AMERICAN VOLUNTEER.

JOHN B. BRATTON, Editor & Proprietor.

CARLISLE, PA., JAN. [illegible], 1860.

ANOTHER FIRE.—Shortly after seven o'clock on Tuesday evening last, the large stable belonging to Col. A. Noble, situated on Church Alley, was discovered to be on fire. Our firemen were soon on the ground and succeeded in confining the flames to the building. The Horses and Cows were got out without sustaining any injury. This, like many other fires we have had lately, is the work of an incendiary. The Stable was fully insured, consequently the loss to Mr. NOBLE will not be very great. All the fire Companies done well and are entitled to praise.

SPEECH OF SENATOR WELSH.—On our first page will be found the very able and effective speech of the Hon. W. H. Welsh of York, delivered in the State Senate, on the Republican resolutions endorsing Mr. Sherman. It is a bold and manly vindication of the National Administration and the Democratic party of the country from the aspersions and calumnies which, after the negro, form the exclusive stock in trade of Black Republicanism. Mr. Welsh's remarks merit, and will abundantly repay an attentive perusal.

SHADE TREES.—We frequently hear the hope expressed that the School Directors of every township in the county, where schools are without the protection of shade trees, will not suffer the coming season to pass by without having such trees planted around the institutions of learning within their charge. If there is one thing more grateful than another, during the heat of summer, more refreshing and invigorating, it is a cooling shade. Let not this duty—for duty it certainly is—be neglected when the Spring opens.

LECTURES.—A course of five lectures will be delivered during the present winter, for the benefit of the "Young Men's Christian Association" of this place, by distinguished speakers from abroad. The first of the course will be delivered by Rev. PETER CARTWRIGHT, the celebrated pioneer apostle of the West, on next Saturday evening, in the Methodist Church. His theme will be, *"Thrilling incidents in pioneer life."*

Tickets for the course, admitting two persons, $1; single tickets 15 cts., to be had at the stores of H. Saxton, J. Loudon, J. D. Halbert, and J. U. Steel, and also at the church on the evening of the lecture.

Doors will be open at 6½ o'clock. Lecture to commence at 7.

HISTORY AND DIRECTORY.—Let all support this enterprise, for which our town is being canvassed. The Book to contain a History of Carlisle, Directory containing the names of all heads of families, (male or female); indeed every one likely to be inquired for, list of streets all alphabetically arranged, statistical information of our local organization.—A portion of the book to be set apart for advertisements. To be found in both, in nice library style. Price on delivery $1 00.

☞ At a meeting of the Cumberland Fire Company, held last Saturday evening, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President—Thomas B. Thompson.
Secretary—P. Quigley.
Treasurer—H. S. Ritter.

Directors—1st, George A. Dillinin; 2d, J. S. Lyne; 3d, George Park; 4th, Hiram Gibb; 5th, Simon Smith.

The President appointed the following Committees: Accounts—E. D. Quigley, A. Martin, J. S. Main. Repairs—D. Haverstick, J. Brisbane, W. Matthews. Ladders—J. Gebhart, J. Albert, J. Spahr, jr. Assistant Pipeman—A. J. Reighter. Pugman—P. Gilmore.

☞ The *American* appears restless under the resolutions adopted by the late Democratic County Convention, and raves like a drab. Notwithstanding the foul abuse heaped upon the gentlemen who adopted those resolutions, the undeniable facts contained in them remain uncontroverted. The writer for the *American* may cry "false," till he is hoarse, (it is his *favorite* and *dignified* phrase,) but the people of this county are intelligent, and will brand the falsehood where it belongs. In a question of veracity, we think the characters of the gentlemen who composed the Convention will not suffer by comparison with his. The resolutions of the Convention, it is true, were prepared, we suppose, in a hurry, and were submitted without much pruning; they are couched in plain language, and recount many of the villainies of our mongrel opponents in plain English that cannot be misunderstood. Facts are stubborn things, and we are not surprised, therefore, that Black Republicanism winces at a recital of the treasonable doings of its self-fledged leaders. Popinjay politicians may howl about the *"People's Party,"* but this is more trickery, to cover up the shortcomings of the Black-Republican party—a party which, like some noisome pool, has become covered with a perfect gangrene of bitterness, hatred and vindictiveness.

THE UNITED STATES HOTEL.—It gives us great pleasure to inform those of our citizens visiting Philadelphia, that Messrs. KANAGA & MCVEY, have taken the UNITED STATES HOTEL, on the corner of Eleventh and Market Streets, formerly known as the Mansion House, which is admirably calculated for the convenience of travelers, being at the Pennsylvania Railroad Depot. The proprietors have both had much experience in the business, the former having kept the United States Hotel, at Harrisburg, for a number of years, and the latter was connected with the States Union Hotel, at Philadelphia. We advise all our friends visiting the city to give them a call. They will find them to be very accommodating, and to spare no pains to render them comfortable. The house has been completely refitted, and newly furnished, and the rooms are commodious and replete with every convenience to be found in the best Hotels in the City.

