Daily Morning Post.

THOMAS PHILLIPS.....GEORGE F. GILMORE.

Phillips & Gilmore, Editors & Proprietors.

PITTSBURGH:

WEDNESDAY MORNING:.....DECEMBER 14.

MORNING POST JOB OFFICE.

We have now employed in our Job Office an unusual number of excellent job printers, and are prepared to execute all orders with neatness unsurpassed, and with a speed that *shall* not be beat.

THE GAZETTE INTO THE SMOKE.

We can cordially forgive the old *Gazette* all its sins against us for the last six weeks, in consideration of the manly and determined stand it has taken against the smoke and soot of Pittsburgh. On Monday an article appeared in our paper stating that an apparatus was now in use in a furnace in Pittsburgh which consumed every particle of soot and smoke. The inventor assures us that it can be applied every where where our coal is used as a fuel. There is then no longer any need of enduring such a smoky and dirty atmosphere as our citizens waded through on Monday. It can be prevented; and Pittsburgh become as cleanly and pleasant a city as any in the Union. The *Gazette* is with us in this effort to awaken public attention to this most important subject. We believe this is all that is needed to secure this most valuable improvement in the condition, comfort and prosperity of Pittsburgh. Only satisfy the people that the thing can be done, and it *will* be done.

The *Gazette* of yesterday says:

"What is the remedy? *Burn the smoke.* Compel every manufactory to consume its own smoke It can be done. It is done in England. It is only a question of expense to the manufacturers of a first outlay, which would be returned to them in the saving of fuel in the course of time. Any one who has remarked how comparatively free the city is from smoke on Sundays, will perceive what a positive amelioration would arise from the burning of the smoke ceased by our manufactories. A manufacturer now will clap down his works anywhere, and belch out huge volumes of soot and smoke, filling the nose, mouth and eyes—saturating the clothes, penetrating every nook and corner of the houses of his neighbors, and never imagine he is doing any wrong. He rather esteems himself a public benefactor. Ask him to put up a smoke-burner, and he feels himself insulted, and intimates that people had better mind their own business."

Now, Mr. *Gazette*, we are with you, heart and soul in this matter. We know it can be done; done effectually; done speedily; done without any expense that would not be re-paid by the increased heat acquired by use of the apparatus; and done universally throughout the two cities and boroughs.

The practicability of the thing has been fully demonstrated in several cities of Great Brittain. Shall the comfort, good name, health and prosperity of Pittsburgh be longer damaged by the nuisance, when it is known that the nuisance can be abated.

The *Gazette* says again:

"Only think, too, the disgust strangers feel on visiting us. Our murky atmosphere and somber appearance are absolutely repelling. A gentlemanly stranger, with spectacles on his nose, who was endeavoring to read by what little light the sun was able to dispense about 11 o'clock, yesterday, asked us very seriously if it was *always* dark here. He knew the sun was shining in the country, and he inferred that we were environed in perpetual gloom. Pittsburgh has lost much from this cause. Persons who would have made this city their home and have added to our manufactures and our wealth, have sought less advantageous locations, repelled from us by the smoke nuisance."

Suppose twenty strangers had arrived in our city on Monday morning, with capital for investment in manufacturing or merchandizing here, and having their families with them; after wading through the murky, gloomy and dirty atmosphere of that day, every man of them would have left by the evening trains, with families and capital, never to return; and would have carried to other parts of the country an evil report of our city, injurious to its interests. Monday was "an extreme case," we admit; but every day in the year, "Sundays excepted," our city presents a dirty, sombre aspect that can be avoided at trifling expense.

Our city authorities ought to provide for a fair test of this apparatus, and, if found successful, enforce its use. Some manufacturers might grumble at first; but when its effects were fully developed they would equally rejoice with all our citizens in this great improvement of the city.

We would respectfully suggest that the women of Pittsburgh have a deep interest in this matter. The labor and expense of house-keeping, and cleaning clothing, beds and furniture, would be greatly reduced by this reform.

Let the public mind be aroused to the subject, and the good work will succeed.

Come, Mr. *Journal*, what say you?

THE NEW YORK TRIBUNE.

Our thanks are due to Mr. GRELEY, of the *Tribune*, for a favor lately received. Personally we like the "boss" of the *Tribune*; and give him full credit for sincerity and ability in advocating the cause of general education; the cause of temperance, and moral reforms generally. We need scarcely say that we don't like his politics. But with that matter we have nothing to do just now.

The *Herald, Times* and *Sun*, of New York, have lately severally published accounts of their pecuniary condition and circulation, in which each paper makes itself out the greatest newspaper on this continent, and each labors to show that it is far ahead of the *Tribune*. The *Tribune* has at length taken up the cudgels in self-defence, and a few days since made a full statement of its condition and circulation. It says:

"1st. The *Tribune* had *never* before so many subscribers as on this first day of December, 1853."

