CITY BULLETIN.

—The Board of Trade held its annual meeting last evening. The annual report submitted stated that the following subjects have been considered and disposed of within the year:

On the 28th of July, 1869, a modification of the revenue laws was enacted, making the value of packages in which goods were imported, taking effect on the passage. This was into effect at our Custom House, as well as others north of this port, on the 10th of August, 1869. In June last, a present representing the Treasury Department, after searching the books of the Custom House of this port, notified all persons who had settled their duties at the port of Philadelphia within three dates, that a charge for back duties had been made and was pending against them; and that these back dues, of three years' intervals. These proceedings. The council at once proceeded to remonstrate energetically with the Department, and the claim was abandoned.

A memorial was addressed to Congress upon the report of a committee who visited and personally examined the locality, in favor of an immediate appropriation of money sufficient to secure and protect the lighthouse at Absecon beach from imminent danger of destruction by the encroachment of the sea and washing away of its foundation.

In view of the recent completion of that great work, the Union Pacific Railroad, and the possibilities of commerce opened by it, and other rapid developments in the production and interchange of commodities, a few words may be allowed on the manufacturing and commercial advantages and prospects of Philadelphia and its facilities for a greatly extended domestic and foreign trade. Great numbers of manufacturers and shippers of general merchandise should keep in mind the important fact, that Philadelphia has the shortest and best railroad connections with the principal grain and provision producing sections of the country, and also the shortest and best route to the first and middle atlantic coal fields of the State, giving an advantage, at the usual rates per mile, of at least one dollar per ton, or about three cents per bushel, in the rates of freight on grain delivered at warehouses or vessels at the navigable front of the city, over deliveries for shipment at New York. The advantages of cheap freight to make Philadelphia the chief grain and provision depot on the Atlantic coast, as well as the great manufacturing centre of the Union. Economy and despatch are essential ideas in shipping as in other business.

The anthracite coal production of the State shows a small decrease from last year, it being (subject to a small percentage, which will be made at one point) 13,338,457 tons, against 13,674,757 tons in 1868; but this has been more than compensated by the bituminous coal transported by the Pennsylvania Central road alone, which has increased 2,222,325 tons against 2,065,309 in 1868, an increase of 264,260 tons, and making a total of anthracite and bituminous of 15,711,693 tons, a portion of that transported by the Monongahela slackwater and other western improvements, which would undoubtedly carry the quantity of Pennsylvania coal brought into use up to very nearly or quite 20,000,000 tons, and to a value of fully $60,000,000.

The production of iron in Pennsylvania for the year 1869 has been as follows:

Pig iron, 965,000 tons for 1869, against 872,000 tons in the 1868. Increase, 93,000 tons.

The sales of the product being about $34,000,000 or very little beyond the lesser quantity of last year.

The progress of the city during the year, as indicated by the number of new buildings—over 5,000, and more than double the average per year for the previous years, before large preparations for the year to come, while rents have scarcely declined at all, is an indication of prosperous and increasing business prospects to the contrary, due to the general shrinkage of values in commodities. The tide has turned—home to the experience of most business men, and are well-known to the association.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President—John Welsh.

Vice Presidents—Samuel V. Merrick, James C. Hand, Frederick Fraley.

Secretary—T. Morris Perot.

Treasurer—Richard Wood.

Executive Council—Joseph C. Grubb, E. A. Souder, Samuel S. Stokes, George L. Buzby, George N. Tatham, D. C. McCammon, J. Price Wetherill, Henry Winsor, George N. Allen, John O. James, C. B. Durborrow, Thos. L. Gillespie, Thos. G. Hood, Christian J. Hoffman, Thos. C. Hand, Wm. V. Hall, Jno. Price Wetherill, Henry Winsor, George N. Allen, Adamson, John B. Michener, Benj. Bullock, Israel W. Morris, Jr., James Dougherty.

—For the Temperance Celebration on the 22d inst., the following programme has been prepared: In order to give the full opportunity for all classes of our people to join in such exercises as may be most congenial, the committee has resolved to extend the period for social exhortation, prayer and praise throughout the entire week in which the 22d occurs—recognizing the great truth that every moral reform must find its chief strength within the Church, and in order to the most effective work, to involve Divine assistance in the beginning of this season of temperance effort, the committee does most earnestly request the clergy of this city to preach on the subject of Temperance from their sermons, on the morning of Sunday, the 20th of February, to invite the Christian congregations to these meetings to bless God in their songs of praise for the great deliverance He has vouchsafed to many weak and sinful men in times past, and in their prayers to plead for help in the struggle against the evil one. 3. The committee recommends that the temperance societies of every name and class hold open public sessions in their respective meeting nights during the week, beginning on the 20th inst. 2. That the officers of churches open their rooms to the public as many evenings as may be convenient during the week. 3. That a great temperance meeting be held in the Horticultural Hall, broad street, on the afternoon and evening of the 22d, to be addressed by the best talent that can be procured. 4. That the total abstinence pledge be circulated for signatures at the public meetings.

