Everybody remembers the pretty story of Aminta, the village maid, who was betrothed to Elvino, and who walked in betrothed to Elvino, and who walked in her sleep. Everybody remembers her, since she has been made immortal by the genius of Bellini. Well, Aminta, sweet girl, can no longer claim the title of La Somnambula as her own peculiar property, for our city can boast of one who is as young and beautiful as the sweet Italian girl could possibly have been, yet whose story is essentially different from that of the heroine of the opera, save in one particular, that of opera, save in one particular, that of somnambulism.

In the west end of the city dwells a family—as a great many families do—but the one we allude to belongs to the creme de la creme of Louisville society. The lord of the house is a gentleman whose name is a power on 'Change, three lines from whose pen, with his signature attached, would make a bank trophle to the lowest state. tremble to the lowest stone in its vaults. The lady was, soms years ago, a belle among belies, the admired of all, "the toast of the county." Though no longer young, the mother of a grown daughter, time has dealt lightly with her charms, and she is yet the possessor of great beauty, toned down, 'tis true, from the sparkling freshness that distinguished her youth. If my lord walks among the money changers a very king, my lady promenades the parlors a very queeu.

They have a daughter, whose loveli-

ness language is too poor to describe. Young—she cannot be more than nine-teen; lovely—the roses droop their heads through envious shame when her cheek appears among them, the stars grow pale with anger as they look into her beaming eyes at seeing brighter orbs on earth than glowin the neavens; the airs catch balmy odors from her breath; the birds add new and sweeter bars to their melodies after hearing her sing; her form is lithe and willowy and symmetrical as was that of the poet's Beatrice, and her step is light as a summer zephyr, that scarce beats the thistle-down to earth. And she is as good as beautiful. Indeed, of all her beauteous sex she's the very paragon.
That this lovely creature is adored by

her parents is not to be wondered at, since she is worshiped by all else. Imagine then the grief which has stricken their hearts of late, as they watched the roses fade from her cheek the glorious eyes begin to sink in their sockets, the rounded form grow thin and angular, and the light, springy step grow heavy and languid. To all their interrogatories she universally declared that she was not ill—that she enjoyed her usual health. She acknowledged that she was aware of a great change occurring, for her glass told her as much, but it was unaccountable to her. The family physician was called in, but he could not enlighten them. At length it was suggested to the griefstricken mother that perhaps the fair girl was pining away from hopeless love. The suggestion gave her hope. She flew to her daughter's chamber, and conjured her to confess the fact if it were true, at the same time promising that no impediment would be thrown in the way of the accomplishment of her wishes. No, she was not in love. Thank Heaven, her heart was yet whole and fancy free. Sorrowing more than ever, the mother left the daughter's presence! That night she communicated to her husband the suggestion that had been made to her, as well as the result of her interview with their child. Man is not so easy to convince as woman, and the denial or his daughter amounted almost to a confession—he was as satisfied that she loved some one whom she feared to introduce into the house, as if he had seen her, with his own eyes, stealing out to a midnight tryst. The clouds were now lifted—the scales had failen that hitherto obscured his vision. It was loss of rest that was killing the girl. He would watch her that very night and discover the truth. And watch he did, and sure enough, as the night deepened; he saw his child's door open, and she emerge therefrom, bearing in her hand a chamber lamp, and clad only in her night garments. He did not attempt to detain her, as she turned her steps toward the door that opened into the garden, but determined to ascertain who she was going to meet at that unseemly hour and in that unmaidenly guise, followed her a-tiptoe, taking good care to keep himself well in the backgrounk, beyond the reach of the rays of the lamp. Steadily she moved in the direction of an arbor in the lower part of the garden, which was her favorite resort in summer time. Reaching the arbor she seated herself upon a bench, and, placing the lamp beside her, gazed with wide staring eyes out into the blackness and emptiness of the night. He waited, and waited, and waited, but no lover made his appearance. At length, fearing that longer exposure to the keen, cold air, thinly clad as she was, might prove fatally in jurious to his already half-dead daughter, he concluded to present himself to her, and compel her to return to the house. What was his astonishment to discover that she was in a somnambulic state. Gently he awoke her, lifted her in his arms, and bore her to the house. The mystery was explained. She is now under medical treatment, and it is hoped that soon society will be glad-dened and adorned by the return of its sweetest and fairest ornament freed from the malady that was fast destroy-

