WISHES.

Sweet be her dreams, the fair, the young!
Grace, beauty, breathe upon her;
Music, haunt thou about her tongue—
Life, fill her path with honor!

All golden thoughts, a wealth of days—
Truth, Friendship, Love, surround her;
So may the smile till life be closed,
And angel hands have crowned her.

For the Pittsburgh Morning Post.

BOOKS.

BY EPHRA.

Books which are Books.—CHARLES LAMB.

The Arts, Sciences and Literature, which now vivify and adorn civilized society, had their origin in a remote antiquity. The natural love of property gave rise to the mechanic and commercial arts; but the liberal arts sprung from the noblest attributes and sentiments of the human soul, and could only have been promoted when the mind was free to enjoy them. War might call forth and develope the genius of an Archimedes, but only gentle Peace could build a Parthenon, and enrich it with the wonderful creations of a Phidias. All things have had their beginnings, and beginnings have been mostly humble: it was but a fable that Minerva came forth ready armed from the brain of Jupiter. A coralliferous island in the Indian Ocean, glorious in the sunlight of Heaven with its foliage and its flowers, and redolent with fragrance and vocal with melody, was in its beginning but a minute shell-fish beneath the wave.—One entity begat another and in the process of the ages there arose over the remains of that first coral, everlasting battlements defying the waves and the tempest. So it has been with knowledge.—Humble in its origin, nurtured by Peace, and retarded only by War, which has ever been its enemy, knowledge has now taken deep root in the earth, is covered with all manner of fruits, and its *leaves* are for the healing of the nations.

If an Alphabet had never been invented, Society would never have progressed beyond a state of barbarism; its only history would be vague traditions, and its only literature confined to amorous and heroic songs. Josephus says he had seen inscriptions by Seth, the son of Adam; if this assertion be true, then writing came by inspiration. But the probability is, that the story is a fable, invented by the Jewish historian to magnify the literary character of his nation in the eyes of their Roman conquerors. Profane history confers on the Egyptian HERMES, the immortal honor of inventing writing by hieroglyphics. From the cities of the Nile the art was carried into Phœnicia, and from thence into Greece, by CADMUS, about fifteen hundred years before the Christian era. The first writings were songs commemorative of martial glory; after these followed more practical subjects such as chronology, history and geography, together with astronomy and observations of natural phenomena; intellectual investigation succeeded, and in process of time books were multiplied and gathered into Libraries.

The most extensive and famous library of antiquity was that formed by the Ptolemies at Alexandria in Egypt, which contained 700,000 volumes. Part of this was burned by the dames of Cæsar's fleet, when he set it on fire to save himself, but the books were afterwards replaced by the beautiful and frail but intellectual Cleopatra, who added to it also the library of the kings of Pergamus. This astonishing collection of manuscripts survived the ravages of war until A. D. 694, when its was destroyed by one of the military curses of our race, OMAR, the son-in law of Mohammed. Upon the reduction of Alexandria, one of the Kalifs lieutenants applied to him to know his pleasure concerning the contents of this library; he commanded its destruction, for, said he "if the books of the Greeks agree with the book of God (Koran,) they are superfluous, and need not be preserved; and if they disagree, they are pernicious, and ought to be destroyed." In consequence of this decision, the manuscripts were delivered up to the 4000 public baths of the city, and to which they served for precious fuel for six months. Some of these books possibly may have been saved, for we have historical evidence that the Arabs afterwards established extensive libraries in Asia, Africa and Spain; but of these collections only a few stray volumes have come down to our times. Before the art of printing was discovered, books were incredibly dear, and usually fetched double and treble their weight in gold. Jerome states that he had ruined himself in buying a copy of the works of Origen. The bequest of one to a religious house entitled the donor to masses for his soul, and they were chained to their stations for fear of being stolen on account of their great value. To what honor, then, is GUTTENBERG entitled, who had the genius to invent movable types, those little instruments that have made the pen mightier than the sword; and, aided by lightning and driven by steam, are now producing more astonishing changes and transformations in the world than was ever dreamt of by Arabian romancers!

I may here mention the number of volumes and MSS. in the principal libraries of Europe.

	Volumes.	*MSS.*
Royal Library of Paris	450,000	77,000
Bodleian, Oxford	420,000	30,000
Munich University	400,000	9,000
Vatican, at Rome	100,000	40,000
Gottingen University	300,000	5,000
British Museum	500,000	120,000

In this country, according to the *Encyclopedia Americana*, the library of Harvard College contained, in 1831, 36,000 volumes; the Philadelphia Library, 27,000; that of the Boston Athenæum, 26,000; that of Congress 16,000; and that of Charleston 13,000. Of course these have vastly increased since that date, when we take into consideration that, in addition to reprints of old books, (as near as I can estimate,) 5000 new books are produced annually, and in no country of the world is the progressive spirit of accumulation so vigorous as in our own.