ELK COUNTY.—The Democratic Convention of Elk county met at Ridgway, on the 3d inst., and concurring in the appointment of R. L. Blood, of Jefferson county, as Senatorial Delegate, and Joseph P. Hyde and S. C. Hyde, as Representative Delegates to the State Convention, adopted resolutions recommending the nomination of Hon. Wm. H. Wittie, of Philadelphia, for Governor.

ARE THE REPUBLICANS IN FAVOR OF A TARIFF?

The "Republican National Committee" has recently published a call for the holding, at Chicago, on the 13th of June next, of a Convention, to place in nomination candidates to be supported for President and Vice President, at the next election. In this call, the principles of the Republican party are set forth in full, and all who can subscribe to those principles are invited to "co-operate with them in the support of the candidates who shall there be nominated." We expected, when we commenced reading over this call, that a revision of the tariff, so that better protection might be afforded the languishing interests of our country, would be a prominent plank in the Republican platform. But, we were mistaken—in their call the Republican Committee ignore the tariff question altogether. The slavery humbug is all they dwell upon, and in electing Delegates to the Chicago Convention, they only require the voter to be sound on this isolated issue to entitle him to full communion in the Republican synagogue.—Some of the Opposition journals, whose editors are really in earnest in advocating "protection to American industry," had their eyes opened when they read this Republican call. They now discover that their leaders are hostile to the protection principle, and that they are but playing the part of demagogues when they profess to be the advocates of a revision of the tariff. From the last number of the *Perry County Freeman*, the old and well-established opposition organ in Perry county, we clip the following remarks:

"BEHOLD THE DIFFERENCE.—Governor Packer, the Democratic Governor of Pennsylvania, in his last annual message, came out manfully and squarely in favor of the imposition of a tariff to protect American Industry. All honor to him for so doing. But the call for the Republican Convention, to meet at Chicago, prepared with great care, and after days, if not weeks and months of profound deliberation, by the *elite* of the Republican party, consigns the question of the protection of American Industry to the tomb of the Capulets—and treats it, by their contemptuous silence, as they did the questions that were agitated in the world before its destruction by the Noachian deluge. Why that silence?—Why that omission?"

"Why that silence—why that omission?" in regard to the tariff, inquires our cotemporary across the mountain. It was not necessary for him to ask such a question, for if he will but consult the record, he will find that his party, ever since the disruption of the old Whig party, has had but one hobby to ride, and that hobby was not the tariff. First it was Know-Nothingism, or opposition to naturalized foreigners. Next it was samboism, and that is the hobby now in all the Northern, Western and New England States. The party opposed to the Democracy, *when in power*, have invariably opposed the doctrine of protection. In 1854 when our opponents had a majority in Congress, what did they do?—Why, their first act was to elect BANKS of Massachusetts, Speaker, with the full knowledge that he was an ardent free-trade man, and hostile to the then existing tariff. The tariff of 1846 was then in operation, and the forges and furnaces of Pennsylvania were in active blast, and doing a lucrative business. Every interest in Pennsylvania was then prosperous. But, the Congress over which Mr. BANKS presided, repealed the tariff of 1846, and passed the odious tariff now in operation. By the operation of the present tariff, business became depressed, and the fires of our furnaces were extinguished. The duty upon iron under the tariff of 1846, was 30 per cent.—under the present tariff but 24 per centum. Is it to be wondered at that the iron interest has languished under the present tariff?

Again.—In 1857, when the opponents of the Democratic party in this State were looking over the list of their good men, to select therefrom a candidate for Governor, who did they pitch upon? DAVID WILMOT, the most rabid free-trade man in Pennsylvania. Again, when they desired a man as a candidate for Supreme Judge, who did they select? JOHN M. REED, a man who has all his life been a free-trader, and who left the Democratic party because he could not get the party to adopt his free-trade notions. But, both WILMOT and REED were good negro worshipers—they were ready to defraud and persecute the South—and this was all that was required of them.—These are facts—deny them who dare.

But, let us come down to the present day, and see what our Republican friends are doing for the principle of Protection. We venture to say that at this time, ninety-nine out of every hundred intelligent men in this State will admit that the tariff of 1846 was the best for the interests of Pennsylvania that has ever been in operation. As we said before, under that tariff every interest in our State prospered.