Well, the old Pittsburgh *Post* can say the same with perfect truth.

Again the *Tribune* says:

"The *Tribune never* issued so many copies, whether of the Daily only, or of all its editions together, in any previous November, as in that which has just closed."

Well, the Pittsburgh *Post* can say the same with perfect truth. And still the names of new subscribers come in faster than ever.

The *Tribune* says again:

"3d. No other general newspaper published in this country, or in the world, is taken at this time by so many persons, as the New York *Tribune*."

We back right down there. We can't match that yet. But who knows what *may* happen hereafter to the old *Post*, with its now large and rapidly increasing circulation. Wait till we enlarge our paper, and then see what happens. We shall probably do that before long. The *Tribune* then gives the following as its circulation on the 1st instant:

DAILY	21,600	WEEKLY	62,120
CALIFORNIA	4,080	SEMI-WEEKLY	6,360
EUROPEAN	250	Aggregate	96,410

That is a little ahead of the old *Post*, we candidly admit. But then remember it is a leading newspaper in a sea-board city, the commercial metropolis of the country. It ought to beat us a little.

FAIR FOR PASSAVANT'S INFIRMARY

A Fair will be held at Masonic Hall on Thursday and Friday evenings of this week, for the benefit of the above named institution. Our citizens can find no more worthy object on which to bestow their favors and attention. We understand that ample preparations have been made for the gratification of visitors; and would bespeak a full attendance. The Hall will accommodate eleven or twelve hundred people; and we hope it will be filled with the beauty and fashion, the benevolent and liberal of the two cities.

EUROPEAN MATTERS.

We stated some time since that the Emperor of Austria had a quarrel on hands with the Jews of his empire. The Jews refused to loan him money, and he revived several old and oppressive laws against them. The Jews of England and some other parts of Europe take part with their oppressed brethren, and retaliate by discredited the bonds of the Austrian government. This retaliation was sorely felt at Vienna; but the Emperor of Russia has again come forward to the rescue of his Austrian dependent. The Imperial Bank at St. Petersburgh has secured the loan to the Austrian government. Thus Francis Joseph of Austria is "*sold*" politically and financially, to the autocrat. Should the present war become general in Europe, Austria cannot fail to take part with Russia.

The Emperor of Russia, it seems, had considerable sums of money, exchequer bills, &c., in England, and within a short time he has withdrawn all the money, amounting to near $4,000,000. It produces no panic, however, as was perhaps designed.

The strikes of the operatives in the manufacturing towns of England still continue. At Manchester about 40,000 operatives are on a "strike;" and at many other places large numbers. Their friends in London and elsewhere are raising large collections for their relief.

It is believed, by some writers from Europe, that in case of continued hostilities between Turkey and Russia, Prussia will join with England and France in favor of Turkey.

☞ We observe that our worthy Mayor has applied to Bishop O'CONNOR to prevent the firing of cannon and the beating of drums on Sunday. We have always had the idea that that was a duty to be attended to by the Mayor himself. We are not aware that Bishop O'CONNOR is a civil magistrate or a constable, and we believe that it would have been more appropriate if the Mayor had addressed his letter to some of his police. If the clergy of our city are a portion of the constabulary, the Mayor might have been right in calling the Bishop from the altar to do police duty; but, we have not as yet seen any thing of the kind in the ordinances, and, therefore, we do not suppose that our spirited teachers will desert their altars to play the part of a policeman at the beck of the Mayor. All violations of public propriety are attended to by the police, and not by the clergy. The Mayor has, therefore, discharged his cannon and beat his drum in the wrong quarter. Whenever any of the officiating clergymen of our city become a portion of his police, he can order them out as constables on Sunday, but not until then.

THE GAZETTE.

The *Gazette* is respectfully informed that it is no part of our business to defend Mr. Harper. He can take care of himself, and must do it. We merely mentioned him to illustrate the vindictiveness with which the editor of the *Gazette* pursues his fancied enemies.

In regard to the President's Message, we have only to say, our neighbor was much better employed on Monday in writing against the smoke of Pittsburgh, and in favor of the consolidation of the cities, than it was on former days in publishing silly extracts from whig papers, abusing the *style* of the Message. We refer the *Gazette* to the opinion of the *National Intelligencer* in regard to the Message. We published it yesterday. It commends the Message as an able document.

MR. THACKARAY.—Fault was found by a number of the papers in this country, with an expression which occurred in Thackaray's new novel of "The Newcomes." The passage in question spoke disparagingly of WASHINGTON—but the critics who were so severe upon it did not remember that the expression was made use of by a London apprentice of 1770, and the author's idea in putting it into his mouth, was to depict the feelings and sentiments which animated the British public at that time. Mr. Thackaray, in an explanatory letter to the Times, says:

"As irony is dangerous, and has hurt the feelings of kind friends whom I would not wish to offend, let me say, in perfect faith and gravity, that I think the cause for which Washington fought entirely just and right, and the champion the very noblest, purest, bravest, best of God's men."

