

There was witness to an event that riveted his attention, and eventually caused him to investigate its nature thoroughly. He encountered a Spaniard in the field, and beheld a venomous snake (the deadly Cobra di Capello) approach him. The former was making a peculiar sound by snapping his thumb and finger together. The reptile was about a yard in length, and while this process was going on stood in front of the man, with his eyes fixed steadily upon him, and elevated a foot perhaps above the ground. He did not offer either to advance further or retire. At length the Spaniard seized him by the neck, and immediately the snake was powerless, offering no resistance whatever. The engineer was thunder-struck at his temerity, but being no harm done, he resolved, as has been said, to probe the matter to the bottom. He, however, purchased the snake of the Spaniard, secured it in a bottle spirits, brought it home to Philadelphia with him, and has it now in his cabinet, preserved in the best of whiskey.

According to agreement it was not long before a message came from the serpent charmer to the engineer that if he could come down, about two miles, he might see him catch another for him. He went and found the Spaniard in the act of exercising his influence over another large Cobra di Capello, and attracting him towards him. This he captured in the manner already related. It was five feet long, having large fangs. The engineer gave him orders for several more, being desirous of presenting them to scientific friends. It was not long before an opportunity was enjoyed by the Spaniard to execute the order. He was crossing the river with two other men in a row-boat when a huge boa constrictor, upwards of eleven feet in length, appeared swimming not far from them. The rowmen were alarmed, but he attempted to secure him without effect; and perceiving that he was making for the land, where he could escape, the Spaniard threw himself into the water and gave chase. He caught him just as he was landing, and brought him at once alive in triumph to our American. The latter made a strong box immediately to put his snake in, supplied with small holes for respiration.

We will say no more of snake-catching at present, but endeavor to throw some light on the means this Spaniard used, and perhaps other charmers have employed for their capture without receiving harm. Our friend prevailed on him, for a handsome compensation, to reveal the mystery. Upon this he said he anointed himself with the juice of the leaves of the snake tree, which, though very common, grows in the forest of the Isthmus. The odor of this juice is endowed with the power of paralyzing or charming or working on the serpent to such a degree as to deprive the most venomous of the ability or disposition either to resist capture, or strike with their fangs. He informed me, said the engineer—for we have the account from his own mouth—that he would prepare me with the fluid, after which I might handle the most venomous serpents with entire impunity. I begged to be excused, and would much prefer that he would try the experiment on one of his own particular acquaintances, which he promised he would do. This an accident prevented, as will be seen.

Of course our friend, the engineer, did not let the matter rest here, but made a bargain with the Spaniard that he would go with him to the interior and show him the snake tree, that possessed such virtues, and he was promised one hundred dollars for the revelation. Before this, however, could be accomplished, the snake charmer was arrested by the government for some offense, and the American saw him no more. Nevertheless, he did not give the matter up, but made it his business at once to inquire among the Indians for this snake tree. He met with one at length who was able to carry him to where one grew, which he reached after painfully forcing his way through several miles. It was a large and handsome tree, with leaves resembling the basket willow, and was covered with nuts about the size of a hickory nut. He picked forty, which he brought home and distributed among friends so liberally that one only now remains in his possession, which we ourselves saw and examined. It is remarkable for this, that what is called the meat in a walnut strongly represents in the snake tree nut a serpent coiled, with the head distinct and quite prominent. The likeness to a snake is certainly remarkable. This is the tree the juice of whose foliage has such irresistible potency in quelling the rage of the most venomous of the species. In order to produce this effect the limbs, legs and all parts of the body exposed is anointed with the bruised leaves which emit a very peculiar odor.

But we must not omit to tell the reader what became of the boa constrictor confined in the box. It was put on board of a steamer consigned to Dr. Deane, the health officer at that time in New York. One day upon the passage its keeper was astonished to find a dead constrictor lying in the box as large as that he had put in, which was still alive and well. The mystery is accounted for by the supposition that the dead animal was in the barrels of the live one when captured and enclosed in the box. It is an established fact that the parent snake affords a asylum within her own body for her young at least, which accordingly are in the habit of flying to it for protection. It is further represented that the male serpent reports to the body of his mate for other purposes than security.

