

The Potter Journal
AND
NEWS ITEM.

COUDERSPORT, PA., Jan. 10, 1873

DISASTER.

There seems to have been an uninterrupted stream of accidents during the recent very cold weather. Accounts of railroad disasters come by every mail with shocking accessories of burning of passengers. On Christmas evening a Baptist church in Williamsport, in which the Sunday school had assembled to celebrate the day, gave way by the supports to the floor and precipitated the congregation to the floor below, by which fourteen were killed and forty or fifty wounded. The building caught fire several times from the lamps but these fires were quickly extinguished. This is one of the most distressing of fatal disasters, since it took little children in the midst of their festive enjoyment.

The third burning of Barnum's Museum brings up again the question whether it is right to keep wild animals in confinement merely for exhibition. They must either be burned in their cages or, if possible for them to escape, be dreadful passengers in the streets. Cannot science be sufficiently illustrated by specimens prepared after death?

There have been several great fires in New York and in Philadelphia—many lives lost and many thousands endangered. An evening-school building in Jersey City took fire during the session of the school, but happily all were enabled to escape.

Then there are losses on the Ohio and Mississippi from rise of the water and the breaking away of great masses of ice which had accumulated at various points, and it really seems to have been such a harvest of calamity as should serve to make us all renewedly thankful to whose firesides no terrible visitant has come.

Disasters at sea—destruction by fire, by flood, by breaking of walls and crushing of houses; will all these things make us learn to take care and pains? Is it not the rush and hurry of the present age that brings so many lives and limbs to such horrible massacre?

THE NEW RAILROAD.

They had a grand time celebrating the opening of the Buffalo, N. Y. & Philadelphia Railroad on Saturday, the 28th of December, and of course all our people are very much interested therein. The excursion started with two engines, named Keating and Machias, and five passenger cars, named for towns a little distant from the road, among which were Smethport and Coudersport. At Liberty Station, at the foot of Keating Summit, another engine was added.

Every thing seems to have been well arranged and to have proceeded pleasantly.

It is said that the cars from Port Allegany have been filled with passengers ever since they began to run. It is surprising to see the amount of business and travel that seems to await every outlet. No sooner is any new line opened than it is fully occupied.

We hope ere long to hear in Coudersport the "unearthly shrieks of the locomotive," and to see the burdened trains streaming past, bringing to our doors the good, and the evil, that they must carry with them.

And speaking of shrieks, we wonder whether there must always be

these agonizing sounds wherever the railroad runs. It would be a grand thing for somebody to invent a musical steam whistle.

The Buffalo Express closes its account of the opening thus:

The result of the trip on Saturday was most gratifying in every particular. The excursionists were unanimous in their manifestations of admiration, and the only wonder expressed was that so much had been accomplished in such a comparatively short period. Since the 15th of May, at which time the Directors assumed charge of all the work, the track was laid from Arcade to Emporium, a distance of 85 miles. In Pennsylvania since the 15th of May the following works have been finished: 20 bridges, 7000 feet of trestle-work, 280 culverts, 27 miles of stumping, 5 miles changing highways, 950,000 yards of excavation, 40 miles of track. Since the commencement of work in the spring the Company have disbursed about \$2,200,000. The work has all been in charge of Col. Alberger, and its successful and satisfactory completion speak louder than words in his praise, and is in itself a sufficient evidence of his ability and integrity. As a matter of historical record we append the following table of incidents:

- July 15, 1867—First work commenced.
- Oct. 18, 1867—First rail laid.
- Jan. 23, 1868—First train to East Aurora, 16 miles.
- Feb. 29, 1868—Opened for business to Aurora.
- Sept. 15, 1870—Work commenced by Company at Aurora.
- Oct. 17, 1870—Finished to South Wales (4 80-100 miles) and opened for business.
- Sept. 1, 1870—Work commenced by contractor at South Wales.
- Jan. 31, 1871—Opened to Holland, 4 29-100 miles.
- Aug. 2, 1871—Opened to Protection, 2 99-100 miles.
- Oct. 25, 1871—Opened to Arcade, 6 43-100 miles.
- May 15, 1872—Company relieved contractor from further prosecution of the work from Arcade to Olean.
- June 1, 1872—Opened to Machias, 6 92-100 miles.
- June 10, 1872—Opened to Franklinville, 6 90-100 miles.
- July 3, 1872—Opened to Olean, 19 87-100 miles.
- Aug. 15, 1872—Opened to Portville, 6 70-100 miles.
- May 15, 1872—Company commenced work in Pennsylvania.
- Nov. 10, 1872—Opened to Port Allegany, 29 61-100 miles.
- Dec. 24, 1872—Last rail laid and first train through to Emporium.
- Jan. 1, 1873—Opened for business to Emporium.

