Local Intelligence.

ABUSE IS NOT ARGUMENT.—This truism suggests itself to every candid mind on reading an article in last evening's Express entitled "Mean." In performing our duty as a journalist we endeavored in Saturday's INTELLIGENCER to give a clear and truthful statement of the lamentable disturbance in the Second Ward, this city, by which one boy was seriously wounded in the back, and another terribly maimed and disfigured for life by the discharge of a loaded musket. The facts of this sad affair were narrated to us by residents of the Second Ward, persons who are not politicians but who are tax-payers and lovers of order and quiet, and who have the welfare of the city at heart, and they were published by us as we received them. Moreover we know our statement to be correct, as our informants are persons of truth, some of them members of the political party whose principles are advocated by the Express, but who, unlike their party organ, are not so blinded by party prejudice as to ignore an unfortunate occurrence simply because it happened through a want of the enforcement of our city ordinances by Republican officials.

It is the province of Mayor Atlee to see that his policemen discharge their duty. If one of these custodians of the public safety is necessarily absent it is his duty to see that some one act in his stead so that no portion of our city be left for a whole day at the mercy of the lawless and wicked.—Mayor Atlee was elected to personally attend to the peace and order of the city, to see that his subordinates properly discharge their duty, and whenever he neglects so to do we shall inform the people of the fact, regardless of the hard names which the editor of the Express may deem fit to call us.

At the close of the article in the Express the editors of that journal say that "it is rather the subject of mirth than of serious consideration." We can assure the editors that the lamentable disturbance of Friday afternoon, in which one boy was badly wounded and another deprived of the sight of an eye, is not "subject of mirth" for the friends and relatives of the unfortunate lads—but one of great sorrow. We do not envy that man who has the heart to indulge in mirth over the mutilation of his fellow-beings.

A WORK HOUSE.—The constantly increasing swarm of vagrants that over-run our city and tend to increase our already burthensome taxation, has set the people to seriously consider what is best to be done to abate the nuisance. It has been suggested that the able bodied paupers should be put to work quarrying stone from the county quarries, which might be hauled to the jail-yard and there broken for paving purposes, by the horde of vagrants daily committed by the Mayor's Clerk and Alderman Wiley. By adopting this course it is thought that all the streets of the city might be macadamized and kept in repair, for very little more than the cost of the prisoner's boarding. Some such plan as this should at once be adopted. It would drive away the devouring horde of Yankee loafers who are nurtured in indolence during the winter months by our unreasonable charities; or else it would compel them to earn at least a portion of their livelihood.

If the County Commissioners, or the officers of the Prison and Poor House refuse or lack authority to adopt this much needed reform, let our new City Councils who promised us so many improvements at once establish a City Work House, where employment and food may be had by the deserving ready. Such an institution would drive from our midst scores of indolent beggars and loafers, and be hailed as a blessing by the honest poor who are willing and anxious to earn their bread by the sweat of their brow. Councils meet to-morrow evening. Who among their number will be first to move in this important matter? The Democratic members cannot be expected to do much, for they are in a hopeless minority; but as trusty agents of the people they can give their countenance and support to such proper measures as may be proposed by the Radical majority of Councils, and we feel sure they will cheerfully do so.

THE WATER SUPPLY.—There is but 6½ feet of water in the new and 7 feet in the old basin, just enough to be too low to supply the higher portions of the city with water. Ever since the Radicals came into power, our water works have been miserably mis-managed, and general uneasiness at the scarcity of water has been experienced by all parties. After the unfortunate bursting of the old reservoir, caused by the negligent inattention of the Radical Superintendent, there occurred a fire back of East King and John streets, when it was found that the fire plugs in that section of the city were entirely unfit for service, it being almost impossible to remove the caps, and, when removed, the supply pipes were found filled with slimy mud. Our prompt exposure of the evil woke up the Rip Van Winkles, having the Water Works in charge, and for a time the nuisance was abated. But on the advent of Mayor Atlee, and the appointment of McGuire as engineer, there has been a constant scarcity in the supply of water in the more elevated portions of the city. It is safe to say that if the bottoms of the reservoirs were as high as the more elevated water taps, the basins would be drained dry inside of a week. The only reason that the lower portion of the city has a comparatively good supply of water is because the higher portions have no water at all. The incompetents who have the works in charge, make all kinds of excuses for their inefficiency—that the water in the creek is too low—that it is too high—then the pumps want packing—then a valve gets out of order—then the supply pipes springs a leak—then a crustacea get under the head gate—then the sinks have to be filled—then they accidentally run out of coal, and can't work the engine—then the back water interferes,—and so on to the end of the chapter. The true reason is that those having the works in charge are incompetent, and don't know how to manage them. There is power enough at the City Mills to keep the reservoirs constantly full of water, and supply the entire city with all they need, without regard to the height of the creek. All that is needed is that the right kind of men should be employed to run the machine.

