The Morning Post.

L. HARPER, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

PITTSBURGH:
TUESDAY MORNING, JULY 24, 1849.

FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER,

JOHN A. GAMBLE,

OF LYCOMING COUNTY.

☞ "Observer" shall have a place, if possible, to-morrow.

☞ We shall comply with the request of our friend Maj. P. L. Collins, of Steubenville, with pleasure. His letter, presenting a statement of the prospects of the Steubenville and Indiana Railroad, will attract attention here and elsewhere.

☞ The communication signed "A Democrat," written by an esteemed friend of ours, is deferred for the present. We find that it is the universal desire of the Democracy of Allegheny County, that we shall take no notice of a certain Guerrilla sheet, recently established in this city by the Conservatives and Federalists, to produce dissensions in the Democratic ranks. The character of the paper is now so well known, that no Democrat, who has any regard for his political integrity, is found willing to give the thing the least encouragement or support.

Re-Organization of the Fire Department.

Address of Judge Lowrie.

In conversation with Judge Lowrie, some days since, in regard to the recent awful conflagration in Allegheny city, and the criminal interference of some of the firemen to prevent the extinguishment of the devouring element,—we were forcible struck with his views respecting a thorough re-organization of the Fire Departments of the Cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny. We urged the Judge to write out his views at length for publication. He finally consented to comply with our request, and in the *Post* of Friday morning, we announced that we had been promised a "serious of articles" on the subject from "one of our most eminent citizens," referring to Judge Lowrie. The Judge has deemed it advisable to embody his opinions in one article, in order that they may be read and digested at once.

We now have the pleasure of presenting to the Public an Address from the pen of Judge Lowrie, which, we feel convinced, will be read by every person who has at heart the welfare and safety of the community, with no ordinary interest. It will be seen that he recommends that men be selected to work at the engines in the same manner Jurors are selected to serve in our Courts. This certainly would be fair and unobjectionable, and property holders (who should take a deeper interest in this subject than any other portion of community,) would then be compelled to *work* at a fire as well as the poor mechanic and apprentice boy. It will be seen also that the Judge makes some excellent suggestions in regard to changing our present municipal regulations. There is no doubt but that a reform is loudly called for in the mode of doing business in Councils. The legislation of both cities has become a by word and reproach. Councilmen seem disposed to legislate for their own private interests rather than for the public good. There should be some method adopted of preventing uncalled-for and extravagant appropriations of money, especially when the Cities are deeply involved in debt and their credit depreciated.

We commend the Address of Judge Lowrie to the careful and dispassionate consideration of the public.

AN AFRICAN COLLEGE.

Among the numerous buildings which are now in progress of erection in Pittsburgh and Allegheny, there is one which is attracting more than ordinary attention. It is a College for the education of the African race. This institution is founded by a wealthy manufacturer of this community, the Rev. Charles Avery; and the building is on the square north of his residence in Allegheny City. The Rev. gentleman, we understand, has transferred his sympathies from the Caucasian to the African race; and intends to devote his great wealth to the social, moral and intellectual advancement of the down-trodden negro. He has a wide sphere for the exercise of his philanthropy—a very wide sphere and if he succeeds his name will live in future ages.

But even if the intellect of the colored race is capable of that development which gives superiority to the white; and even if there morals are as pure by nature; still we have strong fears that the prejudices of color will forever debar them from that social equality which their friends aim to place them upon. The plant that luxuriates under a tropical sun will lose its beauty and its fragrance, perhaps its existence, if transferred to a colder clime. And just so will the hardy plant of the North, if carried to the burning sands of the equator, lose the strength which enabled it to brave the vicissitudes of its native country, and as an exotic it wilts and dies. The analogy will hold good as to the human race, and history proves it. What became of the Scandinavian conquerors of the civilized cities of Northern Africa? And what became of the victorious children of the Nile, who were planted by Sesostris on the eastern shores of the Euxine? If then brave races—races proud of their military achievements—cannot flourish excepting in climes congenial to their nature; how is it possible for a race degraded by the badge of slavery, to overcome the prejudices of caste and elevate itself to the social level of the people by whom it has been oppressed? Mr. Avery may answer, by educating them in the Greek and Latin languages, and making them familiar with Plato and Cicero, and in testing their comprehensions with the Principia of Newton. We have doubts of this; but still those doubts do not derogate from the estimation in which we hold Mr. Avery's benevolence to an injured race. The colored people want schools; not colleges.

There is one light in which the design of Mr. Avery strikes us, that would make a college for the African a spring of untold blessings. And that is, to make it the medium of educating colored missionaries for Africa, by having taught in it the languages of their own country, instead of languages alien to them. A professor of Congo or Abyssinian would do far more good than a professor of the Greek or Latin. And young men, instructed in the dialect of their ancestors, might be found willing to carry into the benighted regions of the great *terra incognita* of this world, the everlasting gospel; and thus its deserts would be made to rejoice, and Ethiopia to stretch forth her hand to God!