—The Baptist Conference met yesterday at the Publication house, Arch street, below Sixth. A discussion took place on the question of the Church and Amusements. Rev. Dr. Swain, Rev. J. S. Kendrick, Rev. Dr. Henderson, Rev. Dr. Eacher and other clergymen took part, denouncing parlor dancing and attendance at the theatre and balls by members of the Church as inconsistent with their profession.

—The committee appointed by City Councils to consider the subject of obtaining the centennial anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, have reported adversely after a season. A sub-committee was appointed to act in conjunction with a committee of the Legislature, and report at a joint meeting with Legislative Committee on the subject.

—The members of the South Letton held a meeting last evening, and adopted an appropriate memorial in reference to the death of Colonel A. H. Tippen, who served Letton all of that regiment during the entire war of the rebellion.

—James Morrow was taken before Alderman Moore yesterday afternoon, on the charge of cruelty to a horse. The animal was very lame in one of his legs, and had been driven from Richmond to Mead alley with a ton of coal.

—George Ryan, aged 4 years, residing in Nicholson street, in the neighborhood of Shoff and Race streets, was kicked in the head by a horse and had his skull fractured yesterday.

—The Ninth Regiment, P. M., yesterday elected the following officers: Colonel—Wm. T. Forbes; Lieutenant-Colonel—Charles Fair; Major—Harrison S. De Silver.

CAMDEN GOSSIP.

—The complaints in reference to the gas furnished consumers in Camden appear to be far more numerous the present quarter than on former occasions. They have caused the issuance of a call for another meeting of the citizens, to take further action with regard thereto, on Thursday evening next. The complaints refer to the quality, quantity, the illuminating powers, the irregularity of pressure, the defects in the meters and the alleged unaccountable differences in the reported amounts consumed by similar burners in adjoining houses for like periods of time, and even quantity intervals. These complaints cannot fail to be as disagreeable to the honorable conductors of the gas works as their cause or causes are irritating to the consumers. At the present time there are no means for the consumer to know whether he is defrauded or not, as the immediate agent of the company is made the sole competent judge of the quantity of gas supplied, the record so used, and the condition of the instrument by which that quantity is estimated. The remedy in this case furnishes his own scales, provides his own weights, tests his own results, and, from the very nature of the business, possesses a local monopoly of the whole trade. In order to obviate and remedy this evil, a plan has been submitted which, if adopted, it is thought, cannot fail to be successful. Two meters are to be so combined that the gas which is consumed shall pass through both. One of these meters shall be left under the exclusive control of the company and its agents, and the other shall be so effectively under the control of the consumers and their agents, who would in such a case be called upon to witness in all cases of dispute, a man or men unconnected with the works and enjoying the full confidence of the parties to whom the results would be of the second meter by the consumers, and a recording officer of acknowledged integrity being appointed by the same authority, a double record and an available system of checks would be established, which would tend to smooth the temper of the officials of the gas works, and to arrest a great deal of the grumbling of the consumers. By a persistent and independent determination in this matter, the consumers are satisfied that their efforts will finally result in placing themselves in possession of a more dependable and entirely disinterested inspection of their heating and lighting agents, and will subject themselves to a very trifling addition to their annual expenses. These propositions are worthy of consideration, and the company should give them close and respectful attention.

—There is not much talk among politicians in Camden relative to the coming municipal election, which is to take place on the second Tuesday in March. Probably this apathy is caused by the impression entertained among many that the contest between the two parties ter will be passed before that time, in which case that election will be abolished, and the municipal officers will be elected at the election in November.

—The introduction of organs has become quite a feature in the Methodist churches of Camden. Since the completion of the new one in the Tabernacle, the Broadway church of the Centenary Church are taking measures to secure one. These instruments add materially to the solemnity of the service. This church is rapidly increasing in membership.

—Last evening a young man, named Jacob Hage, was arrested by Officer James W. Ayres, and committed to jail for larceny, on a charge of the larceny of a memorandum-book containing some money, and also lot of bills and other articles. The officer had quite an interesting chase before capturing him.