Since the late rains, the water has been unnecessarily muddy. This is caused by pumping the water directly into the old basin, and supplying the city with it, instead of pumping it into the new basin, allowing it to settle, and then filtering the pure water into the old basin for the supply of the city. It is to be hoped that Councils at their meeting to-morrow evening, will take measures to remedy the evil complained of. A fire at the present time in the north western or eastern portions of the city might be attended by fearful consequences on account of the scarcity of water.

PARKESBURG ITEMS.—Our correspondent "Dave" sends us the following:

Within the past year a bank, under the name of Parke Smith & Co., has been established in this place; it does quite a business, and is a great advantage to the village and surrounding country.

Some activity has been recently manifested in the sale of building lots in this place. Messrs. Keller, Heisman & Beard, have bought 2 acres from Mr. David Parke; they propose to erect thereon, during the coming year, 12 new houses.

The Lodge of Knights of Pythias, in this place, has about 70 members and is in a flourishing condition. The following officers have been elected for 1870:

W. C.—S. Cromleigh.
V. C.—J. B. Hinkson.
Guide—T. Truman.
I. S.—John Eliot.
O. S.—C. Hemmins
Recording Scribe—Dr. Stroud.
Financial Scribe—H. C. Thompson.
Banker—P. C. Young.
Rep. to Grand Lodge—A. Vandersaal.

NAME WANTED.—We received to-day a communication containing interesting local items from Paquea, signed by the initials of the writer's name. Whenever we receive the full name of the writer the items will be published. We invariably require the name of the author of all communications sent us, not for the purpose of publishing the name, but as a guarantee of good faith.

A GRATEFUL PEOPLE.—A meeting of the Lutheran Congregation in Columbia was held prior to the departure of Mr. Steck for Kansas City. After the congregational meeting, the friends of Mr. Steck waited upon him and presented him with several of the most flattering testimonials of their appreciation of his services.

Among the articles were a beautiful pocket book containing upwards of one hundred dollars, some in specie, and a few rare pocket pieces; a gentleman's companion; a very fine umbrella, several presents from the children, and other substantial articles.—Spy.

THE CHURCHES.—Sunday was rather unfavorable for the inaugural sermons of the three clergymen lately elected to take charge of some of our city churches. It rained heavily during the morning and the high wind made it almost impossible to use umbrellas. As a consequence the congregations were much smaller than they would have been had the weather been favorable. Still, quite a number of wet-weather Christians were present to greet their new pastors.

Rev. Isaac Bevan, the first shepherd of the little flock of Baptists recently organized in this city, preached his initial sermon in the morning, in Temperance Hall, at present occupied as their place of meeting. The text was 2d Cor. v. 15.

After a description of the character of Paul and a eulogy on his great earnestness in the Master's cause, the reverend brother at once set about elucidating the vital importance of the words of the great apostle "that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them."

The subject of Mr. Bevan's evening discourse was the miraculous cure by our Saviour of the man with the withered hand, as revealed in the 6th Chapter of Luke. Both sermons were well written and attentively listened to, and with the exception of an uncharitable fling at the "superstitions of the Romish Church," were delivered in appropriate phrase and good taste.

Mr. Bevan is lately from Scranton—looks as though he might be 60 years of age—is hardly of medium height and rather stoutly built—has a good intellectual head, sparsely covered with iron-grey hair—a face of leonine contour and good color. The deep-set piercing eyes surmounted by heavy eye-brows, the firm mouth, and deep lines of the face, are physiognomical evidences of self-reliance and fixedness of purpose. His cheeks and chin are covered with a fine growth of beard, almost snow white, in cut not unlike the prints of General Lee. His voice and diction are not so smooth and graceful as Bishop Bigler, nor so powerful and dramatic as Brother Nevin's, but there is in his manner a positiveness that is well calculated to rivet the attention of his hearers. His congregation seemed well pleased with him, and he will doubtless endeavor to merit their good opinion by building up in our midst a flourishing branch of the Baptist Church. The room in which the meetings are held is large and comfortable, the floor being handsomely carpeted and the walls tastefully hung with a number of appropriate scriptural maxims, printed in colors and neatly framed. The worst part of the service was the music. Those interested in the new Church should at once organize a choir. Even sacred music sounds bad when marred by cracked and discordant voices.

Rev. B. C. Suesserott, the new Pastor of St. John's Lutheran church, preached his introductory sermon from the text "Galatians, Chap. vi 14 v."

"But God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ by whom the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world.

Mr. S stated that Christians were too apt to lose sight of the Cross, that the sufferings and love of the blessed Redeemer should ever be kept in mind. The constant contemplation of the Cross cannot fail to bring about great results. Missionaries have found that by preaching the wonderful story of the sufferings of the blessed Saviour the hearts of the heathens have been touched and they have been awakened to a sense of their sad condition. The speaker also spoke in eloquent terms of the Apostle, Paul, and of the persecution he suffered; of the great work he had accomplished because he only gloried in the "Cross of our Lord Jesus."