Facts for the Protectionists, and the Farmers.

We find the following statement of the exports of breadstuffs in the financial article of the Boston Post:

Exports of breadstuffs.—The exports of broadstuffs from the United States to Great Britain and Ireland from September 1 to July 10, were as follows:

	Flour, bbls.	Meal, bbls.	Corn, bush.	Wheat, bush.
1848,	169,231	95,977	3,316,936	215,139
1849,	944,162	78,607	11,472,017	3,043,729
Inc.	784,941	18,085,381		828,590

Indian corn is cheaper in Great Britain than any other food, even potatoes. From this day forth, the quantity of American corn consumed in Great Britain must increase from year to year, with a rapidity almost incalculable.

☞ The Collamer-mobous is raging so badly, that, in some instances, whig Post-masters are removed—it being assumed that, being in office, they are Democrats. Such mistakes are very bad. They must make the chief executioner feel like the hangman who had made the wrong man swing.

It is said that a couple of Quakers in New York have been detected in fitting out vessels for the slave trade. Rather bad that.

The Affairs of Rome.

The Great European Drama continues to excite intense interest. The entry of the French into the Eternal City is but the closing of one act and the curtain will soon rise again. We mistake the character of Pius the Ninth if he will accept the officious services of the French in restoring him to the Vatican; and if the aid of the French Government should be spurned, what will be the position of the manœuvering Louis Napoleon and his Cabinet in the eyes of the world? The republicans of Rome have exhibited a heroism in the defence of their city against Oudinot worthy of the age of the Scipios; and will forever wipe away the reproach that has been cast upon the courage of the Italians. Our Telegraphic Despatches state that the French in their entry into Rome were received with acclamation by the people. This must be taken with great allowance, as it comes through French sources.—But should it prove true, it will be an evidence that the Republican movement in Rome was not the unanimous movement of the people; for that any body of citizens should hail the triumphant march of foreign troops, over the dead bodies of their countrymen, into the Capitol of their country, unless their domestic government was unpopular and oppressive, is an anomaly in the history of nations. As Americans, how happy we should esteem our lot, when we contrast our national prosperity and security with the tempest-tossed and convulsed nations of the Old World. Our hearts sympathise with struggling humanity every where; and we know that God in his own good time will bring deliverance to his people; and whether we will behold the close of the Great Drama upon the European stage or not in our day, is uncertain; but we feel confident that whenever in the course of human events the end will come, that the Right will triumph.

Letter of Henry Clay.

The following letter from Henry Clay, was read in the Convention held at Cleveland on the 13th instant, for the purpose of celebrating the anniversary of the passage of the ordinance of 1787.

Ashland, June 16, 1849.

Gentlemen:—I received your official letter in behalf of the Freemen of the Reserve, inviting me to unite with them, at Cleveland, in celebrating the anniversary of the passage of the Ordinance of 1787, on the 13th of July next. I concur entirely in opinion as to the wisdom of that great measure, and I am glad that it has secured to the States, on which it operates, an exemption from the evils of slavery. But the event of the passage of the Ordinance has never, within my knowledge, been celebrated in any one of the sixty-one years, which has since intervened. It is proposed for the first time to commemorate it. It is impossible to disguise the conviction, that this purpose originates out of the question, now unfortunately agitating the whole Union, of the introduction of Slavery into New Mexico and California. Whilst no one can be more opposed to the extension of Slavery into those new territories than I am, either by the authority of Congress, or by individual enterprise, I should be unwilling to do anything to increase the prevailing excitement. I hope that the question will be met, in a spirit of calmness and candor, and finally settled in a manner to add strength and ability, instead of bringing any danger to the existence of our Union. In all our differences of opinion, we should never cease to remember that we are fellow-citizens of one common and glorious country, nor to exercise mutual and friendly forbearance.

But, gentlemen, waving all other considerations, indispensable engagements will prevent my attendance on the occasion, which you have done me the honor to invite me.

With great respect, I am,
Your friend and ob'dt. servant,
H. CLAY.

Messrs. Jno. C. Vaughan, Tho. Brown, } Committee.

Mr. Gamble in the North.

The Clinton *Democrat*, one of the most orthodox Democratic papers in the North, says of Mr. Gamble, our candidate for Canal Commissioner, as follows:

The Democracy of this section of the State will be exceedingly gratified to learn that John A Gamble, of Lycoming county, has been nominated for Canal Commissioner by the Democratic State Convention, which assembled at Pittsburgh on the 4th inst. Mr. Gamble is eminently worthy; a man of undoubted capacity and integrity, and an ardent, devoted, radical Democrat. That he will be elected by an overwhelming majority cannot be doubted.—Here, where the people know him, his nomination will be hailed by an unprecedented majority.—We hail his selection as the standard-bearer of Democracy, as the sure harbinger of success. Democrats, you have a candidate who will never dishonor your glorious party; let us, then, do justice to him and ourselves, by giving him a cordial and vigorous support.