If we could only again get that tariff in operation, our forges and furnaces would again belch forth the lurid flame, and every part of our State would show evidences of wealth and prosperity. Well, at the last session of Congress, Mr. HUGHES, of Indiana, in accordance with the sentiments expressed in President BUCHANAN'S message, moved to suspend the rules of the House, in order to introduce the following bill:

"Be it enacted, That the act of Congress, approved March 3, 1857, entitled 'An act reducing the duties on imports, and for other purposes,' be and the same is hereby *repealed*; and the act of Congress, approved July 30, 1846, entitled 'An act regulating the duties on imports, and for other purposes,' be and the same is hereby revived, re-enacted, and put into force."

On the motion to suspend the rules, the yeas and nays were taken. On page 1364 of the *Congressional Globe*, for 1859, will be found the yeas and nays; and among the nays will be discovered the name of JOHN SHERMAN of Ohio. He voted against suspending the rules to revive the tariff of 1846, and repeal the destructive tariff of 1857. There is the record. And yet this free-trade SHERMAN is the man the Republicans of the present Congress have been supporting for two months for Speaker of the House! It really appears they will support no other than a free-trade man for any office. Is this not another and most conclusive proof that our opponents in this State, when they prate in favor of the tariff, are insincere, and are acting the part of demagogues? Had it not been for JOHN SHERMAN and men of like kidney, the tariff of 1846 would now be in operation, and our country prosperous, and the people happy.—SHERMAN, however, is the only man the Republicans can support for Speaker, and why? Because he is a vindictive Abolitionist. They never think of his free-trade opinions, or, if they do think of them, they make no objection to him on this ground. He is an Abolitionist, and endorsed that treasonable work, "Helper's Book"—a book that advises the ignorant slaves of the South to cut the throats of their masters! Let the people reflect.—More anon.

Old Brown's Career in Kansas.

At a "John Brown" anti-slavery meeting, in Lawrence, Capt. Walker was called upon to state what he knew of Brown's massacre at Pottawattomie.

Capt. Walker said, "Gentlemen, there is no use in keeping back the truth or perverting facts. John Brown told me himself that he was present at the murder of those men on Pottawatamie creek." (This startled like a thunder clap the defenders of Brown.) He proceeded: "I am ready to take an oath that John Brown made such a statement to me. I know more about this matter than I can state, especially as it would implicate as actors in that murder some persons now in this room. John Brown had those men in his power, and he could have kept them prisoners. For himself he never could justify taking a man prisoner and then deliberately cutting his throat.

Old Titus, whom he took prisoner, had threatened to cut his throat, had insulted his wife and threatened her life, yet he never felt justified in taking his life when his prisoner." Gov. Chas. Robinson also said that he believed John Brown had acknowledged to him he was present and approved of the killing of those men on Pottawatamie creek. Dr. Adair, a nephew of John Brown, was questioned in reference to John Brown's connection with the Pottawatamie massacre. He said John Brown had told him that he was present at the killing of those men. But there was palliating circumstances connected with it.

☞ The Black Republican members of our State Legislature, have felt themselves called upon to go to the assistance of JOHN SHERMAN, the candidate for Speaker of the National House of Representatives, who recommended the infamous Helper book, which declares that no man can be a patriot without being an Abolitionist, and counsels civil war and the wholesale murder of the slave-holding citizens of the South. A joint resolution has passed both Houses, sustaining the supporters of this traitor candidate. The whole Opposition vote was cast in its favor, whilst the Democrats voted against it in solid column. At the same time an amendment of Senator Bell, urging the organization of Congress by the election of a temporary Speaker, for the purpose of relieving the mail contractors and other suffering creditors of the Government, was flatly ignored. Thus, the whole Opposition party in Pennsylvania, has been practically transferred to the Helperites. What say the "American" portion of that party to this conduct on the part of the representatives they helped to elect? There is not a single "American" in Congress, that does not oppose John Sherman. And yet, JOHN M'CURDY and other members of the Legislature, who owe their election to American votes, do not hesitate to affiliate and consort with the supporters of the Helper candidate for Speaker. Is "Americanism" dead, or only sleeping, in Pennsylvania, or has the wool been so pulled over its eyes that it cannot see?

DEATH OF A PENNSYLVANIA ARTIST.—THOS. S. OFFICER, a native of Carlisle, and formerly widely known as an excellent miniature painter, died in California recently. The *Alta California* says: "After following his profession with varying fortunes for a long period of years, Mr. Officer embarked for Australia, but not meeting with the encouragement he expected, or his merits demanded, he returned home. Shortly after the Mexican war he visited that country, and met with considerable success, but being naturally of a wandering disposition, he soon became discontented, and came on to California, where he resided up to the time of his death. As with all artists of eminence, there is a strong individuality in his works. As a draftsman, he was always correct—every line was in its place, and none omitted that had a purpose in the picture, but, as a colorist, he stood preeminent. He loved color, and revelled in its mysteries and beauties with all the force and enthusiasm of his nature."