This is the age of book-making. The steam-driven presses of the world are flooding the book-stalls with reading for the million; but, alas! most of these publications are utterly worthless, if not positively injurious. They neither stimulate genius to widen the boundaries of natural science, or give a new humanitary pulsation to the human heart. Still every book we read, though it may be as light and ephemeral as the insect that floats upon the breeze of summer, tends to modify our character. If the author does not do the thinking, he gives a train, and we think for ourselves. So it is better to read, unless the book is positively vicious, than to be idle. When the mind is aroused from the torper of ignorance it demands food; but while it can have nutricious and palatable food in abundance, O what folly it is for it to feed upon garbage! Why will it take the counterfeit when the genuine is presented; why embrace the simulated when it can have the real! There are abundance of "books which are books" to be had (and how very cheap!) without any one being obliged, from a difficulty of obtaining them, to fill his library or book-closet with *trash*. But let us not attempt to rival the famous Magliabecchi, and boa-constrictor-like swallow a whole library; for surely, if we could get it down, we never should be able to digest it! It is the wisest plan to read only that which is profitable, morally and intellectually, and which is easy of digestion: by this I mean, that we should make the author's ideas our own. Some may ask, "would you advise novel reading?" I answer, yes; but only as a agreeable dessert to more substantial food.

—"The sunshine is a glorious birth;"

and, while the skies and zephyrs invite, the man of contemplative mind should go to the free and perfect Library of Nature, where he can read the story of Creation on the cleft mountain; study the history of the Flora and the Fauna;—

"Find tongues in trees, books in running brooks,
Sermons in stones, and good in every thing."

But charming as Summer is with her Hebe laugh, to me grim old Winter has a more familiar and friendly aspect; for with him I associate all the dreamy and ennobling pleasures of Book Land.—How dear is the library in the long winter evenings, when the fire burns with a warm and cheerful brightness, and Boreas blusters against the window casements; when the rain patters, and the snow falls! In my dressing-gown and slippers, with well trim'd lamps beside me, and a chosen volume before me, I lean back in my easy chair, and soothed as by an enchanter's influence, enter into "a perfect state of *clairvoyance!*" At will, I can be the companion of the Laplander driving over Arctic snows by the Borealis light; or in fiery climes, beneath purely beautiful skies, I can behold a scene of camels grazing, and goodly steeds fastened near a fountain, and a man in flowing garb watching the while, and a self-exiled Wanderer with a face of beauty, traced with "unutterable thoughts,"

"Reposing from the noontide sultriness,
Couch'd among fallen columns, in the shade
Of ruined walls that had survived the names
Of those who rear'd them."

Like Fortunatus, I have only to wish, and I can be with Powers in Florence, gazing upon faces of Parian marble that would woo the pale Pygmalion; or in imagination I can step into the gallery of the Louvre, and behold the wonderful creations of the *pencil*, as the *pen* of genius, emulating Art, has pourtrayed them. If I am in a merry mood, I can laugh with Cervantes; if inclined to be pensive, I can anatomise melancholy with Burton, or with Cowper shed the sympathising tear. Should the sentiment of romance seize me, Froissart will bear me back to the fierce encounters of chivalry—or Walter Scott tell in wonderful eloquence how Ivanhoe laid the prize of the tourney at the fair Rowena's feet, and how he saved the beautiful Rebecca from the savage revenge of the Templar. Do I want to become acquainted with the rise and fall of empires, with national glory or national shame?—there are my shelves loaded with Herodotus, Xenophan, Livy, Tacitus, Plutarch, Rollin, Gibbon, Robertson, Hume, Hallam, Bancroft, Prescott, and a host of others, all inviting me. What a monarch I am when I can be their familiar friend and companion, or forbid such immortal spirits from my presence!

[CONCLUSION TO-MORROW.]

The Morning Post.

I. HARPER, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

PITTSBURGH:
WEDNESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 20, 1848.

Morning Post Job Printing Office.

CORNER OF WOOD AND FIFTH STREETS.

☞ Having added to our Establishment, a splendid Steam-Power Printing Machine, we are prepared to do all kinds of Newspaper and Book work in a style of unsurpassed beauty and neatness, and upon the most reasonable terms. We respectfully solicit the patronage of the public in this line of our business.

☞ *Advertisers are requested to hand in their favors before 6 o'clock, P. M. This must be complied with, in order to insure an insertion. When it is possible, an earlier hour would be preferred.*

☞ E. W. CARR, United States Newspaper Agency Sun Buildings, N. E. corner of Third and Dock streets, and 400 North Fourth street—is our only authorized Agent in Philadelphia.

☞ **For Commercial and River News, see next Page.**

The Latest News, Market Reports, &c., will be found under Telegraphic Head.

Canvassers Wanted.

We wish to employ, at this office, some three or four active and intelligent young men, to canvass for subscribers to our new weekly Mammoth paper, THE SATURDAY MORNING POST. Constant employment and fair compensation will be given. None but trust-worthy persons need apply.

The Artful Dodger.