More about the "Tariff Ruin."

For the benefit of the Federal and Conservatives croakers, we copy the following from an exchange paper:

The Iron Business.—We learn from a Taylor Whig paper, the *Blue Hen's Chicken*, that Messrs. Whitaker & Co., are building a tremendous Blast Furnace, at Durnham, Bucks county, capable of making two hundred tons of iron per week. Last year they built one that makes 125 tons per week.

Now, *Whitaker*, in the iron business, is a high tariff name, that goes in for "protection;" and yet, strange as it may appear, we find the name investing largely of the capital, in the iron business, under the tariff of '46 which according to Whig predictions, was to prostrate not only the iron, but all other manufacturing operations!

Yes, we have the *sufficiency* of the Tariff of '46, as to the iron interest, indirectly admitted by Whig capitalists; the *equity* of it in its leading principles, as to all the great interests of the country, is beyond all question.—*Westchester Democrat.*

The Present Administration.

Truth well Expressed.—The Democratic State Convention, recently held in Iowa, adopted some caustic and powerful resolutions in regard to Gen. Taylor and his appointments. They bit the nail upon the head—and are as follows:

Resolved, That the administration of General Taylor, as far as it has proceeded on its mission, has unblushingly falsified every promise, and grossly violated every pledge, given before the election by its nominal chief; and that a party which can go before the country upon one set of issues, and immediately after its installation into power, enter upon the practice of another set, is more than ever deserving the reprobation of the world, and of the continued and uncompromising hostility of the democratic party.

Resolved, That General Taylor, for the part that he has played, or been made to play, in this disgraceful game of deception, has displayed a want of honest principle, or a weakness of mind and character, which equally disqualify him for the place he holds, and fully justify the worst predictions ever made against his fitness for the Presidency, and that although once we may have admired the soldier in the tented field, we are now reluctantly brought to condemn and repudiate the cypher in the cabinet of the country.

Samuel P. Collings, Esq.

The Editor of the Wilkesbarre *Farmer*, Samuel P. Collings, Esq., was a Delegate to the Democratic State Convention, and while in this City took suddenly ill, and was compelled to remain over a day or two at the St. Charles Hotel, after the Convention adjourned. For the information of the numerous friends of Mr. Collings in this city, we copy the following from the last Farmer:

"Past absence, and present illness, compels us to draw largely upon the indulgence of our subscribers. The absence was induced by the hope of better serving their interests, and the ills are the consequence. When our health shall become somewhat mended, we will endeavor to make up by increased vigilance for present deficiencies."

☞ It is said to be a fact, that, in St. Louis, at least three Locofocos to one Whig have died of cholera. It is perhaps not at all strange that the Locofocos about these times are very *Choleric*.

Louisville Journal.

The man who could pen a sentence like that to gratify his spleen, or indulge in the coarsest wit at the expense of the suffering and dying, must have a heart vile enough to be guilty of any cowardly deed. We might reply with the great truth, and full as much wit, that the epidemic so far has taken the good and left the vile, or else *Prentice* would have went to his great account ere this.—*Cin. Enq.*

To the Citizens of Pittsburgh and Allegheny:

Fellow Citizens:—

I do not know of any thing like an apology for the course of those firemen who at the late fire in Allegheny, used any means to prevent or dissuade other firemen from exerting themselves in arresting the conflagration. I witnessed the progress of that calamity. I saw the orderly citizens of Pittsburgh and Allegheny—men and little boys—forming into lines to convey the water in buckets to extinguish the fire. I saw those lines several times broken through by disorderly firemen. I saw those firemen for several hours passing in all directions about the fire, witnessing the distressing scene of destruction, and brutally casting their jeers and taunts at those citizens whom humanity had called to the rescue of their neighbors' property.

I am rejoiced to say that I did not see one whose face I had ever looked upon before. I trust that there were none there who had received their training in this community. If there were any firemen in any way concerned in the outrage, who have any decency left, that decency was chiefly shown by their absence. They might have given countenance to the *plan* of mischief, but they had conscience enough left to keep them from participating in its *execution*; for in such cases, "conscience makes cowards of us all."

Now, I am perfectly willing to see all persons, participating in such an outrage upon humanity, held up to public indignation; for this is a proper punishment of such offences, and tends greatly to deter those who have no manly principle to guide them, from being led into such vices. I know not what degree of scorn is too great for such degraded characters; and we can hardly bring ourselves to the exertion required to correct the mischief, unless when our indignation is aroused against the mischief maker.

But still, we must not forget that the final cause or natural purpose of such indignation at vice, is to spur us on to seek a remedy for it. The mere punishment of the offence will not prevent its recurrence, if we allow the exciting cause to remain. If the present state of our fire police tends to disorder, we do not half perform our duty by criminal punishments. We must reform the institution.

