,018 feet, or something over 214 miles.

During the year 1856, there were 5312 tons of copper transported over the Georgia State Railroad, being the produce of the Southern mines.

From the official statistics of Ohio, for the year 1856, we learn that the State contains 921,443 horses, 1,680,710 cattle, 5,750 mules, 3 513,683 sheep, 1,831,124 swine, and 268,595 carriages.

During the year 1856, the number of licenses issued in Baltimore City, was 4,300 to traders, 1921 for marriages, 392 for the sale of liquor, 1581 for ordinary uses, 63 for brokers, 62 for peddlars and various others, making an aggregate with the above of 8,892.

The mortality of Philadelphia for the past year has been 16,222.

During the past year in Philadelphia, the number of fires were 299. False Alarms, 55. Total loss, $1,486,404. Total insurance, $852,495. Number of accidental fires, 108. Number of incendiaries, 109. Number of fires from other causes, 91.

Bellefonte Gas Company.—At the election for officers of the Bellefonte Gas Company for the ensuing year the following gentlemen were elected:

President—H. Blanchard.
Managers—J. V. Thomas, H. N. McAllister, Geo. W. Tate, Samuel Linn, P. B. Wilson, Wm. Helme.
Treasurer—W. M. Murray.
Secretary—Jacob Thomas.

There are at present nearly six hundred omnibuses in New York, which require, to keep them going, thirty-six hundred horses, and over one thousand men, exclusive of blacksmiths, harness makers, stage builders and painters attached to the various establishments.

An Editor Married.—Married, on the 24th of December, by Rev. J. S. Ermentrout, Col. Henry L. Acker, publisher of the Norristown *Register*, to Miss Rachael Rositor, of Port Carbon, Schuylkill county.

DEMOCRACY A POWER.

Democracy is a principle and a faith so well established and so generally approved that its opponents have adopted every popular name in the catalogue of politics, and every device in attempting to overthrow and turn it from its well earned laurels. They are fully aware that it is the great spirit that moves the heart of all popular Governments. Democracy in the United States is purely a political power organized originally upon a purely political basis. It has ever closely adhered to the principles of its organization and in no Presidential campaign more rigidly than in 1856. Its practical defination is an inborn sentiment in the minds of the masses that instinctively claim the greatest good for the greatest number. It is that elevating power in the hands of the people that will not be confined within the narrow limits of bigotry. It is a belief in the inherent right of the people to protect themselves from the encroachments of centralized power, or from anarchy even at the cannon's mouth. In fact it is the bold conservator of organic law. It prefers practical blessings to speculative. Democracy is emphatically a political power. The good offices of religion and philanthrophy are left to their appropriate spheres, subject to the control of an Almighty Providence. Democracy denits the right of church legislation in the halls of Government. The Bible, the great constitution of Heaven, places that power in the hands of another tribunal. The legitimate province of Democracy is to develop the political and material advancement of the people.

All history, ancient and modern, conclusively demonstrates this great fact—that the civil faids and broils and final downfal of most governments that have been blotted out of existence, have been caused mainly by an unnatural collision between the masses seeking their rights and what was denominated Divine rights and privileges. Bigoted religious and church dignatories have almost invariably arrayed themselves against the principles of Democracy and friends of freedom and anarchy and bloodshed too, often followed in the train of these clashing interests. The sentiment we call "patriotism" is the principle power that controls the people in all successful governments. Without this feeling, predominant in the masses, the best and purest efforts of government becomes paralized for good.

A patriotic man is proud of his government, proud of her national ensigns and emblems, proud of her national anniversaries, and proud of her progress and power. An unpatriotic man, bigoted, selfish and narrow minded, can see nothing good in the government unless he can participate in its control. A good policy or a bad one are alike the subjects of his malignant censure. The surest cause of success of the Democracy is its unconquerable pride for a wide spread Nationality. The Democracy is unquestionably a great brotherhood of the Union. Its members required no signs or pass-words to indicate their faith, and if they were demanded they would exultantly point to the banner of thirty one stars and stripes. This unanimity of sentiment is founded on the fact that the Democracy is purely a political organization. It will not claim kith or kin with any particular religious sect or creed. It will have nothing to do with isms, religions, social or domestic.