A few days since, in the House of Representatives, Mr. Root introduced a resolution, instructing the Committee on Territories to report a bill for the government of the Territories of New Mexico and California, excluding Slavery therefrom. On this resolution the previous question was demanded, which, of course, called for a direct vote. When the yeas and nays were taken, Moses Hampton was not there! The vote was a sectional one, principally,—the Northern members voting in the affirmative, and the Southern members in the negative. Mr. Hampton, it is well known here, is a "Taylor Republican" of the most sycophantic description.—He will do any mean petty act, to make "fair weather" with old Zack. He had doubtless read in the papers the letter of the Hon. F. L. Claiborne of Miss. addressed to Gov. Brown, M. C. from that State, describing an interview which he (Claiborne) had with Gen. Taylor since the election, in which the General distinctly and earnestly declared that when the *North* attempted to interfere with the slave question, he was for "DRAWING THE SWORD AND THROWING AWAY THE SCABBARD." With this extract before his eyes, it is fair to presume that Hampton deemed it best to dodge when a vote was taken on the subject of Slavery. He is extremely anxious to obtain an appointment under the new administration, as we learn from various sources, and hence he has not the independence of mind to vote one way or the other. Such a representative is a disgrace to any civilized community.

Judicial Appointments.

The commissions of the following President Judges of this State expire during the term of Governor Johnston, and will have to be filled by him:

Hon. George W. Woodward, President 4th District, appointed 9th April, 1841.
Hon. Benjamin Patton, President 5th District, appointed 20th March, 1840.
Hon. Samuel Hepburn, President 9th District, appointed 5th March, 1839.
Hon. William Jessup, President 11th District, appointed 7th April, 1839.
Hon. John N. Conyngham, President 18th District, apointed 25th March, 1839.
Hon. Alexander M'Calmont, President 18th District, appointed 31st May, 1839.
Hon. Alexander L. Hayes, President District Court of Lancaster, appointed 1st May, 1840.

Although our opponents affect to entertain a holy hatred for what they are pleased to term "political judges," we will venture to hazard the opinion that Gov. Johnston will not clothe a single man with the judicial ermine, who cannot be endorsed as a Whig,—yes, "an ultra Whig." As Mrs. Stubbs says, "stick a pin, there, honey."

☞ The following mysterious paragraph appears in the last Racine Whig:

A Fine Wedding Gift—Giving the bride the *prairie itch*, while vowing at the altar, with joined hands, to "love, cherish, and protect." The idea is not original with us. We deal in facts.

☞ A man had his hand wounded badly yesterday, with a cotton hook, on the wharf. He will probably lose the use of it. On account of his poverty, a number of by-standers raised a sum of money for him.

GOLDEN ITEMS.

☞ The N. Y. Journal of Commerce says: "We have seen specimens of the 40 lbs. gold dust, or scales, deposited in the Mechanics' Bank of this city by Lord, Warren, Sutter & Co. It was forwarded by C. L. Ross, commission merchant at San Francisco, and has now been sent to the U. S. Mint for coinage, on account of the parties interested. It is found to be 21½ carats fine. The parcel is worth about $8,000."

☞ The Ship James Cutter, which arrived recently at New Orleans brings information that the gold mines of California are inexhaustible. One lump has been seen weighing thirteen pounds (ounces, probably.) One man was known to the officers who had obtained eighteen hundred dollars worth of the precious metal in a single day—though this was an extreme case. Seamen's wages were $100 per month. Sixteen vessels were lying here, short of hands; the necessaries of life had become extremely scarce and high.

☞ Gold has also been discovered at Los Angelos, equal in quality and abundance to San Francisco. The artists had held a meeting to memorialize Congress to establish a mint there. Major Lovenworth has been elected Alcalde.

☞ The Gold Feaver prevails in Pottsville. The *Freiheit's Press* of the 18th states that a number of young men of that place are about organizing a company for California, in search of gold.

☞ The Cleveland Plain Dealer gravely announces the existence of the *yellow fever* in that city—a fever for the yellow boys, to be coined from the rich mines lately discovered in California. The same disease rages in other parts.

☞ A man who has returned from California, being asked what goods were the best investment to be carried to California, replied, "Green Spectacles, by all means, for they are needed to protect the eyes of the gold diggers from the brilliancy of the metal."

☞ Horace Greely thus discourseth over the specimens of California gold in Washington: "Any goose who could talk of 'mica' after seeing these specimens would not be worth noticing; it is no more like mica than it is like cheese; and just as like like any sort of iron, magnetic or otherwise. It is the real root of all evil—I mean the love of it is."

Land to Actual Settlers.