MONEY "TIGHT" AT WASHINGTON.—A correspondent of one of the Western papers says: "Washington City is at a dead lock pecuniarily. I am told that no merchant can get $500 from bank here, for the very simple reason that the banks have'nt got any money.—The banks have invested all their money in Post-Office drafts, and there is no appropriation until there is a Speaker. But that money is scarce here is undeniably true. Everybody that wants it has more than the usual difficulty in getting it. It is said that Glossbrenner, the Sergeant-at-arms, has advanced members the sum of $90,000, expecting to be re-paid when the Speaker can sign warrants. But the $90,000 have broke him, and he shows a blank face and an empty purse to all applicants. But this is one fact about the tightness of money which may be remarked as a sign of the times."

THE SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSIONER TO VIRGINIA.—Mr. Memminger, the Commissioner of South Carolina to Virginia, was publicly received in Richmond, on Thursday week. He was escorted to the Capitol by the military.—The national and Virginia flags waved over the building. He spoke four hours to immense crowds. He described the inroads of the North upon the rights of the South, and the rise and progress of Abolitionism. He drew a dreary picture of their present relations with the North, and showed that the guarantees of the Constitution were powerless to protect the South. The South must make a demand for new guarantees if the Union is to be preserved, or else make concession after concession till they lose all influence and right in the confederacy. He urged a Convention of the Southern States to consider their relations with the North. Mr. Memminger was listened to with interest throughout his long discourse.

MAIL SERVICE IN PENNSYLVANIA.—The Post Office Department has given notice, that proposals will be received at the contract office, until the 31st of March, for carrying the mails in Pennsylvania for four years from July 1, 1860.

Hard Times Out West.

The Boston *Herald* has reliable reports showing what distress results from the drain of money from the Northwest, owing to our present low tariff. The *Herald* says:—We have heard of many individual cases of peculiar hardship. One man from New Orleans invested $30,000 in St. Paul a few years since, and a few months ago he determined to "realize" upon it. He sold it for eighteen hundred dollars!

A gentleman who lives in Minnesota informs us that a few days since he was passing through the streets of St. Paul, and saw one of the citizens who had been a large dealer in real estate, chopping down his well-curb with an axe. He stopped and inquired the reason of a proceeding so erratic and apparently so rash. "Come into the yard and I'll tell you," said the chopper, and he proceeded to state that he was unable to collect a cent of monies due him for some time, and borrowing was out of the question. He had not a stick of wood in the house to cook his dinner with, and as he objected to starving and freezing, he was sacrificing his well-curb to his absolute necessities.

In Davenport, Iowa, a gentleman, who, with a partner, transacted the heaviest grain and lumber business done in that section of the country, is now earning his bread by driving an express wagon. The city of Davenport is dead broke. No watchman, no gas, no money in the city treasury to pay for anything. Iowa is, in fact, worse off than Minnesota, where a good crop of wheat was raised for exportation last year. Two good crops will restore the Northwest to something like prosperity. But the pressure it is now undergoing will ruin thousands of individuals, and check the general growth of that region for several years.

STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society met in Harrisburg last Tuesday a week, for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year. The statement of the Treasurer shows that there is a cash balance of $7,623, in the Treasury, upon which exhibit it was resolved to appropriate $1,500 towards the Farmer's High School. Hon. David Taggart having declined a re-election, the following new board was chosen:

President—Jacob S. Haldeman, of Dauphin county.

Vice Presidents—1st district, George W. Woodward; 2d, George Cadwalader; 3d, James Gowen; 4th, Robert Hare Powell; 5th, Thomas P. Knox; 6th, George Thomas; 7th, Adrian Cornell; 8th, George M. Lauman; 9th, Coleman Henderson; 10th, B. G. Peters; 11th, Amos E. Kapp; 12th, E. W. Sturdevant; 13th, Henry D. Maxwell; 14th, Henry Drinker; 15th, John B. Beck; 16th, Christian Eberly; 17th, William Heyser; 18th, Elias Baker; 19th, William A. Stokes; 20th, Joshua Wright; 21st, John Murdoch, Jr.,; 22d, John Young, Jr.,; 23d, Thomas J. Power; 24th, Henry Souther; 25th, James Miles.

Treasurer—George H. Bucher.

Corresponding Secretary—A. B. Hamilton.

Chemist and Geologist—S. S. Haldeman.

Librarian—Henry Gilbert.