The remaining history of the boa may be soon told. A little before the arrival of the steamer at New York the captain caused the reptile to be fed with a piece of salt pork. The consequence was fatal; it immediately sickened and died. There seems to be a mortal enmity between swine and snakes. But the Parker fears not the poison of the reptile, while even the rattlesnake avoids the presence of the, to him, deadly grunter.

It is a sad reflection that many men hardly have any religion at all, and most men have none of their own; for that which is the religion of their education, and not of their judgment, is the religion of another, and not their own.—Pain.

The Columbia Spy.

A PENNSYLVANIA INDEPENDENT JOURNAL.

COLUMBIA, PA.
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1857.

Rev. Mr. Gamble will preach in the Presbyterian Church Sabbath Morning and evening.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.—Dr. E. B. Herr, Medicines; Haldeman's, New Fall Goods; Elijah Howe, New Oyster Saloon; Henry Conklin, Election of Turnpike Officers; Columbia Bank, Notice to Stockholders; Sam'l B. Heise, Gun Stolen; Sprenger & Westhaeffer, Books; Mrs. E. Shaffer, Millinery Goods; John Boggs, Bellevue House For Rent.

GAS—ITS SINGULAR POWERS AND PROPERTIES.—The late suspension of the flow of light from the Columbia Gas Works, has developed some singular properties of the gas of this establishment which affords a subject for entertaining study and speculation for the Natural Philosopher and inquiring mind. We refer to the curious facility or tenacity with which the air in the pipes attains or retains (to a degree) the illuminating properties of the genuine gas. It has been some weeks since the manufacture of gas at the works was suspended, for the purpose of making extensive repairs, yet on the evening of last Saturday the air in the pipes was discovered to be inflammable, and a brief illumination of the town was the consequence. At intervals through the present week the same astonishing phenomenon has been observed, and many persons, with some aid from tallow, lard, camphine and other temporary illuminators, have succeeded in procuring sufficient light from the pipes to delude them into the belief that they were actually once more enjoying the luxury of Col. Green's best. Some, with unreasonable incredulity, refuse to accept the popular theory that the air in the pipes has acquired its gaseous properties from the pipes themselves, and insist that the gas works have been in full operation for more than a week.

This may do for the unreflecting; but with the profound delver after hidden knowledge the solution is entirely too natural and simple to be regarded as anything but the absurd supposition of one of those unbelieving skeptics, who profanely attempt to account by so called natural laws, for the milk in the cocoon. We are divided in opinion between the light theory and one of our own, that the light proceeds from political sources; the gas which since the election finds no legitimate vent has turned its illuminating powers to the succor of this benighted town. One fact militates strongly against this latter speculation; the light is neither brilliant nor steady enough to proceed from political gas, which we need not say is known for its unwavering and brilliantly illuminating powers. Another serious objection is, "how did the gas get into the pipes?" We can only account for this on the supposition that some of the defeated candidates have put an end to their useful existence by drowning themselves in the gas tank, and the light is the mephitic exhalations of their unfortunate remains; a striking example of "the ruling passion strong in death."

The following, from the Express of the 22d inst., speaks well for the newly elected Sheriff. It is a favorite in this section, where we regret to state that he has been known in his official capacity under his predecessor. We wish him every success in business consistent with our own safety. May Mr. Rowe fill his office as well, and retire with the same popularity as Mr. Martin.

Sheriff Rowe: A Herr Smith, Esq., yesterday presented to their Honors, Henry G. Long and Alex. L. Hayes, at Chambers, the bond and recognizance of Mr. Benjamin F. Rowe, the newly elected Sheriff, and had the same approved. The penal sum is \$20,000. The commission of the Governor has come in hand, and Mr. Rowe has entered upon the discharge of his duties. These, at times very unpleasant, we doubt not will be performed with that urbanity and humanity which characterize the officer and gentleman.

As Deputy under our worthy Ex Sheriff George Martin, with whom we part with regret, he won the esteem of all who transacted business with him, and as Sheriff, we predict, that his courtesy, fidelity and sobriety, will render him not less successful in his efforts to serve and please the public.