That excellent Democratic journal, the Pittsburgh *Post*, has a very powerful article in favor of making the public lands free to actual settlers.—*Pennsylvanian.*

This is not a new idea with the Post, as many appear to suppose. The subject has been discussed for some time past by many of the ablest presses in the country; and several distinguished Statesmen have taken a decided stand in favor of the humane measure. In Mr. Benton's Oregon letter, we find the following:

"The emigrants want land; they went to the country for land. It is a great misfortune that Congress has passed no law to grant it to them; but the law will come, and grants will be made, probably according to the Oregon bill that passed the Senate some years ago—640 acres to each head of a family (widows and young men over 18 being so counted)—160 acres to the father of each child under 18, and 160 acres to the wife. I would advise you to act upon this bill of the Senate—all the present emigrants, and all that shall arrive before Congress establishes a government for the country, and all the other settlers who are without land; each to make his own location, taking care to avoid interferences with one another, or with old claims considered good, or even probable good, and making all tracts in squares, and to the cardinal points.—Avoid, if possible, law suits about land, above every thing else. They are a moth which eats up the crop, and often the land itself. Besides, no judgment in a land case would be valid, being a proceeding *in rem*, unless agreed to by both parties—decided by arbitration, or in a court of "*Reconciliation.*"

Those who raise the silly cry of "agrarianism," we charitably believe, have not taken the pains to study the subject. It is not proposed to disturb the rights of a single human being. We only argue that it is to the interest of the people of the United States that the Public Lands shall be disposed of at a more *minimum* valuation—such as will pay the expence of making a survey and patent. The people at large have never been benefited to the amount of a penny, in consequence of the sales of these lands, at the prices heretofore established by Congress After paying the expense of advertising, Land office fees; and an hundred incidental charges, there is little or nothing left to go into the National Treasury. Speculation in the Public Lands should be prohibited by the passage of very decided measures. A landed nobility has been the curse of Great Britain, and in whatever country it is tolerated, aristocracy and princely splendor, are the inheritance of *the few*, whilst misery and destitution are the companions of the *great masses*. To elevate and not degrade the latter, should be the principal object of Congressional legislation.

Old Zack amongst the Girls!

Gen. Taylor visited the high school for girls on Clio street, New Orleans, on the 2d, was addressed by a very young lady, Miss Perry, in behalf of the others, and replied in an appropriate manner. After the examination was concluded, all the young ladies were introduced to the General. One in particular, Miss Crean, after the introduction, seized hold of the General's hand and kissed it. On this—according to the *Delta*, we hope it is not quizzing—the general quite gallantly put his hand around her waist, and drawing her to him, kissed her lips, saying, "Oh! then, let it be a kiss in earnest!" The young lady, who was taken by storm, laughed heartily at the general's gallantry and address. The general, in his turn, was taken by storm, as a complete volley of kisses saluted him on all sides, the young ladies being determined to pay him in his own coin.

NEW SCHOOL HOUSE.—The Fourth Ward Public School House will be completed in a few weeks.—We ran through it, yesterday, and can cheerfully say that, if we have any judgment in such matters, it is excellently well suited for the purpose for which it is intended. We liked the play grounds as well as the rooms, for we consider playing an important part of education in this age, while attractive labor has not been introduced.

BOWLING SALOON.—The Chronicle speaks in terms of high praise of the new Bowling Saloon established by Mr. Wallace, on Fourth street, which is under the control of Mr. James Smith. We looked in one day, and were struck with the splendor of the establishment. The patrons tay the regulations are admirable.

☞ Yesterday, the recognizances of the Factory Rioters were forfeited.

The Mercy Hospital—A Suggestion.

We publish the following article with pleasure. The suggestions of the writer are well worthy of notice:

MR. HARPER.—I have noticed for some time past the appeals of those immediately connected with and interested for the welfare of the "Mercy Hospital." I cannot say by what the good citizens of Pittsburgh are actuated; but this I *do* know, that we have been very remiss in our duty as *practical Christians*. Suppose that a Committee of *two citizens* from each ward in Pittsburgh and Allegheny be appointed to call on the citizens for the small sum of *two cents each* (more if they can afford it,) *each Monday morning*. I have no doubt that a large amount would be collected—at least sufficient to meet the exigencies of the Hospital.

This suggestion was made twelve years since, by a friend on Liberty street; and should this meet his eye, will, I doubt not, forward the cause in question.

Yours Respectfully,
HENRY MCCORMICK.

COAL.—Pittsburgh coal is arriving freely. Yesterday, we noticed the arrival of seven or eight boats in the mouth of the creek, at the foot of Pearl street. There are sixty or seventy boats laying along the shore, just above Jeffersonville, and during the day we noticed 40 pair (eighty boats,) pass the falls, and we have no doubt that a greater number than that went over, as they were passing pretty constantly.

On Monday last, 60 boats of coal were in sight, at Maysville, at one time; and during that day upwards of 100 passed the city.—*Lou. Cour. Dec. 14.*

Report on the Public Lands.