The Reverend gentleman insisted that Christianity should be made a personal matter; the mere attending Church, or belonging to Church, was not all that is required of the Christian. The Christian must exhibit his love for the Saviour in his daily walks, must show by his works that his only glory is in the cross of our Lord Jesus.

The sermon was very entertaining and instructive, and the above brief synopsis gives a very imperfect and inadequate idea of its excellence.

In person Mr. Suesserott is of medium size, and does not seem to be the possessor of a very robust constitution. He wears his hair long, and has a full beard—minus the moustache. His face is a prepossessing one, and his whole manner impressed us with that he is really devoted to his high calling. His voice is not high toned but is distinct and he seemed to be easily heard in all parts of the church. His reading of the hymns was in good taste, and his prayers were eloquent and appropriate. We take Mr. Suesserott to be about 38 years of age—judging from his appearance.

ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH.—Notwithstanding the stormy condition of the elements, Sunday, there was a very fair attendance at St. James' Episcopal Church in the morning, it being the first Sabbath service conducted by Rev. Edw. Shippen Watson, as the newly elected Rector of this Parish. Mr. Watson is a gentleman above medium stature, courteous and affable in conversation, dignified, impressive and graceful in his manner, and possesses a well modulated voice. Before administering the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, which was partaken of by forty of the members, he delivered the following address:

We begin, beloved brethren, with the coming in of the New Year, to walk together as Pastor and People in the path which, if we follow on, leadeth to everlasting life. And we have gathered at its outset around the table of our Lord, that we may partake together of that refreshment for the way—that grace and strength supplied unto us according to the commandment of our Saviour; without which the relations now entered upon, on your part and on mine; the duties now awaiting us, on my part and on yours, would be altogether unprofitable and vain.

With the presence of our Lord abiding alway with us, and in the seven-fold might of His eternal spirit, can we alone essay the task of building together the lively stones of the spiritual temple, which is His Mystical Body. And in His immediate presence, and with the invocation of that Holy Ghost, let us therefore, to-day, with steadfast resolution, with humble, earnest, honest prayer, consecrate ourselves to the task!

Let that altar and table of the Lord, like the long line of patriarchal and Mosaic altars, of which it is the nobler antitype and fulfillment, be a perpetual memorial and a stone of help in the covenant betwixt us; and may the bread of eternal life and the cup of everlasting salvation, whereof we have freely bestowed, quicken our minds, inflame our breasts, incite our devotion, and kindle our charity; that in the unity and energy of the one body of Christ, we may be fellow-members, fellow-helpers, one of another, and so win the peace, the blessing and the protection of God! It is the perpetual memorial of sin, and of the propitiatory sacrifice for sin once offered.

We approach it as sinners, you and I alike,—minister and people,—confessing our grievous faults, our manifold temptations, our infinite infirmities. Must it not leave at least this blessing behind—that we shall return from it in the kindliness of mutual charity, speaking one to another, with the lips and from the heart, our blessed Christmas salutation—"Peace and good will to men?"

We approach it as sinners, and it is my office, your fellow-sinner, to speak to you of sin, to address your consciences and to persuade you by the love of Jesus—to which I know your inmost souls respond—to walk worthy of His name. It is my office to counsel you,—it may be,—with the counsels hardly won by a dire experience.

My brethren,—as sinners who need sympathy yourselves, I ask your sympathy with me in the performance of this most difficult task. The Lord Jesus—Incarnate Love—touched with the virtue that went out of Him—the one tender spot—the seed and capability of life eternal, which exists somewhere in every breast—He touched, and a flame of devotion leapt upwards from arid wastes were none had suspected a single spark of even human generosity; so that publicans and profligates thronged to His company and almost prevented the decent respectabilities of the day from His immediate presence.

But the strange pastor has only the weapons of a repellant logic, or the powers of rhetoric, too fragile and evanescent, ever to become the rod and staff of God. To stand before you, beloved, and know full well, that there is many an aching heart, many a burthened conscience, that a word fitly spoken might relieve; many a noble resolve; a possibility of a high-wrought enthusiasm, of which no one dreams, trembling it may be, on the verge of avowal, which a word might educe, and to have to draw one's bow at a venture—to shoot at random with the mere lucubrations of the study—this is the place, which, for a while, a new incumbent must necessarily occupy.

But you can do much to shorten it, beloved, by the generous confidence which, for a time, can give its trust; by welcoming me to your home-life; by making me in deed—what in name you have invited me to become, under the sacredness of official reserve—your spiritual physician; by bringing to my instant notice each case of sickness, or of sorrow, which have no magic power of themselves, as some may think, to penetrate the Pastor's ear; by helping me to gather in the little children—those cords and bands which draw men's hearts—those true home missionaries—blessed and ordained by our Lord himself. The pastoral cure—never yet devolved by formal election—the real pastoral staff is cut from the cradle, and from the bed, and from the faggots on the hearth fires. It is yours, my brethren, to put it in my hands.