CLERK OF QUARTER SESSIONS.—In the hurry of last week we neglected to congratulate the successful candidate for this office. As the only Columbia elected to county office it behoves us to make much of him. Mr. Evans made a good run in his own town, and was elected by a handsome majority in the county. We have no doubt of his making an efficient officer, and believe that he will give every satisfaction in his new capacity.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE.—We are in receipt of Harper for November. It is an excellent number of this great monthly. The style in which the publishers turn out their Magazine is such as to warrant confidence in subscribers that they will always receive a readable book, printed on first-rate paper and illustrated with most superior wood-cuts. The present number contains a continuation of the illustrated article "A Winter in the South," with several others, also illustrated, including the popular "Nothing to Wear," which first appeared in Harper's Weekly.

ELECTIC MEDICAL JOURNAL.—We have received this work for the current month, with its usual valuable contents, original and selected. We recommend it to our medical friends.

ARTHUR'S HOME MAGAZINE.—The publishers send us this neat Ladies' magazine for October. Its contents are varied and pleasing, both prose and poetry, and it has the usual supply of fashions, patterns, and other illustrations for its fair readers.

WE understand that the Washington Institute is being rapidly fitted up for the reception of pupils, and that it will probably open about the first Monday in the coming month.

Penn'a Railroad—Change of Office.

An important change is about being made in the place of starting and stopping the passenger trains, on the Pennsylvania Railroad, in this place, which will be of considerable interest and importance to the citizens of Columbia. On and after Monday, the 26th inst., the trains are to start from Black's Hotel, where the Company's office will have been located, instead of from the Washington House, as heretofore. The alteration has been for some time in contemplation, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company having ordered it early last spring, but from the provisions of the agreement with the state, requiring the consent of the Canal Commissioners to any change of stopping place on the Columbia road, it was never carried into effect, the Commissioners refusing their assent. The entire road now being under one control, the change has been again ordered by the Board of Directors of the Company. This will entail some inconvenience on the traveling community of Columbia, and those having business with the trains, but the reasons assigned for the removal, are, we think, good and sufficient.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company owns the Collet's Office property, on the North corner of Gay and Front streets, and the property on the latter street south of Gay, from the corner to Black's Hotel. It is intended to erect on the latter property a spacious building for the accommodation of all the offices connected with the road, and for a freight and passenger depot, thus concentrating all the business of the Company at one point. In order to effect this centralization as early as possible, the offices will be removed to Black's Hotel, in anticipation of the erection of the intended depot, where accommodations have been prepared. Mr. Black has made most thorough arrangements for the accommodation of the Company and the public. A portion of the bar-room has been partitioned off for a ticket office, with means of access from the private hall, for the convenience of lady passengers. The basement has been fitted up for the Telegraph operators. With the exception of an increased walk the public will have no reason to complain of the new depot.

We regret that the property of the company is not more central in its location, but for the sake of a covered stopping place, where travelers are sheltered from the weather and protected from the annoyance of a crowd, we would willingly see a depot erected at the extreme limit of the borough, were that a necessity. Our town has always been deficient in this matter of shelter for travelers by car, who have been compelled to alight in the street, at all hours and all seasons, and we are well satisfied to learn that we have a promise of something creditable to the town and road. We hope to soon see the new depot in progress.

We notice with regret the action of Council, rejecting the petition of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company asking authority to pass passenger trains through the borough at the speed of ten miles an hour. We have no doubt that the members of Council voting against the motion of Mr. Black, did so believing that they were refusing a dangerous privilege; that they deemed it a proper and wise precaution, to restrain reckless running of trains through our streets, and if the maximum rate of speed at which trains are now run be but six miles an hour, according to ordinance, then the Council very properly refused to increase that rate two-thirds. But we are of opinion that the nominal six miles an hour, authorized by borough ordinance, is frequently increased to twelve and fifteen miles an hour, and that a strictly regulated rate of ten miles, which it might increase the average speed of trains, would reduce the maximum speed almost one-half. No one who has driven at the rate of ten miles an hour, but will say that trains daily exceed that speed in passing through the borough.

We regret this refusal for more than one good reason. If our authorities can consistently grant privileges to this Company, we believe that liberality towards it will be repaid tenfold by the advantages that will certainly accrue to the town by inducing a great and wealthy corporation to extend its business relations with us. If driven from the borough by factious opposition, it will find no lack of other towns ready to welcome the benefits flowing from a connection with the great Pennsylvania artery of trade.