The Report of the General Land Office is spoken of as a very able and interesting document; but as our excellent representative, Mr. Hampton, is too busily engaged in arranging Old Zack's cabinet, he has neglected to forward a copy to the Post. We are indebted to the Philadelphia News for the following abstract of the Report:

The public domain lies in twelve States: Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Michigan, Arkansas, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Florida, and in the North and Western Territories. It covers, according to estimate, 1,584,243,200 acres; of which, up to the 30th of September last, 142,026,003 acres had been disposed of, leaving unsold 1,442,217,197 acres. In the new States, it lies in large tracts; in the older States it is in detached parcels. The proclamations of land sales during the last year have embraced the following amount:

In Michigan	2,662,218	acres.
Wisconsin	877,963	"
Iowa	1,928,317	"
Missouri	1,410,049	"
Arkansas	937,864	"
Louisiana	281,961	"
Florida	1,361,869	"
Making a total of	9,459,741	"

The quantity surveyed and prepared for market, but which cannot yet be offered, is 4,716,375 acres. The quantity estimated for survey expected to be closed during the next year, is 9,118,400 acres.

During the year 1847 there was sold of the public lands 2,621,305 acres, for which there was received in cash $3,201,284; in treasury notes $20,452; in treasurer's receipts $72; in military land scrip 95,195; in forfeited land stock $92; and in Choctow certificates $69,306—making a total of $3,596,404. During the first three quarters of 1848 there was sold 1,448,240 acres, for which there was received a total of $2,030,688. There have been located with Choctow certificates, distinct from the ordinary sales, from July 1 to Dec. 25, 1847, 55,903 acres; and during the first three quarters of 1848, 42,083, and in October 1848, 3,216. There have been located with bounty land warrants, under the act of 1842, for services during the war of 1812, during 1847, 27,440 acres, and during the first three quarters of 1848, 3,840. With Mexican war warrants there were issued during 1847, 250,320 acres, and in 1848 so far, 1,525,200. The total amounts of Public Lands disposed of in the periods aforesaid, is thus seen to be 5,887,550 acres

Since March 19, 1847, (the date of the first,) there have been issued, 29,825 Mexican war warrants for 160 acres each—for 6,372,000 acres—2,349 of 40 acres each—for 133,960 acres, making the whole number issued up to November 30, 1848, 43,174, embracing 6,505,960 acres. The whole number of regulars and volunteers entitled to bounty lands is about 90,000. The number of warrants issued by the Commissioner of Pensions, is 43,174, so that about 46,826 remain to be issued. The average number of warrants issued per day by the Commissioner of Pensions, is from 150 to 200—so that about a year will be required for this service. Probably, 10,000 or 15,000, however, will not be presented within that time.

The sales of lands in the Copper Districts have fallen short of expectations. In the Lake Superior District, Michigan, there have been sold 2016 acres at $5 per acre, and 6,464 under leases at $5,50 per acre, amounting to $36,242. There is no doubt there are many valuable mines there, but there are also many deposites not worth working. Further facilities for settling these lands should be afforded Several of the mines that have been worked have proved valuable. The agency has yielded a revenue beyond its expenses of about $7,000 in two years.

The estimated receipts in cash for sales of public lands during 1849 are $2,834,700, and for 1850, $2,407,500, provided the usual quantity are surveyed and brought into market. The falling off in receipts is owing to the fact that many tracts are located with Mexican war warrants instead of cash.

It is estimated that 15,000 warrants, covering 2,400,000 acres, will be located during the balance of the current year; and 25,000, embracing 4,000,000, for the year 1850.

☞ **New England Supper.**—The Committee of Arrangements for "the New England Supper," beg leave to announce, that they have made arrangements with Mr. Miller, of the St. Charles Hotel, and that the Festival will come off at the St. Charles, on Friday evening next, the 22d inst.

The Supper will be on the table at 9 o'clock precisely. Tickets $1 each; to be had at Luke Loomis' Book Store, Pittsburgh, and at Dr. Barlow's office, Federal st, Allegheny City.

L. WILMARTH,
R. H. BACHOP,
R. H. PALMER,
} Committee of Arrangements

PITTSBURGH THEATRE.

C. S. POTTER.....Manager and Lessee.

PRICES OF ADMISSION:

Private boxes.....$3.00—Single tickets.....75c
Dress Circle.....50c.—2d and 3d Tier.....50c
Pit.....25c.—Private Boxes.....$1.00.

☞ Last night of Mr. H. B. TAYLOR.

WEDNESDAY, December 20, will be acted

OTHELLO.

Othello—Mr. H. B. Taylor. Iago—Mr. Oxley
Desdemona—Miss Porter. Emelia—Mrs. Madison.
Dunce—Miss Walters and Mr. Goodwin.

To conclude with the

RASCAL JACK.

Rascal Jack—Mr. J. Dunn. Lucy—Mrs. Prior.

☞ Thursday, Benefit of Mr. H. B. Taylor.

NOTICE.—The Gallery will remain closed during the cold weather.

☞ Doors open at 6½; Curtain will rise at 7½ o'clock.