☞ THE FAIR for the Mercy Hospital will come off at Lafayette Hall on to-morrow evening. The motive of this Fair is purely charitable. It is a consummation of the Scriptural remark, that "he who giveth, lendeth to the Lord." The proceeds of it is intended for a charitable purpose, which must commend itself to every humane heart. The inclement portion of the year is upon us; the cold of winter is gathering around us; and not only the poor, but the homeless orphan, are shivering on the streets for want of food and shelter. The object of this fair is to alleviate these wants, and we hope the call will be promptly answered by our benevolent community.

MISSISSIPPI.—Our returns are now full from every county in the State, and sum up as follows:

1852.		1851.		1852	
Rogers.	McRea.	Foote.	Davis.	Scott.	Pierce.
27,359	32,133	29,358	28,359	17,348	29,976

The vote is 14,918 larger than at the Presidential election, of which 9,761 is an increase to the whig candidate, and 5,157 to the democratic nominee.

MR. AND MRS. FLORENCE.—We would advise BARNEY WILLIAMS and his lady to look to their laurels, for we are apprehensive that the Florences will pluck them. Their performance on Tuesday evening was certainly a rich treat to the lovers of genuine fun; nor was it less amusing last night. We think that Mr. and Mrs. FLORENCE are the best comedians in their line that we have seen in our city for some years past.

FINE LAKE FISH.—We would call the attention of our friends to the stall of our friend GEORGE CUTTS, at the corner of Market street and the Diamond. He has always on hand some of the finest Lake Salmon and other fish that have ever been offered in our market. This general depot is at Hoffman's on Union street.

For the Morning Post.

EDITORS OF THE MORNING POST—*Gentlemen:*—During the last month several of your correspondents have, through your columns, suggested the names of several distinguished Democrats in connection with the Mayoralty. The gentlemen thus named, however competent they may be, have already received from the Democracy of this city and county many favors, and their particular friends seem to forget the democratic principle of rotation in office.

We would, therefore, most earnestly urge the democracy of the city to nominate Mr. JAMES C. PETTIGREW, for the Mayoralty, in the coming contest. It is needless for us to say that Mr. PETTIGREW is both honest and capable. He has had considerable practical experience in our municipal affairs; and was the only officer that could give the committee of Councils a satisfactory statement of the condition of the affairs of that office, while he acted as clerk. He is a young man of great popularity, and would unite in the coming election the whole party. ROTATION AND NUMBERS.

We publish communications like the above without expressing any opinions of our own. We have known Mr. PETTIGREW long, and esteem him highly.

EMANCIPATIONS.—Matthew Beck, colored, of Adams county, Pa., has collected $1,200 to free his wife and two children, slaves in Rockingham county, Va.; including $400 appropriated to the object from his earnings. Jas. C. Onoy, a colored man in New York, has succeeded in collecting $1000 to purchase the freedom of his sister and her five children. A colored woman called on the editor of the N. Y. Journal of Commerce on Friday to say that she had raised $800 to free herself, an equal amount to free her sister, and was endeavoring to raise $400 more, in order to free her two children.

Report of the Secretary of War.

This, like the other public documents, is of great length. It commences by stating that the authorized strength of the army now posted, is 13,821—officers and men—but the actual strength is only 13,417. Of this number, 8,378 are employed on the frontiers, or are on the route to them; and the Secretary derives pleasure from being able to say that the measures taken for the protection of the inhabitants of our frontiers of late have been more than usually successful. The Indian depredations have been comparatively unfrequent, and, except in California and Oregon, have not attained more local importance. In the Indian country, immediately west of the Mississippi, but two or three collisions have occurred; and arrangements are now in progress for the establishment of new posts, in more important positions, which will enable the Department to dispense with many unimportant posts, and give additional security.

In Texas, the Indian depredations have diminished in frequency and in importance; and in a majority of cases, as the Department has been informed, the depredations have been committed by Indians from Mexican territory. On the Rio Grande, the protection of the inhabitants and the enforcement of the fulfilment of treaty stipulations on the part of the Mexican Government, have made it necessary to strengthen our positions and increase the number of men. Although a peace has been obtained on that frontier, there is no assurance that it will be observed, unless a strong force be kept stationed there, and consequently it is the intention of the Department to send an additional force. It is the opinion of the Secretary, that with an army three times as great as ours, it would be impracticable so to guard all points of our extended frontier as entirely to prevent Indian depredations. It is, therefore, the intention to post the troops in large bodies on important points, and reduce the number of small detachments.