	Miles.
Total completed since May 15, 1872.....	78.66
Side tracks.....	4.42
Track from junction to new depot.....	.77
Tracks on Blackwell Canal.....	.51
Total.....	84.36

New Year's Hospitalities.

The President and his Cabinet Ministers will receive the plaudits of all true temperance reformers for the noble example which they set on New Year's day in declining to furnish any wines or spirituous liquors for their guests. It needs no argument at this time to show that the custom of exchanging congratulations over the wine-cup, which has hitherto so extensively prevailed, has been fraught with evil consequences. Fashion, the imperious tyrant that woman is too much inclined to obey, has held it to be the duty of every hostess to invite her New Year's guests to partake from her well-stored sideboard. Guests, whether impelled by appetite or not, do not feel like declining such courteous hospitality, and the effect of repeated indulgence through an extended list of calls can readily be imagined.

This custom is one which is comparatively within the control of woman. If she can summon the courage to take a stand against it, in spite of public opinion which she must encounter, she can render it unpopular and may even abolish it. It is cheering to note in many cities that the practice is year by year falling into disuse. "Last year," says the N. Y. Tribune, "the best houses in New York, Philadelphia and Washington excluded liquor from their offered refreshments." The same was true of this and other cities, and we judge from reports already made that there was less of this kind of tipping this year than last. Public opinion is strongly setting against the whole system, and the praiseworthy example of Washington dignitaries will give the reform such

an impetus as will do much towards establishing its popularity.

There is every reason why the ladies should urge this reform. As a general thing they do not make use of these beverages, but they are made the sufferers by its use in as large a degree as the male sex. There is not a drunkard in the land who is not a torment and a burden to some woman. Why, then, should they be expected to place the inebriating bowl before their gentlemen friends, thereby approving a practice that is capable of bringing so much misery upon them? We are very glad to note the evident signs of improvement in this matter, and to see that the press of the country has spoken approvingly of the efforts the ladies are making in the reform.—Buffalo Express.

We are very glad and thankful to see that so good an example is set before the whole country. No better work could inaugurate the new year, and it will cause a thrill of joy in thousands of homes where the pernicious custom of fashionable drinking has been hitherto allowed.

Six years ago, when Gov. Geary was inaugurated, he and his wife set a noble example in dispensing with wine at all their entertainments, and thus gave an impetus to the temperance work that will be long felt.

Whatever else may be said of his administration, this one noble work should never be forgotten, and if the incoming Governor should fall behind him in this it would be a great calamity. But Gen. Hartranft is also a temperance man, we believe, and will help by his influence to perpetuate the reform.

At Church.

On Sunday our minister, speaking of the churches, said: "They are not people gathered together into mutual admiration societies, to speak of each other's piety or good works, but bands of real workers for the good of each other and the world."

This reminds us of some expressions often used, that show mistaken ideas of the common motives of people in seeking church fellowship. One says, "They profess to be better than other people." Do they? or do they only profess to wish to be better than they are, and to believe in the influence of the church as one means of becoming so?

One said, "I never thought I was good enough to join any church." Did you ever think you were learned enough to go to school?

We belong to a reading or literary society, not because we are literary, but in order to become so; or at least to become a little less ignorant than we are, and any display of want of understanding is proper there since it is manifested only to be put off.

"See there! He is a member of the church and has been for years, and he is miserable and worthless." True, and here is one who, living under a liberal government with free education, business and social privileges, is still narrow, grasping and bigoted.