And this altar is a stone of help. The bread of the soul is a viaticum to nourish us for our onward journey, to strengthen us for our work and labor of love. You have noble foundations here, my brethren—noble evidences of labors shared with him, around whose grave they cluster, and who so long and faithfully ministered in this sanctuary—the brightest jewels in the mitre which the love and veneration of the whole diocese conferred.

I esteem it a high, as it is a rare felicity to be encircled, in my ministration here, by these your children in reverent and seemly order; it is a delightsome thing to have our songs of praise swelled and speeded upwards with the sound of their fresh young voices. It is the church's old primitive work, which you have resumed, in sheltering the aged, remembering who it was that elected and consecrated privation forever as His own. Two daughter churches testify well and honorably of the vitality of the parent stock. For these, I at least must say, other men have labored, and I have entered into the fruit of their labors. But let me join with you, my brethren, in sustaining them, as they have need to be sustained. Let those of you who have much, give liberally of the endowments which assured permanence requires; your part is the endowment which secures them. Let those of you who have little, give diligently, i. e., by methodical rule give gladly—your part is the self-sacrifice which originated them. And the field white for the harvest—the Sunday Schools and the Chapel and the Missionary influence which this Parish ought to exert over a large section of the diocese. It is far beyond one man's strength, were he a spiritual athlete, and a stranger among you, I know not to whom to turn.

Therefore, my brethren, I have asked you at the start, to meet me at the table of the Lord, presenting ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, a holy and living sacrifice.'

I simply ask you, as you expect a blessing, to clothe those words with a distinct and definite meaning in your minds. By grace ye are saved, and a gift of grace is always an ordination to some speciality of service.

What shall mine be? What can I do that I can call a reasonable, a holy, a living—something that I may feel is part of my life—a sacrifice?

May the Illuminating Spirit make this secret questioning and your answer candid and sincere!

MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE—A LANCASTER COUNTY FARMER IS MISSING AT KANSAS CITY—SUPPOSED MURDER.—We learn from the Kansas City *Daily Times* of the 19th inst., that a gentleman (claiming to be from Lancaster county) unaccountably disappeared from that city a short time since, and that said disappearance has something mysterious connected with it which deserves rigid investigation, and which has given rise to the worst surmises respecting the fate of the missing man.—The *Times* says that, something over a week previous to the date above mentioned, Mr. John Page, a respectable looking gentleman of forty-five or fifty years, stopped at one of the boarding houses in Kansas city. He represented himself as being from Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and was a farmer. He was here several days looking over the city and called upon a number of the real estate agents, making inquiries for a good sized farm convenient to the city. He represented that he had $15 000 with which he wished to buy enough land for two farms for his boys. A suitable place was found by the gentleman above mentioned, and Mr. Page made an appointment to go out to look at it, and paid off his bill at the hotel for that purpose. This was on last Monday; but the weather being disagreeable, they postponed the trip until next day, and they both went back to the hotel to supper together. A while after supper Mr. Page remarked that he believed he would walk around the city and see what was going on, and so went off. This is the last that has been seen or heard of him at this place. Whether in his rambles he fell in with some of the desperate characters that infest our city, and was enticed away and foully dealt with, or whether he took a night train and left for other parts, is of course all conjecture. But his appearance and actions while here give the belief to the former. He was a plain, but very respectable and intelligent gentleman, with nothing of the braggart or "low hard" about him. He very favorably impressed all who met him, and considerable interest is felt concerning his whereabouts. It is not known how much money he had about his person, but was seen to have a roll of bills amounting to between two and three hundred dollars. We trust our conjectures in the premises may be ill-founded, but at present the affair has a mysterious appearance.

SUDDEN DEATH.—The Harrisburg *Telegraph* says "Our entire community was startled this (Thursday) morning by the announcement of the sudden death of Henry C. Schaffer, the Chief Engineer of the Harrisburg Fire Department, which occurred at his residence, on Penn street above Front, about four o'clock A. M. We learn that at that hour his wife was awakened by hearing him moan, and supposing he was dreaming she took hold of and shook him for the purpose of awakening him. In a short time she heard the sound repeated, and jumped up, lighted the gas, and again attempted to wake him, at the same time raising his head. He opened his eyes and fell back in her arms, dead. It is supposed he died of heart disease. Wednesday afternoon he attended the funeral of E. P. Lescure, and in the evening was seen and spoken to by several of our citizens. He seemed in good health and the best of spirits.

Mr. S. was elected Chief Engineer about a year ago and filled that position with great fidelity and efficiency up to the time of his decease. Had he lived he would have been unanimously re-elected by the convention of firemen on Monday evening next. His numerous friends in this city and elsewhere will regret to learn of his sudden demise. The deceased was universally esteemed by our citizens and the members of the Fire Department. He was a member of the Friendship fire company, of Dauphin Lodge, No. 109, I. O. O. F., of Dauphin Encampment, No. 10, I. O. O. F., and of the Harrisburg Beneficial Society.