One of the first evils which strikes the attention of those who have their residences near the engine houses is the demoralizing tendency of the present organization of this department. It has been a subject of complaint for many years that the engine houses are moral nuisances—that some of them have become the daily and nightly resort of rowdies and vagabond boys, who disturb the neighborhood by their noise, profanity, and other unbecoming behavior—that they have been schools of vice for young boys of the neighborhood, who have not the benefit of any better teaching at home—that there are large numbers of worthless idlers belonging to the companies, who find false alarms a pleasant excitement, and who are ready to furnish the stimulant with sufficient frequency; and thus the time of well disposed citizens is uselessly wasted to the amount of many thousand dollars a year.

Another evil arising out of the present organization, is the undue degree of *esprit de corps*, or erroneous sense of honor which is always found connected with our fire associations. This may be thought by some to be a strange objection. Yet in this is involved nearly all the disorders among firemen which have lately disgraced American society. It is found that in such associations, a man's standing is estimated very much by his attachment to his engine and company; and in the ordinary course of things, his particular attachments swallow up the more general ones; his fire duties become more important than those of his occupation—his *esprit de corps* than his love of country. His judgment is much guided by the opinions of his associates. He has a moral standard based on principles totally different from society around him. The polar painciple which guides him in his duties as fireman, is devotion to the interest of his company—and all other principles are tainted and affected by this.

If genuine, manly patriotism were the polar star—the guiding principle in the performance of all our civil duties, no such evils could arise. Though under particular trials or temptations, a man might lose sight of his ruling principle, and fall into error, yet he would soon rise again. As under the guidance of faith, or trust in God, the Christian can say,—"though the fig tree do not blossom, and the fields yield no food; though the flock be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stall, yet will I rejoice in the Lord." So should the patriotism of the citizen enable him to rise above the petty acts of real or supposed injustice that are inflicted on him, and still love his country and seek her honor. And guided by the same noble principle, the firemen would say, tho' my company be entirely neglected by the municipal authorities, and our engine and hose be allowed to rot upon their wheels, I have something higher than the glitter of a fire engine to rejoice over. I have higher attachments than those which hold me to any transient association. I can rejoice in the honor of my country, whose lustre is untarnished by my hand. My love of country still glows brightly in an honest heart, and I am ready still to seek her peace and order and prosperity at home, and if necessary, to war for her honor and security abroad.

It will readily be seen how much even good mens' principles are endangered, by such connection with associations that can in any way come in conflict with the public authorities. The members set out with one common feeling—a desire for the interest and success of their company. If they could stop here, and make this desire subordinate to their other social and civil duties, no evil would arise. But we know our weakness in resisting the tendency to sympathise with our associates. If we have one common purpose, it requires high moral principles and great firmness of character to resist the means proposed to carry out our purpose, even though those means be disorderly and immoral. In such circumstances, we often fail to see the distinction between right and wrong. Thinking our main purpose clearly right, we look not at the moral character of the means by which it is to be obtained.

This inflence has led many young men to join in the preparatory measures that brought on the late disgrace. I would deal charitably with them. They did not see the end from the beginning. But they will do themselves great wrong, if they do not let the still voice succeed the storm of passion which has driven them so far astray, and correct its effect upon their principles. Though the public may be willing to find apologies for them they will learn but little from this fearful error, i shey seek apologies for themselves. It should lead them to avoid the beginnings of evil—to resist the influence of associates, and have the rule over their own spirits, or their late transgression will be but one step towards higher offences and a total degradation of character.

Here, then, is an argument against all permanent paratory associations; and the impression of its force will be increased by a reference to facts in illustration of it. Some of these may seem to be of small moment, but I think none of them entirely insignificant.

First, We have the reckless competition among the different companies to be the first at a fire,—and I am not certain but that this competition is encouraged by the public authorities. I know it used to be. Yet, none but firemen can look upon this with approbation, especially as we have witnessed it for several years. It has come to such a pass, that it is dangerous for women and children to be on the course of a fire engine, and many men are glad to turn off to another street as a means of safety. Already have several lives been sacrificed to this spirit; and in some instances it has led to bloody conflicts between the different companies striving to be forward.

The same principle has often led to deadly conflicts between companies at the fires, by companies adopting the quarrels of their members, and thus falling into a general street fight.

It is this which leads to those useless and extravagant expenditures, of which councilmen so often complain, in the competition, which company shall have the most expensive and most powerful engine. And it was this manifestation of the spirit of competition which led to the late disgraceful disaster.

Again this influence of association, in leading men to forget their principles and knowingly to sacrifice them to the wishes of their company, is seen in the numerous balls, and theatricals got up, it is said, for the benefit of fire companies. It is well known that there are many excellent young men belonging to the fire companies, whose principles are entirely opposed to such amusements, and who are led to sacrifice their principles rather than differ from their associates.