We are informed that it was the intention of the Railroad Company to run the Mail train, both eastward and westward, through our town permanently, and that a condition made by the General Superintendent, Mr. Lombaert, was the authorizing by our Council of the increase of speed spoken of above. This train would benefit Columbia more than the Company, and in order to secure the accommodation, if for no other reason, we think that the privilege should have been granted.

Columbia has heretofore stood woefully in her own light. Sufficient capital and enterprise have been driven from her to have made her one of the most thriving inland towns in the state, and this has been bitterly laid to the charge of the property holders. An opportunity now offers, when by action of Council, the interest of a powerful corporation may be to some extent secured. No arvaricious land holder stands in the way, and we hope that our authorities will not place themselves in the breach, to bar the way of expansion and improvement.

We trust that the subject will be reconsidered in Council, and the rate of speed unanimously authorized.

We learn from good authority that the President, Directors and Cashier of the Columbia Bank have guaranteed the full payment of all notes issued and all deposits held by said bank.

OUR DAILY DRINK.—Our attention has been called to the fact that the bodies of two pigs, in a most disgustingly decomposed state, are lying in the water at the foot of Walnut street, directly above the water-house. We do not know whether it is the duty of the suppliers or consumers of this delightful beverage to look after the seasoning. We give the information to whom it may concern. We have a pump.

LANCASTER COUNTY FAIR.—This Agricultural Exhibition, in spite of the unfavorable weather, proved, we are glad to learn, entirely successful. The number of articles exhibited was large, and the quality such as reflects honor upon our great and rich county. There is evidence that the Association will become a permanency, and that Lancaster County will in time take her proper rank among the exhibiting counties of the state. In view of the scarcity of money, and the two days' rain during the four days of exhibition, the success is very flattering, and such as we hope will encourage the managers to persevere.

We noticed that Huey's Patent Shingle and Stave Machine attracted much attention, and it was awarded both a premium and a diploma.

NEW RESTAURANT.—By his advertisement in to-day's paper Mr. Elijah Howe announces that he is prepared to supply our citizens with oysters in all their varieties of fries, steers, roasts, broils, &c. We know of no one better calculated to please the community in this business. He has had a long experience as a purveyor of good things to the citizens of York, and comes with the reputation of the most scientific get-up-of "natives" in that borough. Inquirers after a "dozen on the half shell" will find him in the basement of the Odd Fellows' Hall.

RED MENS' PARADE.—The Red Mens' parade in Lancaster, on Wednesday was an excellent display, and passed off pleasantly, attracting crowds of spectators to the city. The states of New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland, beside a number of towns in our own state, were represented. The Chiquisalong Tribe, from this place, headed by the Susquehanna Brass Band, of Wrightsville, was present, turning out a good delegation.

We give in another column the Governor's Thanksgiving proclamation. Some of the papers suggest the greater propriety of a recommendation of fasting and humiliation. There has been much of the latter of late and, alas, unless times improve there is likely to be more or less of the former before winter is over.

ELECTION RETURNS FOR THE COUNTY—OFFICIAL.

Union in small caps. Democrats in Italics. Straights in Roman.

GOVERNOR. 7600
DAVID WILMOT, 7600
William F. Packer, 6486
Isaac Hazlehurst, 1236

JUDGES OF SUP. COURT. 7745
JOSEPH J. LEWIS, 7745
JAMES VEECH, 7731
William Strong, 6519
James Thompson, 6502
Jacob Broom, 1162
Jasper E. Brady, 1149

CANAL COMMISSIONER. 7740
WILLIAM MILLWARD, 7740
Nathan Strickland, 6518
John F. Linderman, 1164

SENATORS. 7200
BARTRAM A. SHAEFFER, 7200
ROBERT BALDWIN, 6506
William Patton, 6506
John K. Roub, 6502
Jonathan M. Lutzalere, 1122
Samuel Keeney, 1246

ASSEMBLY. 7588
EMANUEL D. ROATH, 7588
SAMUEL H. PRICE, 7627
JONATHAN H. ROLLAND, 7607
JOSEPH D. POWNALL, 7524
John H. Breuneman, 6555
Thomas S. McTwin, 6502
James Bones, 6550
Samuel Wick, 6440
Henry M. White, 1201
Edward Hess, 1126
Philip Shreiner, 1154
Jeremiah Brown, Jr., 1116