ANNUAL MEETING.—The annual meeting of the "Intercourse Association for the Detection of Horse Thieves and the Recovery of Stolen Property" was held on Saturday, the 1st inst., at the public house of Wm. Blair, in the village of Intercourse.

This company is thoroughly organized, and has obtained a charter from the Legislature. The most efficient and best men in the community belong to it, and in no case, except sickness, is any member excused from non attendance at the annual meeting. The members are so classified that if a horse is stolen every point within a scope of many miles is diligently searched.

In August last a horse was stolen from a member of this Association, and in a short time the company were in search of the stolen animal. The horse was found about 12 miles from home; the thief making his escape. In this instance some of the members rode a distance of 100 miles, as they could not be recalled by telegraph. All expenses are paid by the company in ascertaining the whereabouts of all property stolen, and liberal rewards are offered for securing the thief or thieves. With the above exceptions there has been no property stolen from any member of the Association for a number of years.

SMYRNA ITEMS—Our correspondent "Genii" sends us the following items:

On Friday, of last week, Wm. J. Miller and Jacob Townsend started from this Village at 7 o'clock A. M., drove to "Andrews' Bridge," and joining Miller, Reed & Co., proceeded from thence to the "Octorara Hills," where they succeeded in securing twenty-four rabbits; they returned home the same day.

One day, in the past season, some boys while gunning, saw what they supposed an animal of an unknown specie. They shot at it and succeeded in chasing it into where they secured it by "stopping" it up, they then returned to the village and made known their discovery. The next day reinforced by the young and even "old men" of the "sporting gentry," with necessary utensils, and subsistence for the day they proceeded to the retreat and after diligently working for half of the day they succeeded (yes, succeeded!) in the capture of the "unknown" which when brought "to light" proved to be a "full grown, rusty old ground-hog."

MR. SAMUEL M. KNOX, of Intercourse, Leacock township, has in his possession a beautiful large steer, brought from the West. He is about 5 years old, and weighs 3,000 pounds. Mr. Knox intends feeding him another year; if he takes on flesh as is expected, he will made a very large, if not the heaviest bullock that has been fed in the county.

A CONUNDRUM.—Can any of our readers solve the following conundrum; the answer to this must be handed in at the front door of the office, instead of "over the fence," as heretofore. What is that which we all live for, and some die for, and is handled daily. None has ever been made and none has ever been seen.

A NEW CONGREGATION ORGANIZED.—For many years divine services have been held both in the German and the English language in the 1st Reformed Church in this city. This was a necessity, but it was never an entirely satisfactory arrangement, inasmuch as either the English or the German portion of the congregation had to suffer by it. At first, and for a long time, the former labored under a disadvantage, that led to the organization of St. Paul's congregation, which became entirely English. Latterly the disadvantage has been on the other side. A short time ago the classis of Lancaster had the matter under consideration and took active measures looking to the organization of an entirely German congregation and the erection of a new church building for their use. A committee consisting of Rev. Dr. Nevin, Rev. Prof. Apple and Rev. W. T. Gerhard were appointed to take the matter in hand and to lay the action of classis before the German members. This was done on Christmas, after divine service, and the overture was well received. Last Thursday evening there was a meeting of the Germans in the Lecture Room, the object of which was to decide what was to be done. After all the necessary explanations were made and assurances given of assistance and support from the 1st Church and other churches in classis, an organization was effected with great unanimity and cordial good will. Elders and Deacons were elected, and arrangements made to install them to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock; a competent pastor to take charge of this interest will be elected in due time. A proper christian feeling pervaded the entire meeting, which found full expression at the close in singing, as the German, men and womenalone can sing, the German melody:

Nun danket alle Gott
Mit Herz und Mund und Händen.

This we regard as an interesting and important movement. There is room for another German Church, Reformed, in this city and abundance of material for a large congregation. The object, we understand, is, to put up a church building at no distant day, not a small affair in an obscure corner, but one which will be an ornament to the city as well as an honor to the German name. Our citizens as well as members of the Reformed communion, will no doubt watch this movement among the Germans with interest and give it a cordial support.

REAL ESTATE MARKET.—Jacob Bowers has sold his two story brick house, on the west side of South Queen street, nearly opposite Middle, including a two story frame on rear of lot, to Dr. James Warren, of York county, for $4,740.

C. A. Bitner on Thursday sold a one-story brick house, on the South side of James street, between North Queen and Prince, to Jacob Reinoehl, jr., for $600. This was the house withdrawn at the public sale on Wednesday evening.

A two story frame house, with frame stable and about two acres of ground situated in the village of Gordonville, Leacock township, the property of Mrs. Phoebe Brua, was sold at public sale to Abraham Bowman, for $1,610.

John McLaughlin has sold his house and lot containing 2 acres, in the village of Georgetown, Bart twp., to Jacob Beckey, for $960.

Real estate of Bartholomew Gerber, dec'd, (near Safe Harbor, tract No. 1, consisting of 9 acres and 38 perches with improvements, for $1,85. Aaron Hughes, purchaser.