I would not be understood as passing any special censure on firemen's balls, except for their tendency to tempt their members, because they are members, to an abandonment of their principles. In other respects, I do not know that they are worse than any other balls. I am willing to be thought old fashioned and even illiberal on this subject.—I know of no good arising from balls and I think I have seen much evil. Yet I would not desire to mould other people's habits according to my pattern, or to restrain the amusements of other's according to my taste. But even those who would disagree with me as to balls, will acknowledge that those young men, who are led into such amusements at the sacrifice of principle, lose one of those supports on which their success in life depends.—They have silenced conscience in one instance, and it will be more easily silenced in obedience to the next temptation They have yielded to external influence on one occasion and they will have less power of resistance on the next trial.

I come now to speak of a much worse exhibition of the evil of this influence of association in its direct effect upon our civil institutions. That is, that all the fire companies sympathise with each other even in what is wrong. This is not an accidental circumstance, but the ordinary course of things. It is not a charge against present firemen, but against all fire companies so associated, especially when composed of young men. This is especially the case when the fire companies are seeking to effectuate a purpose in opposition to the public will. If one company is disappointed in its expectations it seeks to obtain the object by combining the other companies with it. Thus we have often witnessed the formation of such combinations about the time of our corporate elections, and men have been elected to office, not because of their devotion to the public welfare generally, but to the wishes of firemen in particular. Such time-serving candidates can always be found.

Firemen may say that they are best qualified to judge in those matters, and may consider themselves slighted if their suggestions are not followed. But still they are not the judges and should not be. The public interests are to be judged of by the whole people, and not by those who are most active in the administration of them. We do not and should not leave it to judges and lawyers to make our laws, nor to the clergy the government of the church, nor to military men the army affairs, though they may respectively be most acquainted with those matters. We have no casts in society to whom any of our interests are committed. And even firemen must submit that the public shall manage the fire department according to their own will. In the direction of those matters the fireman must be merged in the citizen, and he must be content even when the public opinion is different from his.

But to return to the improper interference of firemen with the legitimate working of our civil institutions. We have seen those fire associations growing up in our midst, and constituting themselves a branch of our police intirely independent of the people, and of the people's representatives. We have seen them combining their influence so as to bring it to bear upon the appropriation bills passed be the councils. We have seen, I think, more than one Mayor elected by their combined influence. And now at last, we have seen them combining to enforce their demands by withholding the fire apparatus in the midst of a most destructive conflagration.

And to such a degree did this last instance extend as to effect all the fire companies but one in these cities and boroughs. Out of perhaps thirty engines, but one was to be found at the fire. All the other companies joined in the combination by refusing to act; or were deterred from acting by the firemen of Allegheny. For five long hours the fire worked its way through acres of valuable houses, and hundreds of firemen looked on rejoicing. Yes, I say *rejoicing*, for I saw it. They saw aged men and women, and helpless children turned out of their burning homes, and their furniture broken and scattered over the public squares and commons, *and they laughed.* The savage yell of the American Indian at the burning of the white man's village was not half so horrid as the brutal jeers of these monsters at the calamities of their fellow citizens. I repeat the remark of an eminent citizen, that the brutal Nero, fiddling while Rome was burning, was no worse.

But let me say that I think that no less a calamity was necessary, in order to bring citizens and firemen to their senses. We are always slow in reforming abuses. For years the citizens and councils have looked on and witnessed these great abuses constantly increasing, and have attempted no remedy. We have heard the extent to which the evil has gone in other cities and have taken no warning. Nothing would force us to our duty but the disgrace and distress that is brought upon ourselves. Now when we are driven to our duty let us promptly seek the remedy.

If I have truly traced these evils to their source, and pointed out the true diagnosis of this political disease, then the remedy is plain. The evils are naturally, and in the present state of our civilization, inevitably connected with the present plan of organization, and it must be abandoned. If you were to disband all the present companies, to recognise them with entirely new members on the same plan, they will soon be bad as ever.

I have heard it suggested that the firemen should be public agents employed and paid by the public, and liable to be dismissed at any time by the officer having the superintendence of this department. I should have great fears that this plan would be found in some measure open to the same objections as the present plan. These hired firemen would to a degree, be a separate class of the community, having a constant tendency to come into conflict with the public on the subject of compensation and other matters, and having great facility in combining to effect their objects. It is true their seperation from the rest of the community would be more marked than is the case with the firemen now, and for this reason and because they would be compensated for their services, they would have less of the sympathies of the people, and their combinations would be more suspiciously watched and therefore less dangerous. This plan would be a great improvement, and should be adopted if none better should be found.

While the late fire was raging in Allegheny, my friend, Mr. James Gray of that city, stated to me that he had heard that in some parts of Europe, this department of the police is regulated by the government very much as they regulate the military, and a certain number of citizens is drafted as firemen for stated periods, and bound to attend under proper penalties.