It owes no allegiance to any power foreign or domestic. A true Democrat is proud of his right to be an American citizen, not as a Massachusetts man or as a Georgia man, but as a Democrat of the great American Confederacy. Democracy is liberal in all things. It proscribes nothing, believing with Jefferson that error may be tolerated if truth is left free to combat it. All the vagaries and theories extant, such as Fourierism, Spiritualism, Woman's Rights isms, Mainelaw-ism, Anti-pope, Anti-Slavery, Anti-Bible Societies, and the like, may occupy the minds of individuals at their option, but they can find no place among the tents of the Democratic faith. Democracy then is purely and emphatically a political power in the land, against which the whole crusade of sins may war with impunity.—*N. Y. Daily News.*

Smooth Fire and Levins.—Everybody will be glad to see, by the House proceedings of Wednesday, that there is a prospect of the speedy demolition or abolishment of depreciated foreign coin, and the substitution of our substantial and every way convenient decimal coinage. Mr. Phelps reported, with amendments, the Senate bill, relative to foreign coinage and the coinage of new cent pieces. Mr. P. explained that the object was the withdrawal from circulation of all depreciated foreign coin, receiving Mexican and Spanish quarter, eighth, and sixteenth of a dollar pieces at twenty, ten, and five cents. The Committee of Ways and Means propose that the President shall fix, by proclamation, the description of the new cent coin. This precedent was set in 1796. Mr. Phelps urged the immediate passage of the bill; objection being made, its consideration was postponed for two weeks. We trust it will then be "put through," and become a law.

Sheep in Ohio.—The Ohio *Farmer* estimates the profit on sheep in that State the last year at $6,000,000, and the whole capital invested at $60,000,000. The number of sheep is probably 5,000,000, and the wool clipt last year reached 10,196,000 lbs., one-fifth of the entire wool clip of the Union.

Schuylkill County has a taxable population of 19,380, according to the septennial enumeration just completed, being an increase of 6,513 since 1849. The borough of Pottsville contains 2174 taxables. There are 22 blind, and 17 deaf and dumb persons in the county.

Northampton County has 11,204 taxable inhabitants, as appears by the recent enumeration. Of this number 2090 are in the borough of Easton. Four negroes are enrolled among the tax-payers, and there are 17 blind and 6 deaf and dumb persons in the county.

MEETING OF FORGEMEN.

Pursuant to public notice, delegates from the different Forges in the counties of Huntingdon, Centre and Blair, assembled in Convention at Tyrone City, on Friday, December 26th.

A session was held in the Town Hall, with closed doors, at ten o'clock in the morning, and organized by electing Benjamin R. Hopkins, President; William Barry and Benj. Rough, Vice Presidents; and Wm. R. Hopkins and Stanley Kays, Secretaries. More than one hundred forgemen and run-out men were present. Business matters pertaining to their mutual interests were discussed, and the following preamble and resolutions adopted:

Whereas, the system of paying in trade which has been practised upon the forgemen of this region, with its attendant evils, is reducing us to a condition but little more desirable than that of slavery; therefore,

Resolved, That we form ourselves into an association to be know as "The Forgemen's Aid Society."

Resolved, That we will not make or run out iron for less wages than we have heretofore been receiving; and after April 1st, 1857, our wages must be *paid in cash*.

Resolved, That those thrown out of employ in carrying out the restrictions of this Society, shall be entitled to receive, from us, three dollars a week, so long as the necessities of their case demand it.

At two o'clock in the afternoon, the Society being called to order, the President introduced A. W. Benedict, Esq., of Huntingdon, who proceeded to deliver a masterly and entertaining lecture upon the subject of "Labor and the Laborer." Mr. Benedict said that labor was the foundation upon which the structure of society rested—and being most indispensable, ought therefore, to be most valued. He spoke at length of the relations existing between employer and the employed, and of the duties which they owe one another. He maintained the dignity of labor, and the necessity of a manly and true life; and urged a thorough knowledge of whatever task is undertaken, and honesty in the performance of it, as being essential to the self-respect and social elevation of the laboring man. The remarks of Mr. B. were in his happiest vein—enriched with passages of genuine pathos, and a fund of quaint illustrations and racy anecdotes which called forth frequent bursts of applause.