SHERIFF. 7811
BRN'J. ROWE, 7811
Jacob Schner, 6896
James B. Lytle, 928

PROTHONOTARY. 7186
PETER MARTIN, 7186
Thomas Carpenter, 7186
Joseph Graybill, 964

REGISTER. 7700
JOHN JONES, 7700
William Jones, 6721
Stephen W. P. Boyd, 939

REVEREND. 7841
ANTHONY GOON, 7841
Henry Bush, 6477
Samuel Lindsay, 1082

COUNTY TREASURER. 7505
DANIEL HERR, 7505
John S. Bostetter, 6814
Henry Diefenbach, Jr., 1070

CLERK QUARTER SESSIONS. 7546
SAMUEL EVANS, 7546
Jacob Polz, 6665
Henry E. Slaymaker, 1009

CLERK ORPHAN'S COURT. 7769
CHRISTIAN L. STONER, 7769
Adam S. Bure, 6548
John B. Markley, 1040

COUNTY COMMISSIONER. 7820
DANIEL GOOD, 7820
John Whiteside, 6533
David J. Scott, 1059

DIRECTORS OF THE POOR. 7800
ROBERT BYERS, 7800
LEWIS SPRECHER, 7779
C. R. LANDIS, (1 year,) 6546
Lewis Haldy, 6546
Samuel J. Morrison, 6544
Richard Ream, (1 year,) 6566
Samuel Blank, 1059
Levi Lefevre, 1047
John E. Pfautz, (1 year,) 1089

PRISON INSPECTORS. 7688
ROBERT J. HOBSTON, 7688
DAVID BRANDY, 7798
Oscar C. M. Gaines, 6543
Christian Hahnberger, 6591
Henry Gorrecht, 1055
Jacob Seachrist, 1035

AUDITOR. 7705
THOMAS C. COLLINS, 7705
Amos A. Hank, 6524
Benjamin Brackbill, 1047

CORONER. 7521
LEVI SUMMY, 7521
James B. Freeland, 6380
James Hudson, 1035

AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION.—For 1st Amendment, 4993; 2d, 4971; 3d, 4989; 4th, 4921. Against 1st Amendment, 29; 2d, 44; 3d, 38; 4th, 32.

SCATTERING VOTES.—State and County tickets, 331; for Amendments, 591; against Amendment, 36.

A disappointed candidate for office the other day when speaking of men who would sell their votes, remarked: "They are as base as a dog of old, who sold his birthright for a mess of pottage."

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.—COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COLUMBIA, OCTOBER 16, 1857.—Members present: Messrs. Black, Maxton, Murphy, Pelen, Richards, Tyson, and Hess, President. Minutes of last meeting read and approved. The following bills were presented, approved, and ordered to be paid: Wm. Gleaves, \$1,95; Joseph Tyson, \$10,62; Peter Gardner, \$66,00; Samuel Waits, \$68,95; John Klingner, \$7,00; N. Binehour, \$22,50; Philip Schlot, \$14,25; Nola Keesey, \$4,50; Liphart & Shuman, \$3,00; Samuel Maxton, \$23,05; Joseph Hogenotger, \$12,30; Vigilant Fire Company, \$20,00; R. Derriek, \$18,87. A petition was presented asking Council to excavate Fourth street, between Union and Mill streets. On motion, it was laid on the table.

A petition was read, signed by a number of citizens of Locust street, asking Council to attend to renovating and repairing the alley running from Front to Second streets, east of Locust; laid on the table.

The Treasurer reported that there was a balance of \$152,69 in the Treasury. Mr. Black offered the following resolution: Resolved, That the Pennsylvania Railroad Company be permitted to run their passenger cars through the limits of the borough of Columbia, at a rate of speed not exceeding ten miles per hour.

On motion of Messrs. Black and Richards the yeas and nays were called. Yeas: Messrs. Black, Murphy and Richards, 3; Nays: Messrs. Maxton, Pelen, Tyson and Hess, 4. On complaint being made to Council of the filthy condition of the alley running between Walnut and Locust streets, the Supervisor was instructed to notify the different butchers to cleanse their respective pieces of business on said alley. Council Adjourned.