The appropriations for the erection and improvement of permanent fortifications, for three years past, have either been refused or greatly reduced, under the impression that they depended upon the prosecution of a system of fortifications. This the Secretary suggests is not the case, and remarks that however it may be henceforth viewed, the armament for important posts in Texas and on the Pacific coast, should be sent at the earliest period possible. After speaking at length concerning increased requirements for the transportation of stores, it is estimated that 4600 recruits will be required for the service of the ensuing year. It is thought that at the present rate of pay, it will be difficult, while other employments offer higher rewards, to secure the requisite number of men, although it is of the utmost importance that they should be had, and that the full number of rank and file should be maintained.

It is shown by an examination of the statistics of the army, from 1826 to the beginning of the war with Mexico, that the average excess of the legal over the actual strength of the army was 18 per cent. It appears further, that the average loss by desertion has been 12¾ per cent.; by discharges for debility and other causes, 7 per cent; and by deaths only 4 per cent.—or that the total loss, independent of discharges by expiration of service, has been 23¾ per cent. of the actual strength of the army. Since the termination of the war with Mexico, the excess of the legalover the actual strength has been 19 per cent; the average loss by desertion 16 per cent; by discharges for debility and other causes 8 per cent; by deaths 4 per cent, or a total loss, independent of discharges by expiration of service, of 28 per cent. A part of the desertion is due to the discovery of gold in California. The same cause influenced the number of re enlistments. The proportion during the last five years was 17 per cent. while during the three years preceding the war with Mexico, it was 25 per cent. These results the Secretary traces to two princal causes.

1. The disparity between the pay of the soldier and the value of labor in civil life.

2. The fact that length of service carries with it no reward, either in increased pay, rank or privilege.

Both these causes are the fruitful source of dissatisfaction and desertion, and they prevent the re-enlistment of the most valuable men. Thus in an army of 10,000 men, which is about the actual strength of our military establishment, as at present organized, there will be annually, under existing circumstances of pay and service, 1,290 discharges by expiration of enlistment; 726 discharges for disabilities, &c.; 330 deaths and 1,465 desertions; or 3,811 vacancies annually, of which only 219 are filled by re-enlistments. The actual annual loss to the Army to be supplied by the enlistment of new men will therefore be 3,592. Or, in other words, more than one third of the Army must every year be recruited and transferred from the depots to their regiments. In view of these experiences, the Secretary recommends the adoption of such measures as will prevent desertions and keep the ranks full. Among such, he suggests—

1. An increase of — per cent. of the present pay of the soldier.

2. An additional increase for each successive period of five years, so long as he shall remain in the army.

3. Provision for the promotion to the lowest grade of commissioned officers of such of the non-commissioned officers of the army as may be found qualified for, and, by their conduct, character and services, entitled to such advancement.

It is also suggested that the soldier, honorably discharged, who shall re enlist within one month thereafter, shall be entitled to $2 per month in addition to the ordinary pay of his grade, for the first period of five years, and a further increase of $1 per month for each successive period; and that those now in the army who have served more than one period of five years shall be entitled to the provisions named above; and also, that those who received a certificate of merit for services in Mexico shall have the additional $2 per month.

With a number of other recommendations calculated to render the army more efficient and capable of enduring the hardships of active service, the Secretary proceeds to speak of the necessity of encouraging regularity and uniformity in the militia; and in connection with this subject, he recommends providing the militia with the proper books for tactical instructions. The condition of the Military Academy is favorably spoken of, and the Academic term is, by the Board, recommended to be increased to five years.

The report gives histories of the various exploring expeditions undertaken by the government, which it is unnecessary to repeat here, as the facts are known to the public.

Items of News and Miscellany.

Prince Wm. Paul, of Wurtemberg, has arrived at New Orleans from the Pacific, and Lord Elmley and Viscount Ingestre from Vera Cruz.

It is said that counterfeit $20 bills on the State Bank of Ohio are in circulation in Zanesville.

Up to the close of last week, 45,000 hogs had been slaughtered at Louisville.

The democrats of Ohio are to hold a State Convention at Columbus, on the 7th of January, 1854.

A petition in favor of a prohibitory law, signed by 8,000 males and 6,000 females, has been presented to the Georgia legislature.

Four thousand of the colliers at Wigan, Eng., have returned to their work at the old prices. About one thousand still hold out. Some manifestations of riot have occurred at Blackburn, but nothing serious.

The Newark Advertiser states, on the authority of a New York physician, that four deaths from Asiatic cholera occurred in New York on Monday last, and all within his immediate knowledge.

It is alleged that the Hon. Mike Walsh's seat is to be contested, on the ground that he was born in Ireland, and was never naturalized.

Bryant is said to be perfectly at *home* in writing heroic verse, but for all this it must be acknowledged that the author of Illiad was Homer.

About 300,000 feet of the best white plank are annually sold by the lumber merchants of New Haven, Conn., for the manufacture of American friction matches in the immediate vicinity.

The dwelling house of Mr. Mac Andrew, printer in the British American office, Woodstock, Upper Canada, was destroyed by fire a few days ago. His mother-in-law, a servant girl, and his infant child, perished in the flames.