Max. Green, Esq., was next called for, and responded in an earnest address. Mr. Green had come there from his sick room, but in reply to the solicitation could not refrain from assuring his friends of his heartfelt sympathy. He dwelt upon the practicability of regulating and advancing the prices of labor by organized effort, and glanced at the history of the progress which had been so made in this country and other parts of the world. He spoke of the great social wrong which gives to the manufacturers, merchants and professional gentry the enjoyment of riches which have been created by the ill-paid toil of hard fisted artizans; and alluded to the fact that, in a fertile country like this, two hours out of the twenty-four of well directed labor, on the part of every healthy man and woman, would be enough to supply the whole population with the necessaries and comforts of life. It was argued that, were labor properly paid, it would be better for all classes—for the child of "upperendom" who is sunk in effeminacy and debased by luxury, and certainly better for the toiling thousands who are bowed in body and mind by constant work, and are not even allowed time to think how they may improve their condition. He looked upon the moral and social elevation of the laboring classes as sure to follow in the wake of better wages: there would then be more time to read and reflect, and the man of work would become a match for his employer in point of shrewdness, and be qualified to look after his own interests in politics and every thing else, without having a privileged order of fellows set over him to do headwork. The title of *educated workingman*, he said, was the noblest on earth.—As a representative of the craft which instituted the first trade-union in America, Mr. G. congratulated the members of this association, and wished them God speed in their well-begun enterprise.

The speeches, throughout, were listened to with interest and evident satisfaction.—At the close, some appropriate and pointed remarks were made from the chair, breathing a spirit of determination and perseverance. After which the Convention adjourned.

Lieut. Gen. Scott's Annual Report to the War Department as General-in-chief of the Army is published. It is dated at the head quarters in New York, Nov. 28, and is very short, as the general state of the army is reported by the Adjutant General. He renews the suggestion for the provision for the retirement of superannuated officers; insists upon the increased compensation to commissioned officers; presents again the plan of relief to officers by a service table for every three years, instead of every five; and proposes an amendment of the pension law so as to place the army on as good a footing as the navy.

The Killing of a Child in its Mother's Arms.—The Albany *Journal* says that Miss Plainer, the young lady who in a fit of passion at Stockport, New York, threw a pair of scissors at her sister by which her little boy was struck and killed, has been admitted to bail in the sum of $5000. The *Journal* says: During her stay in the jail, Miss P. was very much dejected and ate little of the food offered her. She did not talk much and seemed indifferent what became of her, so sadly did the wretchedness of her condition affect her mind.

Singular Marriage Law.—The new marriage laws which have just been published in Austria recognize the marriage of a boy of fourteen with a girl of twelve as valid, "but the parties are to be seperated until they are of age."

The Washington *Star* says that Mr. John Appleton, of Maine, is to be editor of the Washington *Union*, under the new administration.

PHILADELPHIA CORRESPONDENCE.

Philadelphia, Jan. 3, 1857.

Mr. Editor:—The holidays have passed, and we are just entering upon a new year. May, we not hope that all who have had "short comings" during the past year, will take a look into the matter and resolve to turn over a new leaf, and behave better in the future. As far as this city is concerned, it has left its remembrance in several dreadful calamities. The first of these was the burning of the steamer New Jersey, by which awful event about 62 souls were sent into eternity. The next sad affair was the horrible massacre on the North Pennsylvania Rail Road, by which an equal number of happy excursionists were launched into the presence of their God. The worst of these sad affairs is that, nobody has been found guilty of causing them—yet it is certain somebody was to blame. The next calamity was the fire at Sixth and Market streets, when property was destroyed to the amount of about $600,000.

By the report of the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department, it appears that there were 290 fires during the past year. Estimated loss average $1,500,000; insurance about $1,000,000. Ninety of the fires were caused by incendiaries; 101 by accident, and the balance not known.

Sanford, of the celebrated Opera House, distributed several thousand loaves of bread to the poor on New Years day. You may be sure there was a rush.