The Declaration of Independence never has made every one who profess to believe in it conscious of his own or of others' natural and unalienable rights, but perhaps every one is some better for living in a land where these rights are more acknowledged.

Some liberty-loving persons coming from despotic governments to this land of the free are chagrined and astonished, to find so many very little better than the masses in the country they had left.

We are placed in families, neighborhoods, towns, for our mutual benefit. We form schools, societies, churches, in which to work more effectually for whatever good we desire, and the more closely we draw together in sympathy the more we shall be able to accomplish. It is always cheering to see a drinking man join a temperance society; it is asking and engaging the whole moral power of the organization to assist him in his struggle against temptation, to strengthen the good in him, and to help remove him from the associations that injure and wrong him.

So we ask the church to receive us, and to help us, against whatsoever befalls us from within or without, and the more weak and helpless we are, the more should we seek such help.

HERE are some excellent resolutions by a Baptist Association. When churches speak in this manner, there will be no need of other people saying it for them:

The Bridgewater Baptist Association, at its session in Montrose last August, gave its views in favor of some active Temperance efforts, as follows:

Resolved, 1st. That the Temperance cause rightfully demands the wisest counsels, and the most earnest and untiring efforts of all Christians and Philanthropists.

Resolved, 2d. That churches, organized after the New Testament plan, are Christ's reformatory bodies, most wisely adapted to and efficient in every good work.

Resolved, 3d. That churches which are not practical as well as theoretical Temperance organizations, are not worthy to be called Christian.

Resolved, 4th. That churches which turn the Temperance reform work over to conglomerate workers outside, whether public or secret, are recreant to legitimate duty.

Resolved, 5th. That all church members ought unhesitatingly to engage with outsiders in this, as well as every good word and work, just so far as they can without compromising Christian principle.

Resolved, 6th. That the Association recommends all the churches which it represents to come up more fully to the New Testament idea of churches on the subject of Temperance, as well as every other reform subject, making themselves reformatory powers in the land—living Christians—organized deniers of oft-repeated assertions that other organizations are better than the churches.

A. L. POST,
A. A. MARYOTT, Committee.
B. T. DAVIES.

The members of the Baptist churches and congregations will be found as generally voting for "No License," as those of any other persuasion, judging of the future by the past. CO. WORKER.

NEW YEAR'S.

New Year's has been celebrated with great splendor, in our own and in various foreign capitals. The Press has a letter dated

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1, 1873.

Despite the unpleasant weather overhead and under foot, the time-honored custom of making New Year's calls was thoroughly observed here to-day. Pursuant to ancient usage, the ceremony of receiving callers was inaugurated by the official formalities at the Executive Mansion, officials and citizens generally receiving from about noon, after many of them had paid their respects to the President of the United States.

The reception at the White House commenced at 11 o'clock, at which hour the President, heralded by the strains of "Hail to the Chief," entered the Blue Parlor, accompanied by Mrs. Grant, General and Mrs. Babcock, and at once the ceremonies were opened. The parlors through which the guests passed on their way to the East Room, after extending the courtesies of the seasons to the President, were resplendent with brilliant jets of gas and redolent with the perfumes of the choicest flowers in the conservatory. The reception took place in the Blue Parlor, Secretary Fish presenting in due and usual form the members of the diplomatic corps, many of whom were accompanied by the ladies of their families.

Prominent among the throng were Sir Edward Thornton and Mrs. Thornton; Henry Howard, Esq., and Mrs. Howard, of the English Legation; Baron Lederer, of Austria; Colonel Frey, of Peru; Count Corti, of Italy; Mr. Kura von Schlozer, of Germany; the Marquis de Noailles and Madame la Marquise de Noailles, of France, with many other gentlemen of distinction in diplomatic ranks, and their wives. At the same time there were present the various representatives of the Cabinet, and Messrs. Boutwell, Robeson, Belknap, Cowan, and Williams, with the ladies of their households, assisted the President and Mrs. Grant in responding to the courtesies of the diplomatic corps. Postmaster General Creswell was not present, because of the illness of Mrs. Creswell.

After enumerating a great many dignitaries, it adds:

At one o'clock the gates were thrown open, and the general public were admitted to pay their respects to the President, the ceremonies closing at two o'clock.