BALANCE OF STOCK, REMOVED TO BE CLOSED On Thursday morning, at 10 o'clock, I will sell, at my Auction Rooms, corner of Wood and Fifth sts., the balance of W. A McClurg's stock of Dry Goods, consisting in part of bleached and brown muslins, cambrics, ticklings, glazed muslins, tape checks, satin spots, bobbinets, value laces, linen handkaiefs, cloths, cassimeres, Ky. jeans, vestings, alpacas, dress plaids, prints, French ginghams, domestic ginghams, table linen, mitts, hosiery, sewing thread, sewing silk, twist, agate buttons, snuff boxes, cigar cases, &c. &c.

The Goods must be closed out, and the attention of dealers is requested.

TERMS—All sums over $100, three month's credit; approved endorsed notes; over $200, four months, approved endorsed notes.

JOHN D. DAVIS,
dec20 Auctioneer.

TO the Honorable the Judges of the Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace, in and for the county of Allegheny:

The petition of Alexander Stewart, of the Borough of Elizabeth, in the County aforesaid, humbly sheweth, That your petitioner hath provided himself with materials for the accommodation of travelers and others, at his dwelling house in the Borough aforesaid, and prays that your Honors will be pleased to grant him a license to keep a public house of entertainment. And you as in duty bound, will pray.

ALEXANDER STEWART.

We, the subscribers, citizens of the aforesaid Borough, do certify, that the above petitioner is of good repute for honesty and temperance, and is well provided with house room and conveniences for the accommodation of travelers and others, and that said tavern is necessary.

Benj. Wilson, R. B. Stewart, Geo. Cunningham, Robt. Galloway, P. Nelson, J. E. Shoffer, James Dickey, Wm. McCaughan, F. Pancost, Danl. Sarver, Enoch Sprouts, Henry McGinley. dec20:w3t

NIAGARA SOIREE.—The fourth annual Soiree of the NIAGARA FIRE COMPANY, will be given at the La Fayette Assembly Rooms, on *Friday evening*, February 9th, 1849.

VALUABLE CITY PROPERTY AT AUCTION.—On Thursday afternoon, December 21st, at 3 o'clock, will be sold, on the premises, the following very valuable real estate, viz: That large three story Brick Warehouse and Lot, situated on the East side of Wood street, four doors above Fifth street, at present occupied by Messrs. Wallace, Irvin & Co., as a glass warehouse. Also, that well finished three story Brick Dwelling House, with two story back buildings, situated on the South side of Penn street, between Marbury and Water sts., the Lot having a front of 24 feet on Penn street, and extending back 110 feet to an alley 20 feet wide, on which is also erected a convenient two story Brick Dwelling House. Also, three four new and elegant three story Brick Dwelling Houses, situate at the corner of Second street and Redoubt alley.

Sale will commence with the warehouse on Wood st., thence to Penn street, and will close with the property on Second street. Terms at sale. JOHN D. DAVIS,
dec20 Auctioneer.

CLOTH—10 pcs. Drab Blanket Coating;
8 " " Lavender "
1 case " " Blankets;
1 " Gray mixed Cloth;
1 " Army Cloth;
2 " Tweeds, brown, black and gold mix;
1 " Fancy Cassimeres;
1 bale Blue Blanket Coating.

Received, on consignment, direct from the manufacturers, and for sale by the package or piece.

dec20 MURPHY & LEE, Liberty st.

Allegheny County, ss:

IN THE ORPHAN'S COURT, of said County.

In the matter of the Estate of Daniel McMullen, No. 7, June term, 1847.

And now to wit, December 15th, 1848, on motion of Thos. Mellon, Esq., Wm. E. Austin, Esq., appointed Auditor, to audit and adjust the claims of the respective creditors, and to report a distribution of the proceeds of sale in this case.

By the Court. DANIEL MCCURDY, Clerk.

In pursuance of the above appointment, the undersigned has appointed Tuesday, the 9th day of January next, at 3 o'clock, P. M., at his office, in Bakewell's Buildings, Grant street, Pittsburgh, for hearing of all parties interested, and when and where those having claims against said Estate will present them.

WM. E. AUSTIN, Auditor.
dec20

New York and Boston Pianos.

JOHN H. MELLOR, No. 81 Wood street, has received 8 Invoices of a large supply of PIANO FORTES, from the celebrated manufactory of CHICKERING, Boston, to arrive in a few days, of which due notice will be given—ranging in price from $225 to $700.

Also, from the manufactories of H. Worcester, and Bacon & Havar, New York, a handsome assortment of 6, 6½ and 6¾ Octave PIANOS, Rosewood and Mahogany Cases, of the most elegant description; and with all the late improvements.

The above, in addition to the stock on hand, will make the largest and most desirable selection ever offered for sale in the city, and will be sold, in all cases, at manufacturer's prices, on accommodating terms, and a written guarantee given with every Piano Forte sold.

JOHN H. MELLOR,
Sole Agent for the sale of Chickering's Piano Fortes,
dec20 Auctioneer. for Western Pennsylvania.