The "shooting out the old year" was practised in this city to a great extent. Early in the evening the combustion of gunpowder commenced, and the rattle of firearms continued to increase until it reached its climax at midnight. It then decreased very gradually till daylight, when the "New Year shooters" went to bed about the time quiet citizens, who had been robbed of their rest, were about leaving their pillows. During a good part of the night the noise was as great as though the city had fallen into the hands of an enemy, and the invaders and the people were indulging in discharges of musketry in every street. This making a target of the New Year seems to be very fine fun for those who indulge in it, but it is death to the rest of other people. Gangs of young men paraded the streets as "Calithumpians," making night hideous with their disordant yells.

We were blessed with the first snow on Wednesday. How much pleasure and profit does the first snow generally bring with it! The young men and maidens begin to think of sleigh-rides in the moonlight, and of whispered words and tender glances, while the boys see in its fall heaps of snow-balls, and long, long slides down slippery hillsides. Indeed, there is something truly exhilerating to walk out in the falling snow, when the white flakes fill the quiet air, and all things are dimly seen through a falling veil; fleecy flakes seem to fill the air with a quiet joy that gives new vigor to the frame. But the first snow, generally, like all things pure and lovely on earth, soon fades away, scarce leaves a trace behind, as ours did, for a rain set in to-day, and the snow is numbered among the things that were.

Our circus is getting along splendidly, and so it should, for it is conducted on a most liberal scale, and the best possible order is maintained.

The deaths in our city for the week ending to-day, were 248. Of consumption 25, croup 11, scarlet fever 40, &c.—Adults 80, children 168. Under one year 76. The scarlet fever is and has been very prevalent.

The large silk store of Agnew & Co., in Chestnut below 8th, was damaged by fire and water yesterday morning, to the amount of $40,000. Yours, truly, Typo.

Father Mathew.—Upon the death of Father Mathew, the *Freeman's Journal* remarks that "few men filled so large a space in the public mind as did the great reformer who has just passed from amongst us, and no man of our day has left behind him so enduring a memorial of his labors as is everywhere to be met with in the improved tone of society which has resulted from his philanthrophic labors. For some years the health of Father Mathew has been so enfeebled that his death might have been daily expected; but we believe, that until immediately preceding the final struggle, no serious symptoms had given special cause of apprehension to his friends. The late hour at which the sad intelligence reached us precludes any lengthened notice of the labors of the good Father Mathew for the social elevation of the people. To these labors he was a martyr in every sense of the word.—He sacrificed property, he sacrificed health, and to the anxieties consequent on the ordeals through which he devoted to the work of temperance forced him was directly due the first attack of that fatal malady to which he finally succumbed."

Poultry in Philadelphia.—The *Ledger* of the 27th inst. says: The trade in poultry in this city, since the railroad connections with the West is prodigious in amount. We noticed the fact a day or two ago, that fourteen tuns of turkeys and geese were on their way to Philadelphia, to one commission merchant. Yesterday, 700 turkies came, by way of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, to another house, C. J. Blackburne, of this city, and between this and the 1st of January there will be 700 more sent to the same establishment. Turkeys now command about 12½ cents a pound in our market, which is as cheap eating as any other kind of animal food.

Death of Col. Reah Frazer.—We learn, with sincere regret, that Col. Reah Frazer, of Lancaster city, is no more. We announced, a few weeks since, that he had been taken to the Insane Asylum, in consequence of exhibiting unmistakable evidence of mental derangement, and we regret to learn now, that he died in the Asylum, on Tuesday last.

Mr. Thomas Norworthy, whose death at the age of nearly 99 years, was mentioned in the last *Salem (Mass.) Gazette*, had been married six times, and had 38 children.