Nearly all the members of the Cabinet held receptions, as well as a very large number of private citizens. Officers of the army through the house of Gen. Sherman, where Mrs. Sherman dispensed the hospitalities of the season. The festivities of the day have been

almost universally observed, and in the midst of the general observance there has been a noteworthy exhibition of quietude and decorum throughout the city.

THE DAY IN NEW YORK.—The general suspension of business and the bright and genial atmosphere gave an opportunity, which was availed of, to observe New Year's in the time-honored way—making calls upon friends and officials. The streets were thronged with pedestrians from early morning until late at night, and carriages and sleighs filled with merry parties making the rounds were numerous. Comparatively few cases of intoxication were noticeable.

Pen and Scissors.

INAUGURATIONS.—Governor Dix, of New York, Gov. Washburn, of Massachusetts, and Gov. Caldwell, of North Carolina, were inaugurated on New Year's day, with subordinate officers. A great change takes place in the government of New York, with the opening year, city as well as state.

MR. BEECHER's church proposes to raise a fund of fifty thousand dollars, to be called the "Plymouth Mission Fund," for the endowment of the two missions under the care of the church. This fund will serve as the memorial of the Silver Wedding.

THE Boston Advertiser says that the Bay State Brick Company, of that city, had fifteen millions on hand at the time of the fire, but did not raise the price, and sold only to regular customers, who will take all the stock. A difference of three dollars advance as between that and the old price would be \$45,000. This the Treasurer considers as the Company's subscription to the relief fund.

THE FLIGHT OF THE METEORS.—New York, Jan. 1.—Ship K. C. Winthrop, from Antwerp, reports Nov. 27, latitude 34° 13' north, longitude 17° 19' west, Madeira Islands bearing south half east, distant 100 miles, had a meteoric shower, commencing at dark, lasting two and a half hours. The first hour, as near as could be judged, there were from 900 to 1200, the second hour from 400 to 600, and in the last half hour were gradually disappearing.—About four-fifths of the meteors appeared like small balls of fire moving through the air leisurely, but others moved with great velocity, leaving in their track a trail of fire resembling that in the wake of an army rocket.

CHANGE OF OWNERS.—Corry, Pa., Jan. 1.—The Buffalo, Corry & Pittsburg Railroad, upon which occurred the fearful disaster at Prospect station, has been purchased by Col. Phillips, of Pittsburg, President of the Allegheny Railroad and Oil Creek and Allegheny River Railroad, thus making a continuous working line of road from Pittsburg to Brockton, on the Lake Shore road.

THE LOCAL OPTION LAW.—The first election under the Local Option Act of last session of the Legislature took place in Clearfield county, on the 29th of December. At the municipal and township elections held there on that day a majority of upwards of 600 votes was cast against liquor licenses. This result in the strong Democratic county of Clearfield may be taken as a fair indication of what will be the decision when the question shall come up in the several counties and cities next March.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.—Toronto, Dec. 31.—The Leader of to-day says that a body of English capitalists are ready to subscribe the necessary capital to build the Canadian Pacific Railway on the terms of the act of Parliament of last session, in case the other arrangements are not carried out.

A COLLEGE of Science, to cost £200,000, is proposed at Leeds, England. It is to be hoped that so noble and valuable an idea will not remain simply a matter of pleased or pompous talk. The very proposition is a streak of dawn.

THE body of a man was found in the canal near Rochester, recently, and it was decided that while walking on the tow-path he had a fit and fell in, the evidence of the fit being a bottle of whiskey in his pocket.

IN EARLY times in California military titles as handles to the name were very common. John Phoenix tells the story that he was one day leaving San Francisco by the steamer. Everybody else was taking leave of friends, but he did not know a soul in the crowd. Ashamed of his loneliness, as the boat steered off, he called out in a loud voice "Good-bye, Colonel!" and, to his great delight, every man on the wharf took off his hat and shouted: "Colonel, good-bye!"

UNDER the last apportionment to lower House of Congress will contain 292 members, of which the Coalition have elected 89, with New Hampshire and Connecticut still to elect. Rather a poor show for the Reformers.