NO SPEAKER YET!—Congress is still unorganized. No vote for Speaker of the House has been taken this week, the whole time having been consumed in fruitless debate. The prospects of an organization are as remote as ever. Beyond the election of Gen. Bowman, as Printer, the Senate has also done nothing, and therefore we have no Congressional proceedings to report this week.

☞ It is a remarkable fact that nearly all of the candidates for the Vice-Presidency in the Democratic National Convention at Cincinnati, in June, 1856, have since paid the debt of nature. Lynn Boyd, of Kentucky, J. C. Dobbin, of North Carolina, General Quitman, of Mississippi, General Rusk, of Texas, Aaron V. Brown, of Tennessee, were presented as candidates by their respective States, and obtained a large support. They are now all dead! General Quitman got the highest number of votes of any candidate on the first ballot—more, even, than Mr. Breckinridge, who finally received the nomination. He was nominated by the eloquent and gifted Harris, of Illinois, who is also deceased. What changes time makes in four years!

THAT'S SO.—Discontinuing to advertise, says the Philadelphia *Bulletin*, is like taking down one's own sign. It is a sort of intimation of retirement from business, and the public treat it as such. Or they may regard it as evidence that something has gone wrong, which requires privacy for investigation.—Whatever construction may be put upon it, the result is disastrous. Now we advise all our readers who may have fallen into the common error of the season to come out of their holes, to put up their signs once more; and to advertise in as many as they did in the best times. While business creates advertising it is equally true that advertising creates business. It creates a talk and stir in business circles, and reminds people that they have no right to be leading drones' lives even though the times be dull. And even in the worst of times advertising always pays well, and the more of it there is, the greater will be the circulation of money, and the sooner will be restored a condition of prosperity.

CAUTION.—The entire country just now appears to be flooded with counterfeit bank notes and all kinds of bogus coin. We have already given descriptions of a number of well executed counterfeits on various banks; but now ones are daily making their appearance, and business men generally cannot be too careful. We speak feelingly on this subject, having been taken in several times.—Carlisle seems to be blessed with its full share of bogus quarters and halves, making it absolutely necessary for business men to examine every piece of silver they receive.

TRIAL OF CONSPIRATORS.—The Legislature of Virginia having authorized a special term of the Circuit Court of the county of Jefferson, Judge Parker has directed notice to be given that the term will be commenced on the first of February next. It is understood that Stephens and Hazlett, two of the Harper's Ferry conspirators, will be tried. Business not reached at the last regular term is also to be despatched.

☞ The ladies of Concord, N. H., are taking advantage of Leap Year, and are giving parties at a rapid rate. At a party at Music Hall, Monday evening, says the *Democrat*, "the gentlemen were served, waited upon, and treated with a degree of elegant gallantry which made them well nigh wish all years might be Leap Years."

ALMANACS.

Some of these days when we have time, we intend to elaborate an article on almanacs.—We shall point out their growth, the uses to which they are now put, the vehicles of thought, of anecdote, of statistics, of information, of quack medicines and of lies generally, which they have become. They go into the religious, as well as the scientific world; and rate from $1 25 to nothing.

But we desire at present to speak of the political almanac. The *Tribune Almanac*, for 1860," has been laid on our table. Our readers do not need to be told the character of that publication. As a specimen of the unfairness with which its political articles are prepared, we give an extract from its pages. In an article headed "The Foreign Slave trade," Greely says:—

"Mr. Clay was put in nomination by the whigs, and that eminent statesman and his friends assured the public that Mr. Polk's election would inevitable result in the annexation of Texas, to be followed by a wasting and demoralizing war with Mexico—a view of the case which was stoutly denied by the Democracy. After a hotly contested canvass, Mr. Polk was elected President. Texas was annexed, and the war followed, &c."

Any one reading that paragraph and unacquainted with the facts, would suppose that Texas had been annexed before Mr. Polk's election; and would not dream that the work had been done by a man elected by Mr. Greely and his party. Yet such is the fact, the last official act being performed by Mr. Tyler.

When Mr. Polk came into office the deed was done, and the only question was to defend our territory from invasion, and that was done by the DEMOCRATS, those whigs who are now *republicans*, being as usual, on the side of the enemy. Most of those who have since become democrats or are now Americans, were with us then.

We shall not pursue the subject. Such are the falsehoods of "The Tribune Almanac." Can we not have a DEMOCRATIC ALMANAC, regularly issued, giving a true version of the current political history? Such a publication is much needed.

OUR SENATOR.