No. 2, containing 4½ acres, for $555.25. A Mennonite purchaser.

Edwin Garrett has sold his farm of 50 acres, near Christiana, in Sadsbury twp., to Mrs. J. McManamee, for $4 400

Harley & Bon have sold their mill and farm of 110 acres, in Bart township, to a Mr. Jackson, of Chester county, for $10,500.

Jacob Baughman has sold his farm in Bart containing 60 acres, to Henry Baughman, for $4 200.

The Inquirer report's the following sales, as having recently been made in Warwick twp:

Isaac Erb has sold his two-story frame house and lot of ground in the village of Lexington, to Francis Witmyer, for $1,550.

Francis Witmyer has sold his property consisting of 6 acres of land with improvements, to Ezra Riest, for $2,675.

S. D. Schreiner has sold his property consisting of 12 acres of land with improvements, to Ezra Riest, for $4,000.

Ezra Riest has sold his store property, with 2 acres of land, to S. D. Schreiner, for $7,000.

RECKLESS DRIVING.—This is a subject that is deserving of grave consideration; it concerns the safety of us all—pedestrians certainly have some rights that drivers are bound to respect. The Pittsburg Post remarks that in a case recently tried in the Court of Allegheny county, wherein the defendant was charged with involuntary manslaughter, in causing the instant death of an old lady and her grandchild, by driving over them with a heavy beer wagon (in which the jury failed to agree), there is ample food for reflection.

The charge of Judge Stowe in the case was an eminently proper one, and how the jury could fail to agree upon a verdict—in view of the law and the facts—is hard to perceive. The closing paragraph of the Judge's charge to the jury so clearly defines the rights of pedestrians, and the liabilities of drivers, that it is worthy of publication. It is as follows:

If a person is driving at a proper and legal rate of speed, and a contingency which he could not have avoided by the exercise of care, such as was reasonable and ordinary under the circumstances, he is excusable by law; but if rate of speed is so rapid as to endanger the lives or limbs of people who are likely to be on the street, or if one drives with so loose reins as not to be able, at the rate he is going, or in view of the known character of the team to check up, in any emergency, such as is likely to arise in the place where he may be driving, such conduct is clearly negligent and illegal, and death occasioned by the driver under such circumstances, is involuntary manslaughter. And this is so, notwithstanding the fact that the person killed was negligent in putting himself in a place of danger, if proper care on the part of defendant at the time of the accident, would have avoided it."

This rapid and reckless driving is an evil that is no longer tolerable in this community. Pedestrians are constantly put in danger of being run over, and maimed or killed by drivers, who seem to fancy that they have exclusive ownership of the streets and crossings, and that foot passengers are only to be permitted to cross over by sufferance, and at the risk of their lives. Let the Courts and juries make an example in some of these cases, and the public prints will not have to publish the details of horrible accidents caused upon the most public streets by negligent or half drunken drivers.

PRESENTATION TO PASTOR.—On Thursday evening, the 30th inst., the congregation of Leacock Presbyterian Church, took their pastor, Dr. Timlow, and his good lady by surprise by crowding in on them with a bounteous supply of those substantials necessary in all families. After all had assembled the Choir of the church, being present, sang, accompanied by the Melodian, some choice pieces of Sacred Music. After the singing the young folks joined in some innocent amusements, whilst the older portion of the assemblage were seated around in groups in social conversation.—After spending some two hours all returned to their homes feeling much pleased with their visit to the parsonage. Such occasions have a tendency to draw more closely those fraternal relations which should at all times exist between pastor and people.

BRIEFS.—Mr. Samuel Martin, of Ephrata own ship, raised during the past year on his 1 small farm, 50 bushels of wheat on 1½ acres of ground.

The last rail on the railroad from Coatesville to Wilmington was laid, the 24th ult., and the cars passed over the road between the two places.

Samuel S. Mull had his shoulder broken by the falling of a tree, on the 28th ult., near Farmersville, West Earl town ship.

An association called the "Delphic Literary Society," has been formed at the Green Tree. It holds its meetings every alternate Friday evening.

On Thursday a fox chase took place from the residence of Martin Bickham, near Churchtown. We have not learned whether the fox was caught or not.

A Republican newspaper, in this city, rejoices over the fact that seven negroes recently voted at a municipal election held in Mount Joy borough.

Samuel Shertzer, of Columbia, long known as a tide pilot between Marrietta and Peach Bottom, died a few days since, in Columbia. He was about 60 years of age.

THE new wheat crop is represented as looking well; the weather recently having been favorable for its growth.

For the Intelligencer.

MESSRS. EDITORS: We too often show a contracted grasp of ability by our business operations, for there scarcely can be imagined a more unhappy incongruity than is sometimes seen between the business and the capacity. While every man and community should be seriously apprehensive of overstepping himself, or itself, yet there should be sufficient resolution to look to enlargement and increase.