The export of breadstuffs from New York to foreign ports for the month of November, was as follows, viz:—410,257 bbls. flour; 1,809,308 bushels wheat; 144,166 bushels corn.

The steamboat Australia struck a rock near Hat Island Upper Mississippi, on the 9th inst., and immediately filled with water and sunk. The vessel and cargo will prove a total loss. There was an insurance in Pittsburgh of $15,000.

HEAVY RENTS.—It is stated that the property on Broadway and the south corner of Courtland st., N. Y., fifty feet front by one hundred, has been leased at $8,000 per annum for fifteen years, the lessee to put up a building costing $50,000, to revert to the owner of the ground on the expiration of the lease. A bonus of $100,300, it is said, has been offered for this lease and refused, it being considered as really worth three times that sum, from the rental expected to be realized.

Report of the Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. McClelland's report is not quite so long as those of the other Secretaries, but too long to be read by more than one person in a thousand. It states that during the last fiscal year, 9,819,411 acres have been surveyed, and 10,263,891 acres brought into market. In the same period there were sold 1,083,495 acres. Located with bounty land warrants 6,742,560 acres; with other certificates 9,427; selected for the States as swamp lands 16,684,253; donated for railroads, &c. 1,427,437; total sold and located 25,346,092 acres, being an increase of 12,234,818 over the previous year.

The whole number of land warrants issued under existing laws, up to the 30th of September last, was 265,042, of which there were then outstanding 66,947. The quantity of land required to satisfy the latter is 4,778,120 acres. Warrants have been issued, under various acts, calling for 25,384,640 acres.

The entire area of the public domain is estimated at 1,584,000,000 acres. Within the States, exclusive of California, it is 471,892,439 acres; the entire cost of which, including costs of surveys and sales, was $88,994,013. The amount received from sales, up to June 10th, was $142,282,478; being $53,249,465 more than the cost. The report enters into some particulars to prove that these lands, which have cost $88,994,013 will yield the net sum of $331,181,369; besides affording means to assist in education and reward for military services.

The Secretary recommends liberal grants for railroads and other highways, in States and Territories where lands remain unsold, and cites in proof of the advantages arising from them, the results in the case of the Chicago and Mobile and the Illinois Central and other railroads, in lending to immense sales of lands that would have remained unoccupied and unimproved for years. A similar result has succeeded the grant to the Sault Ste Marie Canal.

It is recommended that our present land system be extended over New Mexico and Utah. Measures are also required to guard against speculation and fraud in the mineral lands of California. The operations of the pension office are spoken of favorably. The applicants for pensions under the law of 1853, (widows of revolutionary soldiers married after January, 1800) have proved unexpectedly numerous. The appropriation made for it was only $24,000, whereas there will be about $240,000 required, and the number of applicants will probably be 3000. Reference is made to the numerous frauds committed on the Pension office, and measures are recommended for guarding against them.

The business of the Patent office goes on with much greater system than it did formerly, notwithstanding the great increase in the number of applications. Still a long period elapses before final action can be arrived at on applications, and a simplification of the process required by the laws is recommended.

Indian disturbances are described as having been less frequent than usual, during the year. The importance of directing their attention to agriculture is strongly urged. Their number amounts to about 40,000 in the States; about 110,000 in Minnesota and along the frontier, to Texas; 63,000 in the Plains and Rocky Mountains; 29,000 in Texas; 160,000 in California; 22,000 in Washington and Oregon; 45,000 in New Mexico; and 12,000 in Utah. These amount in the aggregate to 422,000. The visit of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to some of the tribes is spoken of as likely to prove very beneficial in bringing about treaties that will be mutually advantageous to white and Indians. The resistance of certain Creek Indians to United States officers who endeavored to enforce the laws against selling liquors is referred to, but after investigation it is decided that no the laws of the tribe on this subject are severe. It is hoped that Mexico, it was 29 per cent. These results the Secretary traces to two princal causes. warrants to Indians has been suspended.

The removal of the Seminoles from Florida has been transferred to the War Department. The agents are providing places for the removal of the Texas Indians. The plan for removing the California Indians has not succeeded, chiefly owing to the difficulty of procuring a fit place. A reform in the mode of paying annuities to the Indians is recommended as absolutely necessary.

The operations of the Census Bureau have resulted in the completion of their work, with an unexpended balance of $16,000 of the appropriation. Nothing has been done with the Mexican Boundary Survey; that of the New Mexican Boundary has been transferred to the State Department. Some details are given in regard to this survey, and Congress is asked to make provision for commencing the engravings for the work.

The report gives some particulars about the erection of an iron truss bridge over the Potomac, and additional appropriation of $75,000. It is recommended that new buildings be erected for the State, War, Navy and Interior Departments, which can be done at a cost not exceeding $3,000,000. Some further improvements in the public buildings, required for the health and convenience of the officers, are recommended. The remaining paragraphs of the report are devoted to matters of no interest out of the District of Columbia.