Attest: J. S. DELLETT, Clerk.

Items of News.

Advices from Mexico represent that country as in another crisis. The government is in an anomalous position in consequence of the recent dismissal of Ministers en masse, and of the non-assembling of the General Congress, which should have proclaimed the President. President Comofort was assiduously occupied in promulgating decrees of administrative reform. In Colima on the 26th of August a pronunciamento was issued favoring Alvarez, but at latest dates this had returned to its allegiance. The Estanarte, government organ, announces that on the 26th of September Diaz de Bonilla, ex-Intendant of Police; Don Domingo Gayoso, and Don Agustina Zires, formerly Colonels in Santa Anna's grenadiers, were arrested on the charge of conspiracy. The Progresso of Vera Cruz also announces the arrest in that city of numerous parties on the same charge. The men arrested were not citizens of Vera Cruz, but strangers from some other parts of the country.—Under the head of *alarms*, the Progresso says that both in San Luis and other States there were rumors of serious disturbances. There can be no doubt but that an extensive conspiracy has been organized against the government of President Comofort. A large number of persons including men of high military and civic position, have been arrested in the capital. The government has authorized the foundation, on the 15th of September, of three cities, under the names of Colon, Ixturbide, and Humboldt.

The Costa Rican government seems to be aware that Walker's new filibustering expedition is destined against that republic, for in his message to the Costa Rican Congress, which assembled at San Jose on the 6th of September President Mora expressed his fear that a more terrible irruption is threatening than the one conquered in Nicaragua. In anticipation of it the Costa Rican army of eight thousand men has been thoroughly reorganized, additions made to the military stores, &c. At the last dates Walker and Henningsen were at New Orleans, determining upon a plan of action. The U. S. government has ordered the steamship Fulton to be fitted out immediately, and proceed to the Gulf of Mexico, to intercept the filibusters.

Returns from all the counties in Ohio show the following vote for Governor at the late election: Chase, Republican, 25,275; Payne, Dem., 24,326; Chase's majority, 949. These totals are, of course, only the aggregates of majorities.

In the recent Ohio election, the Americans of the Fillmore stripe generally voted for the Democratic ticket. Van Trump, the American candidate for Governor, elected for Payne, the Democratic candidate. The Toledo Times, American, intimates that the Americans of Lucas county voted for Payne, and the Louisville Journal says it was the determination of a large portion of the American party of Ohio to defeat Chase if possible.

Official returns from thirty-nine counties in Pennsylvania show the following aggregate vote for Governor at the late election:—Packer, 143,684; Wilmot, 103,289; Hazlehurst, 27,157. Packer's excess over Wilmot 42,395. In the remaining twenty-five counties the vote for Packer and Wilmot is about equal. Hazlehurst's entire vote in the State will hardly exceed 28,000, which is about the total of the Straight Fillmore vote last fall.

Returns of the Iowa election give the victory to the Republicans, who have elected their Governor and other State officers by an average majority of 3000, which is a large gain over the doubtful result of the election last spring. Returns of 26 counties show a Republican gain of 2817. The Republicans are also said to have elected a majority in both branches of the Legislature. The latter is very important, as on it depends the choice of a United States Senator, to succeed Jones, Dem.

The northwestern papers say that the Republicans have achieved a complete triumph at the late election in Minnesota, their whole ticket for Governor, State officers and Congressmen having been chosen, as well as a majority of the Legislature. The latter insures two Republican United States Senators.

A telegraphic dispatch from St. Louis gives official returns from thirteen counties

of the vote for Delegate to Congress in Kansas. It gives Parrott, Republican, 1376 majority. There are nearly forty counties in the territory. A party of U. S. soldiers have attacked the residence of one of the Democratic members of the Constitutional Convention, at Richmond, Nemaha County, broke into it, roughly treated him and his family, and were only quieted by two of the men being sabred by their officers. It reads like a very mysterious affair.

Thanksgiving Proclamation. Governor Pollock has issued the following Proclamation, appointing Thursday, the 26th of November, as a day of general Thanksgiving and Praise, in this State:

PENNSYLVANIA, SS:
In the name and by the authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, JAMES POLLOCK, Governor, do hereby PROCLAIMATION.