—Many twenty of the prisoners convicted at the present session of the Camden Court, are to be sentenced to the penitentiary at Trenton.

—Beggars and mendicants are on the increase in Camden and vicinity, and the station-house of the city is filled with them nightly.

—The West Jersey Ferry Company are contemplating some very fine improvements on Market street.

—The new City Charter provides for building a new City Hall for Camden.

THE ELECTRIC PIANO.

The idea of playing on a piano through the agency of electro-magnets is comparatively new. In the patent record of the small kingdom of Wurtemberg we find that, in 1854, a patent for an electric piano was granted to a certain Mr. Andreu, in Sindelfingen. It appears, however, that this invention, though patented, met the fate of so many others—it was not well; consequently the inventor, in order to carry the original idea into success, found it best to address himself to the proper scientific and practical men, to involve Divine assistance in the beginning of this season of temperance effort, the committee does most earnestly request the clergy of this city to preach on the subject of Temperance from their sermons, on the morning of Sunday, the 20th of February, to invite the Christian congregations to these meetings to bless God in their songs of praise for the great deliverance He has vouchsafed to many weak and sinful men in times past, and in their prayers to plead for help in the struggle against the evil one. 3. The committee recommends that the temperance societies of every name and class hold open public sessions in their respective meeting nights during the week, beginning on the 20th inst. 2. That the officers of churches open their rooms to the public as many evenings as may be convenient during the week. 3. That a great temperance meeting be held in the Horticultural Hall, broad street, on the afternoon and evening of the 22d, to be addressed by the best talent that can be procured. 4. That the total abstinence pledge be circulated for signatures at the public meetings.

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The Sleeping Bugs.

The trees have been busy throughout the summer preparing for the next season. Every bud is a study in itself. It foreshadows the future leaves and flowers, which, indeed, are not packed up and stored within it. These, in many cases, wear undergarments of hair, or something wool, to insure them against changes of temperature. This is succeeded by overlapping scales, which, in fine, resemble a coating of white-proof varnish, and this package is completed in a most business-like way. If we, with our delicate fingers, endeavor to unfold the parcel, we make the audacious imagine piece of work, tearing and generally disorganizing the delicate tissues, but only a few days of spring sunshine are required to accomplish that which man finds impossible. Scale after scale is reflexed, and

"The horse-chestnut's little hands unfold,
And on a baby's nine days old."

But now, as we observe, the buds are slumbering. Little things care for the wild winds which rock their tiny cradles, or sing them collian lullabies. The rainflowed icicle may be pendent directly under their tipsy, the snow wrap them in its soft embrace. They know nothing about it; but exist in a semi-oblivious condition between the past and the future, deriving strength from their hostile life and looking with bright hope to that which is to come.

While they are thus reposing, it may be we are taking undue liberty in casting upon the sleeping beauties. If so, we offer them full satisfaction. If any of them are so fortunate as to possess a double blood greeting—and Pomona grant they may—we hereby accord them free permission to throw their dishpiece at our heads, if, perchance, we unwarily stroll within our cochard. The fact is, our feminine curiosity sometimes gives us much trouble. We are forever attempting to withdraw the curtain with which nature shrouds the forbidden chamber. We are led to pry into the "green mantle of the standing pool;" to chase some erratic insect through mysterious labyrinths; to "peer" in place one impotent chair in the path of the adventure seeker. In the case of the buds, we have to observe from what small beginnings spring our future fruits and flowers, yet it would berst and there that we attempt to unveil their mysteries. When we do thus yield to temptation we are amply repaid for the few moments we spent in the delightful study. If we learn nothing more, it is always a comfort to know that life to have our faith in a better existence confirmed, and the buds preach most eloquently in praise of immortality.—*Providence Journal.*

A Fox's Revenge.

A respectable man of the county of Monmouth resided on the banks of the Hudson river. One day he went to a bay on the river to shoot ducks or wild geese. When he came to the river he saw six geese beyond shot, he determined to wait for them to approach the shore. While sitting there he saw a fox come down to the shore, and stand some time and observe the geese. At length he turned and went into the woods, and came out with a large bunch of moss in his mouth. He then entered the water very slowly, sank himself, and then spread the moss above the water—himself concealed—he floated among the geese, suddenly one of them was drawn under the water, and the fox soon appeared on the shore with the goose on his back.

He ascended the bank, and found a hole made by the tearing up of a tree. This hole he entered, placed in the goose, and covered it with great care, strewing leaves over it. The fox then left; and while he was away the gunner secured the goose and closed the hole, and then resolved to await the issue.