The estimates of the amounts required for the service of the Departments during the year ending June 30th, 1855, are $8,937,793 50.

GREAT FIRE IN NEW YORK.

Burning of the Harper's Establishment and a Number of Other Buildings—Two Hotels Partially Destroyed—Heavy Loss.

About one o'clock on Saturday afternoon a fire broke out in New York, in the extensive printing and publishing establishment of Harper & Bros., and spread through the buildings with almost incredible rapidity. The building extended from Pearl to Cliff street, and occupied a very large area. The fire is said to have been caused by a boy dropping a lighted lamp in the camphene room, where the rollers were washed. The Commercial, in a postcript, dated 2½ o'clock, P. M., says:

Many of the work-people had just returned from dinner, and had scarcely resumed their employments when the alarm was given. It is hoped that all have escaped, but there is reason to fear that some of the numerous book-folders and other employees in the upper room of the establishment have perished. Nothing certain on this subject can be ascertained at the present writing. Several girls escaped by jumping out of the windows, and one who did so broke a leg by the fall. Her name was not known to our informant.

The establishment of the Messrs. Harper consisted of six lofty brick buildings, extending through from Pearl street to Cliff street. Five of these buildings were nearly destroyed when we left the ground, and the sixth was on fire and will certainly be consumed.

When the fire broke out, the wind was Northerly, but it gradually shifted to the West, and carried the flames across Pearl street, setting fire to the Mansion House and the Franklin street Hotel. These buildings are badly burned in the upper stories.

The adjoining edifices were also scorched, and it was feared that ex Alderman James Kelly's bakery would take fire.

The wind is again shifting, however, to the Southward, and there is less reason to apprehend the destruction of the houses on the Eastern side of Pearl street. It is probable that the flames will now spread up to Frankfort street, and that the whole block on the Western side of Pearl street, from Ferry to Frankfort streets, will be consumed.

The heat is intense, but the brave firemen are laboring with undaunted energy, and will probably be successful in confining the conflagration to the limits above indicated.

The fire is a dreadful calamity not only on account of the immense value of the property destroyed, but on account of the great number of work-people who are thrown out of employment at this inclement season of the year.

The blank book manufactory of Geo. T. Coolidge & Bro., No. 323 Pearl street, adjoining the Harper's buildings, is destroyed.

The Express, in a postscri; t dated 2½ o'clock, says:

The fire has extended through to Cliff street, and is raging with fearful wildness. It is doubtful if the greater part of the whole block be not burned down. The back wall has just fallen with a fearful crash, and the whole rear of Harper's lies a mass of flaming ruins.

The press-room is, no doubt, utterly destroyed. Next to Harper's, on Cliff street, is Doherty's card manufactory, full of paper stock. It is probable that it, too, will fall a sacrifice. The fire has communicated to the building opposite to Harper's, on Cliff street, but it does not appear to spread. It is impossible to say yet whether any lives have been lost.

The firemen are working like horses, doing every thing that manly exertion and noble devotion can do to subdue the devouring element.

We learn that when the fire communicated to the rear, two work girls jumped from the second story of Harper's bindery; they were considerably hurt. The fire is spreading with fearful rapidity.

The flames have just communicated with the roofs of the houses in Pearl street, opposite Harper's; the Franklin Square Hotel and the old Walton House are on fire in the upper stories.

Nothing further has been heard from the Sonora expedition. A naval force was expected to go up the Gulf of California to assist, if possible, in arresting the steps of these marauders.

Since the above was in type, we learn that the fire was subdued after destroying sixteen buildings. The entire loss is estimated at $750,000. The Messrs. Harpers are said to be insured for $250,000.

EVADING THE LIQUOR LICENSE LAW.—Peter Buckley, of Delaware City, Del., has been convicted on four counts and fined $104, for selling liquor without license. It appears he attempted to evade the law, by selling a cracker or segar for a fip, and then asking the purchaser to take a drink. He proved the sale of a cracker in one instance, and a segar in another, and contended that he had the right to give away his liquor to his customer. But it was proven that the purchasers went to the house to get the liquor, and that the cracker or segar would not have offered sufficient inducement to call them there, had the liquor not been in anticipation. The Court held that it was an attempt to evade the meaning and spirit of the law.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

LECTURE.

YOUNG MEN'S LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

W. CURTIS, Esq., of New York City, author of "*Our Best Society,*" "*The Pulpihar Papers,*" recently published with such immense success in Putnam's Magazine, "*Homelit*" and other of our most popular works, will deliver his LECTURE (not lecture) before this Institute, on TUESDAY EVENING NEXT, 17th inst., at MASONIC HALL, Fifth street. Subject of Lecture,

"THE AGE OF STEAM."