An Opera House on Fire. The grand tableaux entertainment was announced to come off at the Opera House last evening, says the Troy Press, 15th, for the benefit of the Troy Orphan Asylum, was brought to a sudden termination toward the close by the fearful cry of "fire!" The immense audience which had assembled completely filled every nook and corner of the edifice. Not even standing room was to be obtained in the building soon after the performance had commenced Everything passed off handsomely until a few minutes after ten o'clock, when the two last pieces on the evening's programme were reached. Some person in gramme were reached. Some person in the street, in front of the Opera House, raised the cry of fire—and in a few minutes after St. Paul's bell repeated the alarm. At this moment some person in the rear part of the parquette cried out, "the fire is in the hall!" and instantly the truth of his remark was confirmed by volumes of smoke which were seen to emerge from the congricor in the Some jumped over the seats, others fic Railroads

crowded th eir way through the narrow aisles, whi ie many of those in the gal-lery, becoming utterly "demoralized," crowded the passage-ways leading down the stair the When the excitement was at its height Chief Engineer Hall ascended the gallery and assured the audience. that there was no danger. This had t'ne effect of pacifying the throng for a moment, but the smoke arose from the cellar so rapidly that it filled the dre asing rooms and stage, and was seen by the audience. This caused a fresh al arm, and the people began again to Crowd toward the doors. On the stage and in the dressing rooms under and about it, were quite a large number of ladies and gentlemen—all whom had been or were dressed to take part in the different pieces on the programme. Many of the ladies were mostly en dishabille in their rooms, while others were attired as queens, fairies, gipsies, etc. The ladies rushed from the apartments, on the alarm being given, and crowded towards the rear door of the stage leading into the alley. In this way many escaped, leaving behind them their wearing apparel, etc. Others followed the audience in front, and found refuge in the American House. The most exciting scene of the evening, was the conduct of a number of Albanians, both ladies and gentlemen, who occupied the upper private box on the left hand side of the hall. The young men jumped from the box to the stage— a la Booth—and the ladies followed their example, alighting in the arms of the young "gallants." The scene was ludicrous in the extreme, and, notwith-standing the danger which was appa-rent, created a "titter" among the audience. One or two of the ladies on the stage fainted, and had to be conveyed home in carriages. The fire originated from a defect in the flue leading from the furnace in the cellar to the ground floor of the building, near the billiard room. A portion of the wood-work surrounding the flue was burned, but no other damage was done. officers and several citizens picked up numerous pieces of wearing apparel furs, muffs, gloves, shawls, &c.

Death of a Noted Character. A Scottish paper, speaking of the recent death of Mr. Alexander Macansh,

Mr. Macansh, though little known to fame beyond the district in which he lived the greater part of his life, was in many respects a remarkable man. He was born in Doune in 1803, but when he reached the age of eleven years his parents removed to Dunfermline, bringing their son with them, and there he was apprenticed to a "heckler" or flax-dre-ser—a trade which he followed till a few years ago. In Mr. Macansh's youth the "short time movement" was a thing of the future; but notwithstanding his long fourteen hour's hard toil day after day, he, by dint of extraordinary industry, and inspired by an enthusiastic love for learning for its own sake, contrived to become a capital linguist and mathematician. His love for study continued through life, and in his brief intervals of leisure he acquired intimate acquaintance 811 the best ancient and modern anthors. He was possessed of a cultivated literary taste, and, while he was yet little more than a boy, became a frequent contri-butor to the periodical literature of the the day. His writings at that time were chiefly poetical, but they also included essays and papers on different subjects, and many of them attracted considerable attention. Some fifteen or twenty years ago a volume from his pen ap peared, entitled "The Social Curse and other Poems," which displayed a good deal of genius; and the production of the work was all the more remarkable when it is considered as we are told by the author, the principal poem was composed in the short period of three months and that the only spare time he had was before going to his labor in the early morning, and on being released in the evenings from a hard day's toil. A short time ago a collection of Mr. Ma cansh's papers appeared, and that book has had a considerable sale. Some of the essays contained in it show that the author was possessed of a more than re respectable scientific knowledge; but the most interesting portion is a set of papers on "The Morals of the Workshop," a subject on which Mr. Macansh was of course well qualified to speak. The essays, too, are written in no partial spirit, and whilst the bright parts of the author's compeers are held up to commendation, the failings of himself and his fellows are exposed with an unsparing hand. Mr. Macansh is also known in the west of Fife as a lecturer of some reputation. As we have said, his fame was almost entirely local; but he was not unknown in literary circles, and amongst those who took a kindly interest in his welfare were the late Hugh Miller and the Rev. Dr. Guthrie. Mr. Macansh was a bright example of what a workingman may do for himself in the cultivation of his mind. Few have more difficulties to struggle against than he had. Decrepit in body and with but little time for study, he nevertheless succeeded in acquiring an amount of education and useful know

THE PROJECTED TEHUANTEPEC RAIL ROAD.—The project of the Transit Company for the construction of a railroad and telegraph across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, is attracting more general attention in Wash ington than any other commercial enterprise of the day. The route by the Isthmus, from of the day. The route by the 1sthmus, from New York to our Pacific coast, being represented as shorter by nearly fitteen hundred miles, than by the way of Panama, and if the Fernandina road across Florida be adopted as a part of the route, the distance saved will be nearly two thousand miles. The Liberals have throughout been in understand passession of the Internal Parks. disputed possession of the Isthmus of Tehu-antepec. The Transit Company has an order from President Juarez to the local authori-ties to extend all facilities for the immediate commencement and prosecution of the work and will proceed forthwith to build the road. Its friends confidently expect that in less than two years the route will be opened and thronged with the commerce of the world

ledge such as few in his grade of life

ever aspire to.