Fortune, like common lovers, may be proverbially liable to change or vicissitude; business success cannot always be safely guaranteed; and he who allows his mind to be carried away beyond the present, to dwell upon the phantom of future greatness who indulges in visions of magnificence and power, and allows the love of money to become too closely entwined around his heart will be tempted to over lap himself, or be lulled into a fatal security from which he will ultimately be aroused to find his success and happiness gone forever, perhaps with his dreams.

But it is always better to err on the side of vigorous attempt at advancement, than to leave these energies become paralyzed, the spirits crushed, the prospects perish, and promising opportunities overlooked and neglected.

If the dormant powers of the country everywhere could be actively aroused, it would add very much to our relief from the weight of taxation crushing us.

In fact there is no other means of salvation for us in our distressing state, connected with a wise and economical administration of the affairs of the country.

We may present our community as an example, of the room for expansion in the right direction, and which exists in other localities.

In this township (Eden) which is small, we have four hotels and three stores; two hotels more than needed, in the most liberal view; and two stores less than the interests and wants of the community require. Hotels detract from our wealth, and depreciate our reputation and worth, while stores increase and add to these. They concentrate trade, and therefore increase business and wealth.

A just and proper competition in trade keeps trade and money at home; but where it is not promoted by sufficient enterprise in business, much of the trade and money will pass to other localities.

Every community should exert itself to meet its own wants and increase its employment and business. These will add life, wealth and influence, and attract attention and means from other places.

EDEN.

A CORRECTION.—*Messrs. Editors:* I see by the Lancaster papers a notice of a colt bought by Mr. Black, of Lancaster City, which is a mistake, which I hope you will please correct. The notice should be Mr. S. Baxter Black, of Salisbury twp., near White Horse village. The colt was reared by Mr. Ball near Chester, Orange county, N. Y.; sired by Rysdyk's Hambletonian, and his dam by Long Island Black Hawk; he is considered one of the best bred trotting colts ever raised in Orange county; the price paid for him was $4,500. He is as fine a looking colt as any in the State; he will be two years old next April.

NEIGHBOR.

A BAD WOUND.—A correspondent of the Inquirer, writing from West Donegal twp, states that Michael Shank, of that township, while engaged with his son in killing hogs some time since was seriously cut with a butcher knife. Mr. Shank had the knife in his hand and was in the act of passing it to his son, when one of the hogs ran against him driving the knife into his leg above the knee, striking the bone with such force as to bend the knife. He bled so profusely that his life was for a time despaired of. Mr. Shank is about 70 years of age.

ALWAYS SEND YOUR NAME.—We have received two communications one from this city signed "Justice," and one from Salisbury twp., signed "Contributor." We refrain from publishing them as the names of the writers do not accompany them. We require the real name of every correspondent, not for publication, but as a matter of good faith. As soon as the writers of the above articles give us their names, we will cheerfully publish the communications referred to.

EXCITING FOX CHASE.—An exciting fox chase took place at the public house of John Hess, in Salisbury township, on Saturday afternoon. A number of horsemen and dogs were on hand, and the chase afforded all who participated in it and and all who witnessed it, much pleasure and amusement.

A CURIOUS SPECIMEN OF A WATER FOWL.—We were shown a curious specimen of a water fowl, by our friend Dr. S. S. Weist, of Schoeneck, which he captured in this county; he has prepared it very carefully as he is quite a taxadermist. The fowl measures from the breast to the tip of the tail fifteen (15) inches; the body is flat and measures about six and a half (6½) inches, and in thickness about three and a half inches; the neck stands near erect, not like a duck or other water fowls and rather thick, and about six inches long. The bill is about two and a half inches long, and of a greyish black color, and terminating in a sharp point. Both the upper and lower mandibles are rounding; the eye is red and duck size. The top of the head and neck and the upper portion of the body are covered with black feathers; and small white tipped ends; the throat and lower portion of the body are covered with white feathers—i. e outer edge of the wings and the wing feathers are entirely black. The tail is about one and a half inches long and flat, about three inches wide, terminating to a thin white edge. The legs extend from the upper hind part of the back, above the tail, about two and a half inches long, with webbed feet,—in the order of the fowl called Grebe. The feathered appearance of the fowl is assimilating to the loon, but no other portion. Can some of our ornithologists classify and explain this curious specimen? The doctor has quite a rare collection of birds, insects minerals, animals, &c.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT.—The Inquirer says that Abner Armstrong, a young man residing in the village of Georgetown, Bart twp., was seriously injured on Christmas day by the falling of his horse while he was riding him rapidly, near the Copper Mines. One leg was broken, and fears are entertained by his attending physicians of serious internal injuries.

LEGISLATIVE.—The Harrisburg Telegraph states that large numbers of the members of the Legislature have arrived in Harrisburg, and are quartered at the hotels.

A. C. Reinoehl and Senator Billingfelt are stopping at the Lochiel House. Senator J. B. Warfel is stopping at the State Capital Hotel.