FELLOW CITIZENS.—To render to Almighty God, who controls the destinies of nations and men, the homage of devout gratitude and praise for his goodness and mercy, is the appropriate and solemn duty of a free and highly favored people. As the Giver of every good and perfect gift we should ever recognize His hand in our mercies, and acknowledge our dependence on His Providence; and although adversity may throw its dark shadows across our pathway, yet we should be assured of this, that "the Judge of all the earth will do right."

During the past year the bounties of a kind Providence have not been withheld from our Commonwealth. Our free institutions have been preserved, and our rights and privileges, civil and religious, enjoyed and maintained. The arts and sciences, and the great interests of education, morality and religion, have claimed the attention and exertions of the encouragement of an intelligent and liberal people. Honorable industry in its varied departments has been rewarded; and although recent and severe financial revulsion has filled with gloom sorrow and distress, the hearts and homes of many of our citizens, yet no fear of famine, nor dread of impending public or social calamity mingled with our emotions of gratitude for past blessings, or weakens our trust for the future, in the Providence of Him who wounds but to heal, and "whose mercy endureth forever." A plenteous harvest has crowned the labor of the husbandman—peace with its gentle and reforming influence, an unwonted health to his lands and mercies have been vouchsafed to us.

In acknowledgment of these manifold blessings, we should offer unto God thanksgiving and pay our vows unto the most High; and call upon Him "in the day of trouble; He will deliver thee and thou shalt glorify Him."

Under the solemn conviction of the propriety of this duty, and in conformity with established custom and the wishes of many good citizens, I, James Pollock, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby recommend Thursday the Twenty-sixth day of November next, as a day of general thanksgiving and praise throughout the State, and earnestly request the people that, abstaining from their usual avocations and all worldly pursuits, they assemble on that day according to their religious customs, and unite in offering thanks to Almighty God for his past goodness and mercies; and while humbly acknowledging our transgression, and imploring His forgiveness, beseech Him, with sincere and earnest desire, to return and visit us again with His loving-kindness, make us worthy of His bounties, and continue to us the rich blessings of His Providence and grace.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State at Harrisburg, this thirteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven, and of the Commonwealth the eighty-second.

By the Governor, JOHN M. SULLIVAN,
Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth.

The Fashionable Preacher.

The fashionable preacher is a mortal always adored by his congregation, the female portion particularly. He is a mortal, but is sometimes deemed an unwinged immortal, and eclipses the divinity whom he preaches. He prays resoundingly, (to the congregation,) and his amen sounds like the tap of a brass drum. He is meek, exceedingly so—in the pulpit—he loves his hearers collectively, and sometimes individually; he hates sin and the Devil—professionally. Disconcerts eloquently on charity from a mahogany pulpit, but forgets his charity for those who differ with him. Gives liberally (his advice) in his resonant sermons, but always has his purse in his other pantaloons pocket when he meets a mendicant.

Sends the gospel to Bariboolah-Gha, and sends the heathen at home—to the gutter.—Perfumes his sermons with sacred poetry, and perfumes his white handkerchief with eau de cologne.

Speaks yearningly of that other world, but would doubtless prefer staying where he is better acquainted. Calls his congregation the sheep of his flock, and pulls wool over their eyes while he shears them.

Studies attitudes as he studies his sermons, and lifts his arms with imitatable grace to beseech the divine grace of heaven! Delivers from a three story pulpit—where he is elevated far above his hearers—pensurive harangues upon moral propriety. Acts as though sin could be drawn from man, as that beautiful rich Eve was taken from Adam, by throwing him into a gentle slumber; or, as the dentist extracts a tooth, by administering chloroformal discourses with most ethereal sermons. Of morality he talks in the aggregate, but never descends to particulars.

If one of his congregation, by mortgaging his property, swindles a friend out of a few thousand dollars, he never rebukes the man as the prophet did; never mentions it at all—that is a secular affair and belongs to the world.

Prays to God not for wealth, which he wants not, neither for poverty, which he cannot bear, but only for a competence, by which he means a three-story competence, finished with brown stone, and all the modern conveniences and a spacious basement.

Believes there is no gate to heaven but through his church, and calls other denominations "sects."