TENNESSEE RAILROADS.—The Tennesse TENNESSEE RALLROADS.—The Tennessee House of Representatives on Monday passed the Senate bill loaning State bonds to the following Railroads—Memphis and Ohio, \$200,000; Mississippi and Tennessee, \$150,000; Knoxville and Charleston, \$300,000; Cincinnati, Cumberland Gap and Charleston. \$500,000; Tennessee and Virginia. \$300,000; Uncontained to the contained to the by volumes of smoke which were seen to emerge from the openings in the chaing-apparatus near the stage.

Most the entire audience arise from their seats, and the more nervous and excitable made a hasty start for the door.

Some jumped over the seats of the Some jumped over the Some

RETAIL DRY GOODS

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Successor to John V. Cowell & Son, S W. Cor. Seventh & Chestnut NOW OFFERS One of the largest and most varied Stock of

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FURNITURE CHINTZES

Musliurs. Furniture Chintzes, &c. Pique for Children's Dresses. Plaid Floor Linen. Gents' and Ladies' Hdhfs, &c., &c., In order to reduce the stock as much as possible by th ist of January, it is now offered at very low prices for Cash.

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LARGE PURCHASES AT AUCTION ENABLE US. TO OFFER BARGAINS IN

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HDEFS—Ladies and Gents, every variety,
VELLS. SCARES, NEW TIES, &c.
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Embracing Novelites adapted for
HOLIDAY P<*SE-TPS, at
REDUCAD PRICES.

E, M. NEEDLES.

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NO. 147 NORTH FIGHTH STREET,
East-ide, above Cherry street,
has now on hand a fai illne of FALL and WINTER
GOODS, at reduced prices.
Ladies's Merino Vesus and Drawers.
Gents' White, Clouded, Grey and Red Marino Shirts

Hoslery, Gloves, Suspenders, Tres, Scarfs, do. 1
White Shirts on hand and made to order. A perfect occision

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CHRISTMAS! CHRISTMAS!!
Calicoes and De Laines for Christmas.
Filks and Shawls for Christmas.
Poplins and Merinoes for Christmas.
Mistee' and Ladles' Gloves for Curiatmas.
Gents' Gloves and Handkerchlefs for Christmas.
Ladles' Hemmed and Embroidered Hdkfs.
We will selv our entire stock at low figures, to suit purchasers making Christmas Presents.
STOKES & WOOD, 762 Arch street. STORES & WOOL, WAR AREA SITES,
DWIN HALL & CO., 28 SOUTH SECOND Street
are now opening their Fail and Winter Imports
tions of Silks, DRESS GOODS, CLOTHS, &c.
Heavy Colored Silks.
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"Firm's Real Irith Poplins.
French and German Poplins
Breach Goods in great variety.
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628. LATEST STYLE, JUST OUT. 628 LE PETIT TRAIL, for the Promenade, 21/4 yds.round, THE CHAMPION TRAIL, for the Drawing-Room, THE CHAMPION TRAIL, for the Drawing-Room, a yards round.

These Skirts are in every way the most desirable that we have hereto tre efferted to the public; also, complete lines of Ladles', Misses and Childrens' Plain and Trail Hoop Skirts from 2% to 4 yards in dreumler ence, of every length, all of "our own make." wholesale and retail and warranted to give satisfaction.

Constantly on band, low-priced lines York made Skirts. Plain and Trail, 20 springs 30 cents; 25 springs \$1; 30 springs, \$1 10, and 4e springs, \$1 20.

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WHITE LASTILE SUAP.—108 poxes genuine white Castile Soap, landing from Brig Fennsylvania from Genoa, and for sale by JOS, B.RUSSIER & CO. 108 South Delsware avenue.

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Have just opened fresh invoices of

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Satinets, all qualities,
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Undershirts and Drawers Also, Scarfs, Neckties,
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SELLING OFF AT A GREAT SACRIFICE,
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We offer a large and fine assortiment of Youths' and
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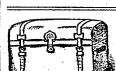
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Price only from one to two cents per square foot.
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GEORGE PLOWMAN, CARPENTER AND BUILDER. 232 CARTER STREET Machine Work and Milwriting promptly attended