75 SACKS B. W. FLOUR—In sacks of 25 and 50 lbs.; for sale by [dec11] ARMSTRONG & CROZER.

LOCAL MATTERS.

MEETING LAST EVENING.—The "Friends of the Sabbath" had a meeting last evening in Dr. Herron's Church.

Dr. Herron suggested that it would be proper to appoint a layman to preside, and thereupon mentioned HARMER DENNY, Esq. Mr. White of the Gazette was appointed Secretary.

A prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. Black.

Rev. West moved the appointment of a Committee of a Committee to prepare a Report.

It was suggested that the Committee of the former meeting was ready to report; whereupon Rev. Rodgers, the chairman, asked leave to retire with the other members for a few minutes, which was granted. The Committee retired.

Rev. Riddle proceeded to address the meeting. He had no thoughts which were not familiar with all present upon the subject of Sabbath desecration; he had no prospect of doing any good by any remarks he would make. Such reforms are always started by particular evils which become so prominent as to force themselves upon the attention of the community. In the present instance, there was one evil that had become enormous. He referred to omnibuses running through the streets on the Sabbath. The Rev. gentleman proceeded to illustrate how this evil may have been started up—for the purpose of arresting the attention of Christians, thus bringing good out of evil—Sabbath sanctification out of Sabbath desecration. The Committee appeared and Rev. Riddle took his seat.

Rev. Rodgers read the report of the Committee; a Memorial to Counsels and Resolutions.

[The Memorial was the same we published on the 12th inst.]

The Resolutions required the appointment of a Committee whose duty it would be to take charge of the memorials, receive signatures, and present them to Councils, &c.

Rev. Riddle did not like the words "doggeries and groggeries," and moved that the latter be stricken out. It was a mere matter of taste, of not much importance, but he hoped a paper from such a body as the meeting, would be couched in unobjectionable phraseology.

Dr. Wray wished to know what the Committee meant by "doggeries and groggeries."

Rev. Riddle wished to know whether the Doctor asked for information, or merely desired to hear a philological disquisition on the subject.

Dr. Wray said he asked for information.

Dr. Riddle said he regretted the Doctor lacked information on such a point.

Dr. Wray then rose to explain. His object was to find out the meaning of the Committee—whether they aimed at little liquor shops on Strawberry alley or at the large hotels, or at both. He thought there was as much harm in drinking and getting drunk in a fine house, as in a "doggery" or "groggery."

Rev. Black made some remarks which we did not hear.

Rev. West said he was ignorant of the meaning of the word doggery—he very naturally supposed it was a place where they kept dogs! But he presumed the object of the Committee, in using the phrase, was to convey their meaning to the people more explicitly than they could do by any other word.

Mr. Caskey proposed inserting the words "drinking houses."

Rev. Riddle said that he could now see the object of the inquiry of his friend Dr. Wray. He could see no distinction between the high and low vices in this respect; the peculiarities of architecture could not effect the great question. To get drunk in the highest hotel, on the Sabbath, was as much a desecration of the day as the same conduct in the meanest house. He "made no bones" in calling the large hotels "tippling houses." The most harm is probably done in large houses: young men, who would blush to be seen entering one of the "groggeries," go into the fashionable place unblushingly.

Rev. West moved to insert "tippling houses" instead of "doggeries." This was carried.

The first paragraph of the memorial was adopted. The second, in relation to omnibuses and carriages, was read.

Rev. Riddle asked the meaning of the phrase "other carriages."

Rev. West said that the Committee referred to any other carriages, licensed or unlicensed. All carriages are prevented from running in Philadelphia. He could not see the justice of depriving working people of the privileges of riding to and from church in an omnibus on Sunday, while the rich were permitted to have their carriages, and leave their drivers too on the streets, while they sometimes indulge in what they call in the old country, "pitch and toss." In Philadelphia, the rich have given up the use of their carriages; and why can they not do so here?

Mr. Luyrg thought the laws of the State were sufficient. The officers can prevent a desecration of the Sabbath, if public opinion will sustain them. The law is one hundred years old. In Philadelphia the Act of 1705 is all the authority they have.

The vote was taken, and the paragraph was adopted.

The second paragraph, in relation to "Funeral Processions," was stricken out, after an animated discussion.

Then came up again the paragraph in relation to public houses, which, after various amendments, and about twenty speeches, was adopted. The discussion took a wide range: many of the speakers opposed the whole memorial, and urged that if the Mayor and officers would do their duty, the nuisance of public houses being open on Sabbath would be abated. Others contended that the old law was deficient, and under it the officers cannot act. The result of the discussion was the adoption of the paragraph.

The fourth paragraph, in relation to the crowds upon the street corners, &c., was voted out, without discussion.

We left at this stage of the proceedings.