Sends his brethren upward upon "flowery beds of ease," but whether or not Peter lets them pass the pearly portals, we, being poor, miserable sinners, cannot tell.

If he preaches at night, always arrives after the audience is seated and waiting; sometimes, if there is a crush, he has to rise mysteriously through a trap-door in the pulpit, as many have seen Parson Beecher do; this always produces a fine effect—so that

rich and striking. Before his entrance the gas is turned down to a moonlight mellowness, and a dim obscurity broods over the congregation; the organ is silent.

But the moment arrives; the popular preacher enters; the gas blooms into a magnificent brilliance; the ladies bend eagerly forward and a murmur of expectancy permeates the air; silks rustle, and feathers and fans wave; the organ peals a grand voluntary, and the minister, slowly mounting the richly carpeted stairs, sinks into the silken pulpit cushions and opens a hymn book.

"Is it the worship of God or man?" sadly asks my friend Buralton, whom I had accompanied to the exhibition. I do not know I cannot answer him, but think of the poor Publican who stood afar off and smote upon his breast and cried, "God be merciful to me a sinner!"

FAILURE OF MUGGINS.—SOMETHING FOR THE CRISIS.—Muggins has failed. He got in a tight place, hypotheated everything in his possession down to his bootjack and umbrella, and finally retreating to the upper story of the tenement he occupied, took a stout rope, attached it to a strong rafter, and deliberately suspended payments and himself at the same time out of the window, by slipping down in a back yard, and made off at a round rate as his landlady, two tailors and his washerwoman came up stairs to break in the door of his apartment.

He retreated to the elevator of one of our warehouses, though he ultimately hopes to pay his creditors ten cents apiece as soon as he sells his "exchange" (he has an unpaid bill, in New York city to which he fondly gives that title.) In the meantime he is writing a pamphlet, urging the formation of a General Suspension and "Anti-Paying Debts Union."

He has sent us his articles of agreement, one of which is that the fee of ten dollars be "charged to" all new members, whose standing is to be forfeited if the fee is by inadvertency paid.

Then there are several provisions, one of which squints towards a return to the Sabbath year, upon which Muggins himself claims to have already experimentally entered. He tells us, in a footnote, that a twelvemonth intercalated just now, making all collections and business transactions illegal and void during three hundred and sixty-five days and six hours, is just what the community need. Perhaps it is. We look upon Muggins as an "eventually good."—Chicago Press.

THE ADVANTAGES OF LADIES' SOCIETY.—It is better for you to pass an evening once or twice a week in a lady's drawing-room, even though the conversation is rather slow, and you know the girl's songs all by heart, than in a club, tavern, or in a pit of a theatre.—All amusements of youth, to which women are not admitted, rely on, are deleterious in their nature. All men who avoid female society have dull perceptions, and are stupid, or have stupid, or gross tastes, and revolt against what is pure. Your club swaggers, who are sucking the butts of billiard cues all night, call female society insipid. Beauty has no charms for a blind man; music does not please a poor beast, who does not know one tune from another; and as a true epicure is hardly ever tired of water anchovy and brown bread and butter, I protest I can sit all night talking to a well regulated, kindly woman, about her girl coming out, or her boy at Eton, and like the evening's entertainment. One of the great benefits man may derive from woman's society is, that he is bound to be respectful to moral men, depend upon it. Our education makes us the most eminently selfish men in the world. We fight for ourselves, we yawn for ourselves, we light our pipes and say we won't go out, we prefer ourselves and our ease; and the greatest good that comes to a man from a woman's society is, that he has to think of somebody beside himself, to whom he is bound to be constantly attentive and respectful.—Thackeray.

THE DECENT THING.—On Tuesday when the banks were giving up the ghost in all directions, our quondam correspondent, "Richelieu," was consulted as a lawyer, by a bank officer, to suggest some way by which the bank could hold over to the following day without confessing, as its sister institutions had done, that it could not pay Richelieu, "and post up a notice, 'Closed in consequence of Death in the Family.'"—N. Y. Tribune.

WERRY PROPER ADVICE.—At Dieppe, in France, a famous bathing place, there is a police to rescue persons from danger. The following notice was recently issued to them: "The bathing police are requested, when a lady is in danger of drowning, to seize