It seems to me that we might profit by this hint and from it derive a plan for a fire police adapted to our habits and institutions. It would be improper here to attempt to give the particulars of such a plan, An outline alone is required. It should have a chief officer elected by the people and well paid for his services—only incompetent men can be got for half pay. The number of subordinates must be left for the suggestion of those who have far more experience than I have. Then as to the members of the different companies. Every able bodied citizen should be a member. Or rather there should be no permanent members; but it should be made the duty of every citizen to serve at the fires in his turn. I would take a hint from our mode of selecting jurors.—There should be an annual list made of all the able bodied citizens, and their names put into a wheel or box, and a sufficient number drawn every two or three months to serve at the fires. This is, I suppose, a sufficient sketch of the plan to enable all to understand it. It can readily be filled up by those who are skilled in such matters.

I have said the chief of the department should be well paid. Let me add he should have real power and not the name of it. He should be the real head of the fire department, uncontrolled by council committees. Allow me to say that the office of Mayor in these cities has been degraded by the Councils. The Mayor is the chief executive officer of the corporation, elected by the people to see that the laws are faithfully executed, and yet he is cribbed in his functions by the superintendence of some committee of councils, who are responsible to no one, unknown to the people, and not elected by them for any such purpose. And yet the Mayor is blamed for the inefficiency of all our police, though he can neither appoint nor dismiss them, or at least very few of them.

If we would have an honorable and competent head to the fire department we must trust him with real power. There should be laws to regulate the department, but he should see them executed, without being allowed the excuse that he is controlled in his duty by a committee of councils. I have often wondered that councilmen are willing to assume such executive duties upon themselves, and have thought they would not, unless they felt themselves bound to do so.

When appropriations are made for the Department, they should be expended by the chief executive officer of the department, subject to the proper auditors, and not by committees of councils or under their direction. Committees of Councils should perform no executive duties. If they do wrong, they account to their own body and join in passing ordinances to throw the injury upon the people.

I should like to see all these cities and boroughs united into one corporation, at least for the purposes of civil and fire police, and I am sure that a general union could be planned that would do injustice to no section. But we should not wait for this now, each corporation should at once adopt a proper fire system.

Perhaps I might suggest that each engine house should be a police station—that some officer should be constantly there—that no fire bell should be rung until the fact of a fire should be communicated at the station by some responsible person—that no more engines should be called to one fire than the occasion demands—that no citizen should be bound to turn out until the ringing of the bell of the engine to which he belongs.

In this way false alarms will be prevented, and sometimes the services of not more than one engine and company will be required. It will readily be seen with how little disturbance our ordinary fires may be extinguished on this plan, and that the saving of the time of the citizens will soon make up for the increase of the expense. The engine houses will no longer be the resort of vicious boys and rowdies, or the schools of all the vices of the neighborhood. The rising of engines to the terror of the citizens will cease. There will be no more bloody conflicts between rival companies. The citizens will all be firemen, and the firemen can no longer improperly control our elections and our councils. There will be no more extravagance of expenditure, arising from the desire to have the best and finest engine, and no more logrolling as to which shall be the favorites of council. For the speedy communication of fire intelligence, it may be thought proper to establish telegraphic communications.

From these services no able bodied man should be exempted. It is a work of benevolence, and it has a really humanizing tendency for every man to have and embrace opportunities of alleviating or averting the misfortunes of others. Even the clergy would be profitted by such active intercourse with their fellow citizens, and, being thus less separated from them, their influence would be increased. As things now are, they and many others do not work at fires because they feel as though they were intruding upon the exclusive province of the citizens.

Let not the present occasion pass without a decided reform of the abuse of the fire department. And, if it would not too much distract our efforts, let us commence the work of correcting other abuses We have received some warnings already as to them, let us not postpone reform until greater calamities grow out of them. We should expect none to serve the public without pay, they cannot do it well. Our councilmen should be paid, and should have none but legislative duties to perform; no executive duties should be imposed upon their committees. These should all be done by regular executive officers. In this we should take pattern from our National and State governments. To have proper responsibility we must keep the legislative and executive functions separate. Our councils should sit but a limited period from day to day in the beginning of the year. There should be no special sessions except when there is most urgent necessity. Then a call might be made by the Mayor and Presidents of Councils, and afterwards sanctioned or disallowed by the Councils.

The auditors of the public accounts should be officers elected by the people, and paid for their services, and not a committee of councils. If executive officers are to be controlled in their duties by any other means than the laws of their department, their liability to dismissal or punishment, and the exaction of toil, let it be by other executive officers and not by council committees.

Let all the public business be publicly done. Let the legislation of the year be done in the first month of the year, and let it be done in the face of the public, in large Halls, with abundant accommodations for the citizens, male and female, who choose to be present, and not in small committee rooms, where the citizens feel themselves excluded. Even honest men feel more secure of the honesty of their motives when they know that their actions are watched.

Fellow Citizens:—I have performed my duty.—tha I have said some things of which many will disapprove, and at which some will be offended, I have reason to believe. But some one must bear the odium attached to all attempts at reform, and I may well take my share. In this community I have received all my training and education. Here I have acquired all that I possess. Here my best friends and kindred dwell. Here are all my earthly attachments, and around our busy streets and rugged hills and lovely rivers hover all my earliest recollections and I may say of this community, "if I forget thee let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth."