The last Harrisburg *State Sentinel* pays the following compliment to the Senator from this District, Dr. E. D. CRAWFORD. Dr. C. is quite a favorite in the Senate, and the people of Cumberland, Perry, Juniata and Mifflin, may congratulate themselves in having a representative in that body who is "every inch a man," and who will never betray their confidence;

HON. E. D. CRAWFORD.—This gentleman who represents the counties of Cumberland, Juniata, Perry, and Mifflin, in the State Senate, has, since his sojourn at the State Capitol, made a most favorable impression upon all whose good fortune it has been to make his acquaintance.

Dr. CRAWFOND is a man of fine social qualities; dignified and graceful in his address and pleasing in his manners, he combines in his character all those essential elements necessary to render him a popular and successful political leader. Although, as yet, no occasion has been presented to invite him to the floor, we have no doubt that when his aid is invoked, he will be found, in every sense, equal to the task. He is endowed with fine natural ability, and a highly cultivated mind, and we predict for him a future full of promise. Of his political orthodoxy, it would be presumptive on our part to speak, inasmuch as, in the last canvass, he fully established his title to a position in the front rank of sound conservative National Democracy. In his election the Democracy of his District displayed good judgment; for we are confident in him they will find a fearless and incorruptible guardian of their rights and interests.

LET US BE UNITED.—Now is no time for the Democracy to express feelings of bitterness towards each other. In all our intercourse and in all our conventions and public gatherings, let a conciliatory course be pursued.—The year 1860, says the North Carolina *Standard*, will be the most trying year ever known in this country to parties, to States, and to the Union.

We believe that the only hope for the Union is to be found in the National Democratic party, as an organization, sustained and strengthened by conservative men in all parts of the country.

This, then, is no time for now party issues or tests in federal or in state affairs. This is no time for disputes about slavery in the Territories, for what do we care for Territories and embryo States, when sovereign States are themselves in peril?

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE.—The New York *Courier and Enquirer*, Black Republican, owns up squarely that its party is responsible for the protracted disorganization of the House. It says that the "Republicans have a large majority in the House," that "it would be folly for them to surrender," and that "they are entitled to have a speaker of their own choice," and that "they do not intend to surrender." If they have "a large majority," why, then, do they not elect their man? Are they keeping the House disorganized to make party capital? A majority will, at any time, elect a speaker—especially a large one. If the sectionalists have it, then why don't they organize?

DINING CARS ON RAILROADS.—One of our exchanges proposes to have a dining car upon railroads. Everybody, say they, "wants to go ahead, and get to the end of the route in the least possible time, and yet everybody grumbles at having to bolt his food at the station eating-house like a starved hon, swallowing coffee in a manner which may not exactly be called drinking, but, very properly, pouring it down; getting their change, if they can, as best they may, and then, without waiting to count it, making a straight wake for the cars, with a piece of chicken in one hand, and a pie in the other, getting on board out of breath just as the cars move off, and not always being so fortunate as that." Neither our neighbors nor ourselves see any difficulty in getting rid of this disturbance and discomfort, by attaching a dining car to each train. Doubtless, if such a car was put upon each of the through lines, and properly kept, it would be a great accommodation to passengers, and a source of revenue to the companies who might adopt the plan. There are many who travel on railroads who would prefer a plain dinner with leisure to enjoy it, before a more dainty one requiring to be disposed of in such a hasty manner. Besides, the aggregate of the stoppages on a long journey night, we should suppose, be somewhat shortened by the adoption of this expedient. Now that we have sleeping cars, we only require a dining car to make travel on the rail equal in completeness to that on our best river boats.

Exciting Murder Trial---Six Negroes Convicted of Manslaughter.

A very exciting murder trial has just been disposed of at Waynesburg, Greene county, Pa. In August last, a difficulty occurred between the colored residents of Dotysburg, near Waynesburg, and a portion of the white population, which resulted in the latter warning the former to leave the village.

The feeling, which seems to have had its origin in a belief on the part of the whites that the presence of the negroes in the neighborhood tended to lower the price of labor, soon extended to Waynesburg, and the Dotysburg men threatening to rid that place of its black population too, the latter procured arms and made preparations for resisting any attack that might be made upon them. On the 25th of August, a party of whites visited Waynesburg, and while there one of them named Sealy Zimmerman, knocked down a negro on the street, while the whole were rather abusive in their remarks about the colored people of the place. On their return home they were attacked by 15 or 20 armed negroes and some 12 or 14 shots discharged upon them.

The whites ran away, leaving Zimmerman dead on the field, while the blacks, satisfied with the result of the conflict, returned to their homes. Another of the whites named Harrington, received a ball in the arm, but the balance, in the darkness, escaped. Eight negroes were arrested for the murder next day, and tried in Greene county court last week. The trial lasted several days—the evidence in one of the local papers extending over seventeen columns—and resulted in a verdict of manslaughter against six of the defendants. The other two were acquitted.—The prisoners got five years each in the penitentiary.