As a lecturer and writer Mr. CURTIS is, by the best literary critics, placed in the very first rank, gilding to the utmost propriety the largest thoughts, wherever he has appeared, both *in this country and in Europe.*

☞ Tickets of admission, 25 cents—to be had at the various book and music stores, library rooms, of the Lecture Committee, and at the door.

☞ Doors open at 6½; Lecture to commence at 7½ o'clock.

HENRY WOODS,
JOHN K. HOLMES,
W. H. KINCAID,
JOHN M. KIRKPATRICK,
Lecture Committee.

dec14

OFFICE MONONGAHELA NAVIGATION CO.,
Pittsburgh, Pa., December 10, 1853.

PROPOSALS will be received at this office until twelve o'clock, P. M. of WEDNESDAY, the 25th January next, for the construction of Lock and Dam No. 5; also, for the construction of Locks and Dams Nos. 6 and 7, being a portion of the work required to extend the navigation to the Virginia State line. Plans and specifications will be exhibited at the office one week previous to the letting, and all necessary information given by S. Latham, Esq., or the undersigned.

Proposals will be received for payments to be made in cash; also, for payments in stock and bonds of the company.

J. K. MOORHEAD,
President of Mon. Nav. Co.

dec14 nov26td

Valuable City Property for Sale.

THE subscriber offers for sale that valuable LOT, corner of Market and Water streets, fronting 55 feet on each street, on which are erected two substantial Brick Warehouses.

I will also sell my DWELLING HOUSE AND LOT in the Fifth Ward, on Penn street. This Lot has 90 feet on Penn street, and runs through to Pike street 220 feet. The house is one of the largest and most complete dwellings in the city. For terms, inquire of Mr. ROSES, at my office, corner Market and Water streets.

POLLARD MCCORMICK.

dec14tr

WHEREAS, Letters of Administration having been granted to Robert Morrow, of Ross township, for the Estate of JOHN MORROW, late of Ross township, deceased, all persons having claims against said Estate, will present them, properly authenticated, for settlement, and all persons knowing themselves indebted, will please make prompt payment to the undersigned.

R. MORROW.

C. A. MCNAUGHT
Administrator.

SELECT QUADRILLE PARTY.

I TAKE pleasure in announcing to the scholars attending my Dancing Academy, and those who have received invitations, that the FIRST QUADRILLE PARTY will be given on WEDNESDAY evening, December 21st, at WASHINGTON HALL.

Gentlemen having received invitations, or been otherwise invited, and wishing to attend, will please procure their tickets from either of the Managers, (named on the circular,) as no tickets will be disposed of at the door of the Hall, and no gentleman admitted without a ticket, *and also has not received an invitation.*

☞ The Hall has been lately fitted up, and will be renovated and cleansed in the best possible manner. There will be also a waiting male and female in attendance, to take care of clothes, &c., belonging to the ladies and gentlemen.

dec13

Public Sale.

BY virtue of a Writ of Partition, issued out of the Court of Common Pleas of Fayette county, and to me directed, there will be sold at public outcry, upon the premises, in Connellsville township, in said County, on the TWENTY-SIXTH DAY OF DECEMBER, A. D. 1853, the following described Real Estate, to wit:—Four Tracts of Land, situate and lying in Connellsville township, Fayette county, Pa., containing about SEVENTEEN HUNDRED ACRES, lying on the Youghiogheny river, adjoining lands with Hiram Snyder, Israel Painter, John T. Hurst, and others, on which are erected a Stone Dwelling House, Frame Barn, large Stable, and an old furnace, formerly called Mt. Etna, together with several other log buildings; about two hundred acres of which are cleared; all of which is known as the Gibson property. Terms made known on day of sale.

JAMES McBRIDE, Sheriff.

Sheriff's Office, Dec. 1, 1853. [dec12ts4]

HOT CORN—A BOOK FOR ALL TIME—H. MINER & CO., No. 32 SMITHFIELD street, have the pleasure to announce to the public that they have received HOT CORN: Life Scenes in New York, Illustrated; with eight original designs, engraved by N. Orr, in a most splendid manner. The publishers of the "Hot Corn" think that they are now offering to the public a book that will sell to a greater extent than any other work ever published, except, perhaps, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," and the reason for such expectation is founded upon the expressions of almost all classes who have read the small portion, in comparison to what the book contains, of the "scenes" already published, under the title of "Hot Corn," "The Two-Penny Marriage," "Maidline," "Wild Maggie," etc. No tales ever had such a run through the public papers as these Hot Corn stories.

Also—A large assortment of Gift Books, Juveniles, Bibles, and Prayer Books, bound in the most beautiful manner.

H. MINER & CO.,
No. 32 Smithfield street.

dec13

ÆTNA INSURANCE COMPANY,
HARTFORD, CONN.
Chartered 1819—Capital Stock $300,000.

THOS. K. BRACE, President.
THOS. A. ALEXANDER, Secretary.