WALTER H. LOWRIE.

LOCAL MATTERS.

A Card.—It pains us exceedingly to again trespass upon the patience of our readers by referring to the scurrilous attacks of the imported Editor of the Mercury. This contemptible pup, scarcely warm in the country, not content with maligning the institutions which at present protect him, and libelling some of our best countrymen, has at last singled us out as the mark at which to direct his venomous spleen. This thing, or contemptible nonentity called *Hethering Drumm*, backed by one Snowden, celebrated for his sycophancy and spaniel like fawning to a few purse proud Aristocrats of this city, would have been passed by with silent contempt, by us, if he had not most grossly and maliciously slandered and misrepresented us in his contemptible and filthy Guerrilla sheet.

Instead of replying to our article, which appeared on Saturday morning, this refugee, who was compelled some six months since, to "leave his country for his country's good," and who, if he had his just dues, would have been hung or confined in the stocks at Bermuda, has indulged in all sorts of low, mean and cowardly personalities.

If this Drumm is a specimen of the Irish Patriots, is it any wonder that the cause of Liberty in that country, smiled on by the universal world, so signally failed? Such hounds as he are calculated to damn any cause, let the object be soever commendable, and we are not the least astonished at his having been chased from his own country and compelled to find protection in our glorious Republic; but if he continues in the same course which he has heretofore pursued, public opinion will soon compel him to leave this, and seek a home in some land where blackguards, liars and cut throats can with impunity pursue the even tenor of their way.

The article in yesterday's Mercury is not only false in every particular; but is the most low, contemptible and whining string of words that we have ever seen in the columns of any newspaper, having the least claims to decency.

In a conversation with John Snowden, yesterday, he informed me that he had endeavored to persuade his brother from this personal attack on us—that the article in the Mercury was unjust, ungenerous and devoid of truth. But this Joe Snowden, a fellow without a sufficiency of brains to keep him from running his head in the fire, unless prevented by his keeper, insisted on his minion and willing tool, Drumm, merely for the purpose of gratifying his mean, malignant and selfish disposition, and with a desire to injure, if possible, Mr. Harper and the Post, to make the attack upon us. Such scoundrels are beneath our contempt—and being like rotten fish, the more stirred the worse they stink, we have resolved to throw ourselves upon dignity in future, and treat them with that silent scorn which they deserve from every respectable individual.

Lew. A. Clark.

Minstrels.—The Empire Minstrels repeat their Concert at Apollo Hall to-night. That song of Fosters, entitled "Nelley was a lady," was received with rapturous applause. The words are beautiful, the air sweet, and the style in which it was sung deserving all praise. The song, together with many others of the same sort, will be repeated this evening. As soon as we can procure a copy of the song we will publish it.

Riot.—Thomas Gillespie, of the Sixth Ward, made information yesterday before the Mayor against Dick Jones, Bill Kain and Tom O'Donnel, three notorious rowdies, for forcibly entering his house, striking him on the head with a bottle and threatened to shoot him. They were held to bail in $500 each.

Pittsburgh, Monday, July 23. M.

Cholera Report.—Gentlemen: I have not had a case of cholera reported to me since 12 o'clock M., on Friday.

Very respectfully,
W. McK. Morgan.

To the Sanitary Committee.

Markets.—The Deacon must have an excellent time of it manufacturing the New York Markets. Merchants and business men generally should place a great deal of confidence in his home-made reports—they will lead no person astray, for he carefully avoids inserting figures. The Deacon is adroit at such tricks.

Boat Glee.—We have received several communications requesting us to publish the beautiful song entitled the "Boat Glee," as sung by the Empire Minstrels. We will be much obliged to the Empires for a copy of the song, and as soon as furnished will comply with the request of our correspondents.

Cross Suits.—John Arney made information against Clinton Lock, and Clinton Lock made information against John Arney, all for assault and battery. Both parties were held to bail, and we hope they may have a good time of it.

Query.—We heard a number of individuals inquire yesterday what watchman chased a woman into the river on Saturday night. A woman, half drowned, was picked up on the bar yesterday morning.

Public Meeting.—A meeting of the citizens of the 6th and 8th Wards, will be held at the Public School House, in the 8th Ward, on Thursday, July 26th, for the purpose of procuring an Engine for said wards. The citizens are respectfully invited to attend.

At a meeting of the United Beneficial Society of Pittsburgh, on Saturday morning, the 21st inst the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, it has pleased the Allwise and Just Ruler of the Universe to remove by death our esteemed fellow member James H. Young, who for so long a time has occupied an honored place in our midst, and has ever been loved and respected by us all, deeply and sincerely do we feel that in this dispensation of Divine Providence, we have sustained a severe loss, both as a Society and as individuals—that the dearest tie of friendship which we had hoped would have long continued, has been suddenly broken asunder—and desirous to manifest our regret, and to show our respect for our deceased fellow member, we have unanimously

Resolved, That by the death of James H. Young, late Treasurer of our society, one of the brightest and best minds of which the Society could boast, and one of our most efficient members, has suddenly been withdrawn from among us, and a void has thus been created in our midst, which we shall ever deeply and sincerely regret.