COWHIDING.—SERVED HIM RIGHT FOR HIS IMPERTINENCE.—The Brooklyn *Daily Times* tells a story about a certain Dr. S——, who being called to visit a sick man, undertook to kiss the sick man's pretty wife. A few days later, the Doctor, thinking no doubt of his patient's pretty wife, called again. In the meantime she had told her mother and sister of the doctor's acts, and they resolved to summarily punish the doctor for his improper conduct.

The wife and sister had supplied themselves with a couple of pounds of flour apiece, and a good strong cowhide. The doctor entered the apartment where they both were sitting, and commenced casting sly glances at the young wife, when she said to her sister, "are you ready?" sister replied "yes," when puff, puff, puff, went a couple of pounds of flour all over the Doctor's head, eyes, nose, mouth and other upper regions. He was blinded and taken "all aback," but came to his senses when the flour was immediately followed by sharp and heavy blows from the cowhide, well laid on by the young wife, whose arm was strengthened by the thought of the insults she had received from him.

The Doctor yelled furiously and tried to escape, but no go—the front door was locked. Then he ran out the back door and tried the yard gate, followed all the way by the wife, who was unmercifully plying the cowhide all the while. But that gate was locked also, and it was not until his coat had been well dusted that he succeeded in making his escape over the fence, *into his gig, and away.*

FRIGHTFUL RAILROAD ACCIDENT.—We find in the Pittsburg papers an account of another shocking accident on the Pennsylvania Railroad, which occurred near Lanimer's station on Friday. It appears that as the freight train was passing through the deep cut west of the above-named station, a huge rock became detached from the hill above, and rolling down with great velocity, fell on the engine house, crushing it to fragments, and injuring the engineer to such an extent that he died instantly. The name of the deceased was Nathaniel Burger. He was a married man, and leaves a wife and child to mourn their bereavement. The body of the deceased was shockingly mangled and mutilated. One of his arms and both his legs were broken off, and his face horribly disfigured. The force with which the rock came down threw the engine and tender off the track, and damaged the former badly. The obstruction was removed with all possible despatch, and an hour or two after the accident, the track was clear for travel as before.

A FATEFUL ACCIDENT.—FOUR DEATHS.—A most distressing occurrence lately took place in the town of Bloomer, Montcalm county, Michigan. At the raising of a large barn, a couple of small boys were playing with a large broadaxe, when one of them suggested to his playmate to lay his head on a block and let him cut it off, which was done, and the sharp heavy axe instantly severed the head from the body of the little fellow. Just at this instant a large "bent" of the frame was poised midair; but the men engaged in it were so shocked at the sight that they let go their hold, when the huge timbers, with a tremendous crash, fell to the ground, killing three men instantly.

☞ Kaufholtz, who was shot in Chicago last week, by his partner, Williams, in a fit of jealousy, is slowly recovering. His life is due, probably, to the faithfulness of his dog, which, when Williams attacked his master, sprang upon him with a ferocity which finally compelled Williams to make a hasty exit. Had it not been for the dog, Williams would most undoubtedly have killed him, as he was intensely enraged at the time, and expressed great regret afterward, when informed that the wounded man would recover.

☞ A sensible writer advises those who would enjoy good eating, to keep good natured; for, says he, "an angry man can't tell whether he is eating boiled cabbage or stewed umbrellas."

HENRY CLAY.—This great statesman, in a speech at Frankford, Ky., made this one remark to us all:—"I am a Whig; but if it requires me to be any part of an Abolitionist to be a Whig, then I am no Whig."

DEATH OF AN AUTHOR.—Thomas F. Gordon, formerly of Philadelphia, and author of the Digest of the Laws of the United States, died in Beverly, N. J., on the 17th inst.

☞ Lieut. Israel Green, of the Marine Corps, who led the storming party which captured John Brown, at Harper's Ferry, is a native of Green Bay, Wis., where his parents now reside.

The Mineral Oil in Venango.

It appears to be a fixed fact that the oil produced in Venango, and other counties along the Allegheny river, is destined to become a great and permanent source of wealth. In some localities the yield is tremendous.—This oil, when properly purified and refined is worth from ninety cents to one dollar and twenty-five cents per gallon in the Pittsburg market, and, as it is used for a great variety of purposes, the demand is constant and increasing.

The last number of the Venanga *Spectator* gives us the following new items regarding the oil product.

Since our last, a pump has been put into the oil well, on the farm of Hamilton M'Clintock, on Oil Creek, two miles above the mouth, and the yield of oil is beyond expectation, being near double that of Drake's. A number of persons have visited the well, and all agree that at least, one gallon of pure oil is pumped every minute! The quantity appears to be limited only to the capacity of the pump, and no doubts are entertained of the supply holding out. The proprietors are busily engaged in making preparations to barel the oil, which appears to be the great difficulty in the way.