IMPORTANT TO FARMERS.—The Philadelphia Ledger says as we enter upon a new year, it is proper to look back and institute comparisons, that we may see whither we are tending. Trade in general is conceded to be dull—unusually so—and, as compared with this date last year, prices of the leading staples are lower. The wholesale price of superfine flour on the 31st of December, 1869, was about $6 per barrel; it is now quoted in this city at $4 50—a decline of one-fourth of its price. Best white wheat was then quoted at $2 25 per bushel; it is now quoted in the market $1 50—a decline of 75 cents per bushel. Rye has fallen from $1 60 to $1, corn from $1 80 to $1, and oats from 78 to 57 cents. Rye flour, corn meal, and almost the entire direct product of the soil, have experienced a very similar decline, while the indirect produce of the farm—pork, beef, lard and seeds, have generally held their own, and in some instances advanced.

THE RICHEST NEGRO.—The Philadelphia Press states that Stephen Smith has the reputation of being the richest colored man in Pennsylvania. Stephen is now about sixty years of age, and is still a vigorous and active business man. He was born at Columbia, Lancaster county, and is of mixed parentage. He was bound at an early age in his native place as an apprentice to a lumber merchant. Marrying before he reached his majority, he was obliged to purchase his indentures. He commenced his business career by doing a small trade in lumber, which he gradually extended as his capital became greater. At a later period he established himself as a lumber merchant in Philadelphia, besides largely investing in real estate. He also, at one time, was engaged in the coal business. In personal appearance he is over six feet in height, large and well-formed, with a massive head. He has the reputation of being a shrewd business man and of liking a good bargain. His wealth is variously estimated at from five to six hundred thousand dollars.

FIRE IN COLUMBIA.—Shatzer's steam saw mill was consumed by fire last evening between 8 and 9 o'clock, destroying a large amount of property. We have no particulars, but the fire is said to have been the work of an incendiary.

SERIOUS DISTURBANCE—INDISCRIMINATE USE OF MUSKETS AND PISTOLS BY BOYS—TWO BOYS BADLY WOUNDED.—It seems that the new City Authorities are permitting the City Ordinances to be violated without taking any measures to insure their faithful observance. When the new Radical Officials, of our city, were inaugurated great promises were made that the coming administration should prove a strong and vigorous one; but recent events demonstrate how empty were the promises made to the people by Radical pot-house politicians who not for the dear people's sake but to fill their own pockets were anxious to obtain the control of our municipal affairs.

The disgraceful and unfortunate affair that occurred yesterday afternoon in the Second Ward, however fully aroused public indignation and we have heard from many prominent Republicans terms of the strongest condemnation used with reference to the culpable negligence of the Police Officer of the Second Ward, and Mayor Atlee.

The facts of this disgraceful affair are as follows. Some thirty or forty boys congregated near the Locomotive works, about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and proceeded with loaded muskets and pistols to fire out the 'Old Year."—Persons residing in the vicinity were greatly disturbed by the loud shouts of the boys, and the frequent discharges of their heavily charged fire arms. The policemen of the Second Ward were sought for—but as usual, they could not be found, and neither Mayor Atlee nor the Mayor's Clerk Alderman Fisher, nor the Captain of Police seemed to hear the noise, or, if they did hear it, no attention was paid to it. The boys continued to amuse themselves in the unlawful manner indicated until a load of shot accidentally discharged from a musket, in the hands of one of them, severely wounded two of their number named, Thos. Price and George Hoelitzel. Price, a lad of about twelve years of age, was struck in the back, but was not seriously injured. Hoelitzel, aged about thirteen years, a son of Mr. Geo. Hoelitzel, residing in East King street, did not, however, escape so luckily, one of the shot striking him in the left eye and injuring it so severely that the attending physician, Dr. Geo. A. King, is of the opinion that the sight of the eye is entirely destroyed.

A witness of the sad affair informs us that the escape of some of the boys from fatal injury was miraculous as the crowd was very large and noisy, and the fire-arms were handled in a hasty and careless manner. The conduct of the city authorities, (especially that of the policemen of the Second Ward) in not attending to their duties on this occasion is a subject of severe animadversion even among their own political friends. The people are at last awakened to a sense of the incapacity of the present city government and they say that hereafter they will not support any man for the Mayoralty who constantly neglects his official duties and instead of looking after the affairs of the city leaves them in the hands of deputies who are notoriously negligent and incompetent.

AN APPEAL TO THE CHARITABLE CITIZENS OF LANCASTER.—The "Union Dorcas Society" having, during the winter many applications for relief, and being at present very low in funds, earnestly call upon the citizens of Lancaster for assistance. We hope many will respond to this appeal, that the wants of the sick and poor amongst us may be relieved by their aid. All contributions for this purpose will be received by David Bair Esq., at the Banking house of Bair & Sherk.

THE WEATHER.—Our Conestoga Centre correspondent says: Our weather-wise prophets all predicted a long and very severe winter, but they will probably be