Resolved, That we deeply sympathise with the relatives and friends in this sudden and painful bereavement.

Resolved, That the above preamble and resolutions be published in the daily papers, and that a copy be transmitted to the relatives and friends of deceased.

JOHN WILLIAMS, Prest.
R. B. Evens, Secty.

Robbery.—Leeward, the Blacking Maker on Market Street, was robbed of three hundred and fifty dollars on Sunday night. The robbers forced their way through a back window into the store and broke open the safe containing the money.

Assault and Battery.—John Davis, made information against David Parks for assault and battery. Parks was held to bail in $250.

Police.—Only one offender in the Tombs yesterday morning. As the boys say, he "went a kiting" to the Hill.

DIED.

On Monday evening, July 23d, Mrs. Kate L. Gordon, of Allegheny City.

The funeral will take place this afternoon at 3 o'clock from her late residence, near the weigh-lock.

Yesterday evening, at his residence in the Fifth Ward, John Gunn.

His funeral will take place this day at 4 o'clock, in the afternoon. His friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend.

EMPIRE MINSTRELS.

WOULD tender their sincere thanks to the citizens of Pittsburgh for their very liberal patronage during the past *THREE WEEKS*, and beg leave to announce that they will give another of their POPULAR ENTERTAINMENTS, at

PHILO HALL,

on TUESDAY EVENING, July 24: on which occasion they will introduce

NEW SONGS, BURLESQUES, DANCES, &c., &c.,

Doors open at 7½ o'clock. Concert to commence at 8. Tickets 25 cents. jy24

DRIED BEEF—4 casks Sugar Cured Dried Beef on hand and for sale by
jy24 KING & MOORHEAD.

HAMS—4 casks Sugar Cured Hams on hand and for sale by (jy24) KING & MOORHEAD.

Large Sale of Dry Goods, Shoes, Furniture, Groceries, &c., at Auction.

ON Thursday next, July 26th, at 10 o'clock, A. M., will be sold at M'KENNA'S Auction Rooms, a large lot of Dry Goods of every description. Ladies Shoes, &c.,

And at 2 o'clock, P. M., in the afternoon Groceries, and the Furniture of a private family declining housekeeping; at early gas light Same evening new and second hand Watches, Dry Goods and variety articles.
jy24 JAMES M'KENNA, Auctioneer.

Three Second hand Pianos either for Sale or Rent.

ONE of the above Piano fortes will be exchanged (cost originally $500) for a lot of ground, or merchandize, at a fair valuation.

JOHN H. MELLOR,
jy24 81 Wood street.

TO CONTRACTORS.

SEALED PROPOSALS will be received at the office of the James River and Kanawha Company in Richmond, until the 20th day of August next, for the construction of the connection of the Company's Canal with the tide water of James River at Richmond, from the Basin along the line of the old locks, and through the Richmond dock. This work will consist of five locks of 13 8-10 feet lift, with short intermediate basins, such culverts, walls, weirs, street bridges, &c., as shall be necessary; the lining of the walls and enbankment of the present Dock; the extension of the Dock a few hundred feet eastwardly; and the construction of an outlet lock at the lower end thereof capable of admitting the largest vessels coming to the port of Richmond.

Sealed proposals will also be received at the same time and place, until the same date, for the construction of the following works:

1. For the construction of the connection of the Company's canal with the Rivanna river at Columbia. This work will consist of a canal four and a half miles long, a timber dam across the Rivanna river at Stillman's Mills, a stone guard-lock, and several culverts.

2. For the construction of the connection of the Company's canal with the James river at Cartersville. This work will consist of a timber dam across James river, the excavation of a basin at Pemberton, and a canal from Pemberton to James river 1000 feet long, with a lock of 15 feet lift.

3. For the construction of the connection of the Company's canal with the James river near New Canton.—This work will consist of a timber dam across James river, the excavation of a canal 1200 feet long, and a lock of 6 feet lift.

4. A wooden bridge across James river at Hardwickville, 724 feet long, supported by stone piers about 140 feet apart.

5. A wooden bridge across James river at Bent Creek 570 feet long, supported by stone piers about 140 feet apart.

This work will be paid for in current bank notes. Besides the usual reservation of 20 per cent on the monthly estimates, the contractor or contractors will be required to give ample security, satisfactory to the Board of Directors, for the completion of the work at the time and in the manner specified in the contracts.

Plans of the above work will be exhibited, and specifications thereof delivered to the Contractors, at the Company's office in Richmond, by the 5th day of August next on application to Mr. E. H. Gill the Engineer in charge of the tide-water connection, and Mr. John Cooke the Engineer in charge of the other works above enumerated. After the receipt of the proposals, time will be taken for the consideration thereof until the 23d of the same month, on which day,