California and Pike's Peak will have to knock under to this.

Other wells are being sunk in that vicinity. One a little farther up, in which our young friend, Kim Hubbard, is largely interested, has reached the oil, and bids fair to equal the best in productiveness.

There is no difficulty in obtaining sites by giving a percentage of oil, and there appears to be a general "pitching in," by those desiring to try their luck.

Wreck of the Ship Flora Temple.

A correspondent of the New York *Herald* furnishes a graphic account of the wreck of the American clipper ship Flora Temple, of Baltimore, in the Chinn Sea, on the 8th of October, with the loss of 850 coolies and 18 Europeans. After the vessel struck, the boats were lowered, in order to keep them out of the reach of the coolies, and the captain and crew sailed away for the nearest port, leaving the coolies without a chance for their lives, as the waves were breaking over the ship every minute. The writer, who was in one of the boats, describes their voyage of 14 days, to Tourin, and says:

Immediately on our arrival at Touran, Captain Johnson called on the French Admiral, M. Page, and begged him to send in search of the missing boats, as well as to the rescue of the coolies. With the greatest readiness this request was at once complied with, and the steamer Gironde was dispatched with orders to proceed to the scene of the disaster.—Our men were transferred to another vessel to be sent out to Hong Kong; Captain Johnson, his brother and myself proceeding in the Gironde. On Wednesday, the 2d of November, at 2 o'clock, we were again in sight of the reef. No relic of the gallant ship we had left appeared, till on proceeding closer in a boat, the port side, from the main chains forward, could be seen floating, attached to the remainder of the wreck by the rigging, together with the bowsprit and jibboom and the top of what seemed to be the main skysail mast. Of 850 coolies not one remained. Close to the reef, within a short distance of the wreck, on the southeast side, the boat was sounded and found no bottom at twenty-seven fathoms; and within a mile, to the northwest, the steamer found no bottom at seventy fathoms. The breakers on the reef extended about one-third of a mile, in a curved line from northeast to southwest. They were very narrow, not over one hundred yards in width.

The loss of this splendid ship cannot fail to excite a general interest, when it is remembered that in all probability 850 human beings (not to speak of the 18 Europeans in the missing boats,) have perished with her.

LEAP YEAR.—This year of our Lord, 1860, has been wisely set apart for the benefit of that class of ladies who are anxious to enter the state of matrimony, but who have not had the good fortune to entice some luckless wight into the meshes of their net. On and after the 29th day of February, 1860, the ladies will be fully authorized to commence making love to any gentleman they may deem worthy of their hands, hearts and fortunes.

The year is called leap year, because it is the ladies' privilege to "leap" into the arms of the man she fancies. To prove this, we quote from an old work, printed in 1660, entitled, "Courtship, Love, and Matrimonie." In the chapter entitled, "When ye girles shall sparke ye menne," the learned author thus speaks:

"Albeit, it is nowe a parte of ye Common Lawe in regard to ye social relations of life, that as often as every bissextile year doth return, ye ladies have ye sole privilege during the whole time it continueth, of making love unto ye men, which they may do either by words or looks, as unto them it seemeth proper; and moreover, no man will be entitled to ye benefit of clergy who doth refuse to accept ye offer of a ladye, or who doth in any wise treat her proposal with slight or contumely."

Therefore, ladies, you must comply with the law, and, bringing your captives up to the altar, allow them the benefit of clergy.

INTERESTING TO WIDOWS.—The Pittsburg *Legal Journal* gives the following decision of the Supreme Court in this State, in regard to a widow's claim under the exemption law:

"The right of a widow to retain real or personal property of her deceased husband's estate to the value of three hundred dollars, is waived entirely, when she neglects to demand an appraisement. If an appraisement be made, and she neglects to retain less than the value of three hundred dollars, she waives her claim to all which she neglects to retain. She has no right to a second appraisement."

☞ Chief-Justice Taney has sufficiently recovered from his attack of pneumonic catarrh to believe that he will be able to resume his seat in the Supreme Court very shortly.

THE "CONTINENTAL" HOTEL.—This gigantic Philadelphia structure is rapidly approaching completion. It is thought that it will be, when completed, the largest hotel on this continent.

STATE LIBRARIAN.—The State Senate on the 9th inst., unanimously confirmed the appointment of the Rev. Wm. R. DeWitt, as State Librarian for the next three years.

☞ Hon. Judge Mason, of Iowa, who made himself so popular with the Inventors of the Country while he held the office of Commissioner of Patents, has, we learn, associated himself with Munn & Co., at the Scientific American office, New York.