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☞ Policies on Fire and Inland Risks issued on favorable terms, by

GEORGE E. ARNOLD, Agt.,
No. 74 Fourth street, Pittsburgh.

dec12tf

HOT CORN! HOT CORN!! HOT CORN!!!—Hot Corn: Life Scenes in New York Illustrated—including the Story of Little Katy, Madalina the rag picker's daughter, Wild Maggie, &c. With original designs, engraved by N. Orr. By Solon Robinson.

"Bid that welcome
Which comes to punish us."

"A beggar's book outworth's a noble's blood."

"Or every inordinate cup lewave;
Or drink, and with it misery share."

For sale by B. T. G. MORGAN,
dec12 104 Wood street.

SPICED SALMON;
Mess Mackerel;
No. 1 Mackerel, in kets;
Salmon, in bbls.

For sale by [nov16] BAILEY & RENSHAW.

TRUNKS AND VALISES—A full assortment always on hand, at low prices.

J. S. HAYWARD,
dec1 Corner Market and Liberty streets.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

☞ **Monongahela Navigation Company.**—NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS.—An ANNUAL MEETING of the Stockholders of the Monongahela Navigation Company will be held, in pursuance of the provisions of the Charter of Incorporation, at their Office on Grant street, in the city of Pittsburgh, on MONDAY, the second day of January, 1854, (being the first Monday in the month,) at two o'clock, P. M., for the ELECTION OF OFFICERS for the ensuing year.

WM. BAKEWELL, Secretary.

dec12td

☞ **Scrofula.**—It is due to KIER'S *Petroleum* to say that it has been known to completely eradicate every vestage of this dreadful disease in less time than any other remedy, and at less cost or inconvenience to the patient.

The thousands of certificates in the hands of the proprietor, many of which are from well known citizens of the city of Pittsburgh and its immediate vicinity, go to show clearly and beyond all doubt, that KIER'S PETROLEUM is a medicine of no common value, not only as a local remedy in *Purablysis, Rheumatism, Deafness, loss of Sight*, but as a valuable internal remedy, inviting the investigating physicians, as well as the suffering patient, to become acquainted with its merits.

Those having a dread of mixtures are assured that this medicine is purely natural, and is bottled as it flows from the bosom of the earth.

The following certificate is copied from a paper published at Syracuse, N. Y., and bears date August 2, 1852, to which is also appended the certificate of the celebrated D. T. Foot, M. D., of Syracuse:

This may in truth certify, that I have been so badly afflicted with Scrofula for the last seven years that most of the time I have been unable to attend to any kind of business, and much of the time unable to walk and confined to my bed, and have been treated nearly all the time by the best Physicians our country affords; I occasionally got some relief, but no cure, and continued to grow worse until Dr. Foot recommended me to try the Petroleum, or Rock Oil, as everything else had failed. I did so without faith at first, but the effect was astonishing; it threw the poison to the surface at once, and I at once began to grow better, and by using seven bottles I have got a cure worth thousands of dollars.

MRS. NANCY M. BAKER.

This may certify that I have been acquainted with Kier's Petroleum, or Rock Oil, for more than a year, and have repeatedly witnessed its beneficial effects in the cure of indolent ulcers and other diseases for which it is recommended, and can with confidence recommend it to be a medicine worthy of attention, and can safely say that success has attended its use where other medicine had failed.

D. Y. FOOT, M. D.

For sale by all the Druggists in Pittsburgh. [au27:d&w.

PHILADELPHIA CURTAIN WAREHOUSE,
171 Chestnut st., opposite the State House.

H. W. SAFFORD.

KEEPS constantly on hand the most extensive and varied assortment of Curtains and Curtain Materials to be found in the city, comprising in part of the following CURTAIN GOODS AND FURNITURE COVERINGS—all styles of—

French Lace Curtains,	Window Shades, all prices,
Muslin "	Buff Hollands, all widths,
French Brocatelles, all widths,	Gilt Cornices, every style and price,
French Plushes,	Gilt Curtain Pins,
" Satin Laines,	" Bands,
" Lampas,	Cords and Tassels,
" Damask Linens,	Clamps, all prices,
" Cashmerette,	Loops,
Plain Turkey Red,	Fringes,
" English Brilliant,	Picture Tassels and Cords,
Furniture Gimps,	Shade Tassels and Brasses,
	Hooks, Rings, Brackets, &c.

A full assortment of the above goods constantly for sale, wholesale or retail. [marlily—af.m.h.

☞ **Indigestion and Liver Complaint** CURED BY KIER'S PETROLEUM.—Read the following letter from Rev. O. DICKINSON, a Missionary in Oregon:

MR. J. M. KIER—*Dear Sir:* Myself and wife having been greatly benefited by the use of your Petroleum, I wish to have you send me a box of two or three dozen bottles. I am the Congregational Minister in this place, and several of my people are affected with indigestion and an inaction of the liver, the same of myself and wife, before taking your Petroleum, or Rock Oil. We took several bottles—two or three each