MAYOR'S OFFICE—*Tuesday Morning.*—There were but three cases—all for drunkenness. One of them was a gentleman, who has held a public station in this city for at least eighteen years. How he has fallen! In default of payment of costs he was sent up for twenty-four hours. The last case was our Philadelphia buck, who got in the hands of the night police for the second time. He seemed wofully distressed; and when the Mayor pronounced sentence, he was stupified with terror—for it is doubtful whether he ever inhabited a prison cell.—Just as he was about resigning himself to his ugly fate, a good Samaritan stepped forward and released him. He went his way rejoicing. May he never be found in the same fix again; and if he should be, may he not forget his *alias*.

☞ The Gazette says that the Disciples of Fourier hold regular meetings every Monday evening, at the private residences of friends. If the old conservative hog who deals out "skimmed milk" editorials for that overgrown sheet, would attend some of these conversational gatherings, he might learn something.

BOVDELL'S ILLUSTRATIONS OF SHAKSPEARE.—These plates have been sold in this city at very high price, and now that an American edition of them will be out, we presume a great run will be made for them. They will be published by Spooner, New York. Mr. John D. Davis is the agent for this city.

☞ The New Englanders are up again, and are determined to bring to remembrance the "Olden Time," over one of Mr. Miller's magnificent Suppers. It will be taken on next Friday evening, at the St. Charles Hotel. Let no New England man or lady fail to be present.

☞ Mr. Taylor appears as Othello, this evening. Mr. Oxley as Iago.

Important Case.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS—*Tuesday, December 19.*—Before Judge Patton.

The case of School Directors of Elizabeth township vs. Andrew Fife, went to the Jury this morning, after address of counsel, and an able charge from Judge Patton.

His Honor took an extensive view of the law, involved in the case, upon the numerous points submitted to him on both sides, and the instructions to the jury were clear and succint.

We call from the notes we took, the following abstracts, which will be found useful and important; and we may state that the principles decided will have a salutary effect, by producing a more careful attention to the requirements of the law, on the part both of School Directors and Collectors. Fife, the defendant, was duly appointed Collector of County and State Tax. Afterwards, on the 15th of July, 1844, Fife appointed Lytle his agent to collect these two taxes. The latter entered the School Tax on the County duplicate, *in a blank column*, about the first of September, doing so after an interview or consultation on the subject, with some of the School Directors, and by the information given by them. The warrant from the School Board to Fife was dated 8th October, 1844.

The certificate cannot legally be filed unless the warrant and duplicate are first actually delivered to the Collector, or unless by his own acts he waives or dispenses with one or the other, and either expressly or tacitly, by not refusing agree to collect the tax, and actually proceeds to do so either by himself or agent. Where the appointment is refused, or when accepted it is neglected, the act affixes a penalty.

The question of principal and agent may arise in the matter of the collection and payment of taxes. It is true the law appoints *officers* to discharge the duties incident to the collection of taxes—that the tax-payers have the right, and are bound to see to whom they pay their taxes; that they have a right to a view of the warrant for the *authority*, and the duplicate for the *amount*, and are not compelled to pay to any one without the exhibition of both. But a collector may appoint an agent, may make collections by an agent, and be responsible for his acts.

Upon a mere notification of his appointment by the School Board, the collector of county rates and levies is not required nor compelled to accept or to enter upon the duties of the office.

In the absence of any evidence of objection or refusal on his part, the delivery, receipt and retention by him of the warrant for this purpose, does not charge him with the performance of the duties of the office.

He is not bound to say whether he accepts or refuses, and much less is he bound to enter on the duties of the office, until a legal appointment or commission is tendered him, or put into his hands. There is no *legal commission until the Secretary of the School Board shall have made out a correct duplicate of the school tax; and until such duplicate, together with a warrant shall be delivered to the collector.*

☞ The Jury in the Court of Common Pleas was discharged yesterday. The remaining cases on the list were continued until the next term. The balance of the week will be occupied in argument, &c. On Monday the criminal matters again come up.

DISTRICT COURT—Before Judge Lowrie.—Neel vs. Neel. An "Ejectment" case from Mifflin township. For Plaintiffs, Messrs. Woods and Shaler; for Defendants, Messrs. Forward and M'Candless.

SICKENING—the weather was yesterday. We hope soon to escape this sweltering heat at this unseasonable time. A great deal of sickness must necessarily follow such weather as yesterday.

COLONIZATION—J. R. Pinney, Corresponding Secretary of the New York State Colonization Society, acknowledges the receipt of a check for $1,000 for the relief of the Ross slaves, in Mississippi.

☞ There are not less than one thousand persons seriously afflicted with the California Fever, in this city. How many will go, remains to be seen.

☞ There are now eight Whig candidates for Mayor. The great party should find one, in such a number, to suit them well.

☞ The papers have all spoken favorably of Col. Taylor's *debut*. Even the Gazette seems to admire his performance of Damon.

☞ Col. Diehl is a candidate for Mayor. One paper is out for him already. We presume the press will unite in his favor.

☞ The Whig Word meetings are advertised for next Saturday evening. If they don't have fun, the appearances are that they will have something