In about half an hour the fox returned with another fox in company. They went directly to the place where the goose had been buried, and commenced to dig out the carcass; they could not be found! They stood regarding each other for some time, when suddenly the second fox attacked the other furiously, as if offended by the trick of his friend.

The Scotch and the English.

The Scotch have an enormous energy of life. The marriage rate in Scotland is smaller than in England. In 1867 16·72 per one thousand living were married in England, but in Scotland only 14·20 per one thousand. Yet with a smaller proportion of marriages the same result is observable in so far as the increase of population is concerned. The Englishman marries earlier than the Scotch. In Scotland 7·46 per cent. of the men and 21·60 per cent. of the women married were under twenty-one. Yet the marrying a year or two later in life does not appear to diminish the number of children. On the contrary, there in Scotland there are 4·65 children to a marriage, in England there are only 3·84. In education the Scotch are quicker than the English. Of the children examined in the day schools, 10·60 per cent. failed in reading in England, whilst in Scotland the proportion that failed was only 5·50 per cent. And in arithmetic in England there failed 25·28 per cent., in Scotland 21·22 per cent. The mortality, also, is less in Scotland than in England. In 1867 the number of deaths was 21·91 per one thousand living in England, and 21·77 per one thousand living in Scotland.

FACTS AND FANCIES.

—Let not the wicked brandy over me," is the way a response was read in a Mobile church.

—A late steamer at Calcutta had ten American passengers making the grand tour of the East.

—The Ohio Legislature has astrong infusion of the military element. There are twelve soldiers in the Senate and twenty-seven in the House.

—An Indiana paper says it is a singular fact that religious revivals are always the most successful during the silent and dark days of the winter months.

—A smoker of Davenport, Iowa, boiled a fifteen-dollar meerschaum in milk to bring out the color, with the sole result of making the pipe look like very rich cream. It was only a mere sham.

—A Chicagoan writes a letter says: "Mayor Burr recently got from a Crow Chief a spoiled piece of gold, as long as a lead pencil, and half as thick as his finger. The Indians would never tell where they got their gold, but said there was plenty of it.

—At a Christmas dinner in Santa Barbara, Cal., where all the old and Irish potatoes, vegetables of all kinds, lemons, pomegranates, olives and strawberries were served fresh from the garden, and the table was adorned with lemon, peach, strawberry and raspberry blossoms.

—A Lynchburg paper is warm in its praise of a new invention which, it continues, will "save one thousand per cent." of the labor now required in the manufacture of tobacco. That's a saving worth talking about, if "per cent." is its old meaning.

—An Indianapolis woman recently gave birth to a child during her husband's absence, and just before his return from Washington borrowed two other babies and placed them in bed with the little stranger. When the father asked to see his child the coverlid was turned down, and although he must have been immensely surprised, he coolly turned to his wife and asked, "Did any get away?"

—The Pelin (Iowa) *Blade* says that on New Year's day, a young man of that city invested a dollar and a half in a marriage license. A few days since, the official who gave him the legal permit to marry received from the young man the following note:

"SIR: I will send you the license that you gave me to get married with and state that I was not married for this reason because the girl whose name is on the paper went back on me because she could get another fellow's name——send them so that you can give him license for her but be sure and send your fee for so doin. No move at present but believe me

"Your most hart broken,——"

AMUSEMENTS.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—Positively Success of Success, Triumphant return to Philadelphia of the celebrated Ethiopian Operatic Troupe, THE ENGLISH OPERA. C. D. HESS & CO., ... Proprietors and Directors. CHARLES DARCY, ... Stage Director. THIS EVENING, FEB. 8, THE SEASON OF GRAND ENGLISH OPERA! A Bill given to the satisfaction of Crowded Houses, Crowded Houses. FRIDAY EVENING, FEB. 11, When the great musical event of the season will be the production of the Ethiopian Opera, in two acts, entitled, THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO (Figaro's Chicken). An opera admired and sung throughout Europe or America, the perfect fact that its popularity increases as years depart. Mr. Company has which the Directors are proud to be able to present, with a strong company and effective cast, embracing nearly every principal artiste of this grand combination, MR. SAM'L PARTA, ROSA In her celebrated character, Susanna, with Miss ROSE PRESTON, as the Page, MISS ROSE PRESTON, Mr. ROBINSON as Count, Mr. CHAS. ROBINSON, Mr. CHAS. ROBINSON, Mr. CHAS. ROBINSON