Valuable Works.—We invite the attention of our readers to the advertisement in another column of Leonard Scott & Company, on their punctual complete and economical republication of the best English Periodicals. We endorse the remarks of the New York *Home Journal*, in relation to these republications. As representative works—giving the most able exposition of the most salient forms of public opinion on all the important questions of the day—it is difficult to overrate the value and interest of these works. As means of social enjoyment and literary culture, the articles published in them have a permanent value. The contributors are the best writers in each department. We can imagine no reading so well adapted at once to liberalize and to inform, to discipline and to excite the mind, as that of these leading periodicals. The *Edinburg Review* continues to furnish the most brilliant critical and biographical essays; the *Quarterly* is the ablest conservative journal extant; the *Westminster* the ablest advocate of liberalism; the *North British Review* combines literary excellence with evangelical sentiment, and *Blackwood* yields its modicum of racy fiction and learned editorial as richly as ever. Versed in the contents of these unrivalled journals, the intelligent reader is prepared to discuss the merits of the last famous book, and the mooted point in politics and science; he is provided with fresh and seasonable intellectual aliment, and "posted up" in the signs of the times, in the world of thought. We know no better New Year's gift to an intellectual friend, than a subscription for those invaluable works; and those who design to lay in a stock of intellectual pleasure and profit with the advent of a new season, will do well to subscribe to them.

The terms of these publications are such as place them within the reach of all. Mr. Scott will forward all the works for $10; whilst the price in England is $81. The postage to any part of the United States will be but twenty-four cents a year for "Blackwood," and but fourteen cents a year for each of the reviews. The publisher will furnish back numbers.

The Trade in Singing-Birds.—The New York *Tribune* says that fully twenty thousand song birds are sold in that city every year. The bulk of these birds are canaries, the trade of which is entirely in the hands of five or six Germans. The bird importers depart for Europe about the first of August to make their purchases—returning to New York in the course of two or three months. During their abscence they travel through the Hartz mountains, purchasing them from the peasants who raise as a past time, their stock of canaries, linets, finches, blackbirds thrushes, and other song birds. Males are sold in the mountains for $1 to $1.25 each. The importers have recently returned, with a portion of their stock, and it is estimated that 12,000 birds are now in the city for sale.

Cost of English Papers.—The London newsmen furnish the *Times* or *Post* on the day of publication for $5.75 a quarter. For the *Herald* $6 50 a quarter is charged. The second edition of the *London Times, Globe, Sun* or *Standard*, is furnished for $7.50 a quarter, or $30 a year. Copies of the *Times* one day old are furnished at $4 a quarter, so that the difference in the cost in England between a paper of the latest edition on the day of publication, or the next day succeeding, is equal to the subscription price of the largest commercial newspaper of the United States. A file of the London *Times* taken in this country costs about $52 a year, or nearly 17 cents for each copy of the paper. The English papers are conducted on the cash system exclusively. They have no subscribers, but are furnished to newsmen by the ream, who supply "patrons" in the city and country districts.

A Different Version.—A different version of the Monmouth, Ill., tragedy, in which the brothers Fleming, of Cumberland county, Pa., were killed by Wm. Crozier, appears in the Aurora *Beacon*. That paper states that Crozier, (an honest and respectable young man) was rejected by the father, who was "well to do," solely because he was not rich; that Miss Fleming eloped to a marriage, was sent to Pennsylvania, and that the family wanted to get a written renunciation of all claim to her hand from Crozier, who remained locked in his room with them for five hours before giving his signature to some compromise writing. They then attempted to cowhide him; after several blows he resisted, and a desperate scuffle ensued. One of the Flemings drew a pistol and fired at Crozier with intent to kill; the lawyer, who was present, struck the pistol up, and the charge lodged in the ceiling. Crozier then drew a jack-knife, and instantly killed them.

Gubernatorial Candidates.—The following named gentlemen are spoken of in connection with the Democratic Gubernatorial nominations, viz:

Gen. William F. Packer, of Lycoming.
Col. William Hopkins, of Washington.
Hon. William H. White, of Philadelphia.
Col. Samuel W. Black, of Allegheny.
Hon. John L. Dawson, of Fayette.

Places of Amusement in New York.—There are now about twenty places of amusement in the city of New York.—Among these are Italian opera houses, holding theatrical licenses. These theatres are nearly all new and about $3,000,000 are invested in them, in buildings, lands, decorations, scenery, properties, and costumes. The nightly expenses of the Italian operas seldom fall below $1,000; those of the theatres will probably average $300 per night.

The Electoral Vote of Wisconsin.—The first Wednesday of December was the day provided by United States law for the electors of President Vice President to meet at the capitols of the various States and cast their electoral votes. A snow storm on the day previous having shut off all communication with Madison, the electors for Wisconsin did not arrive there, and consequently the vote of Wisconsin was not cast for President.