Miners' Journal.

Saturday Morning, March 22.

TO THE WHIGS OF PENNSYLVANIA.

☞ A STATE CONVENTION will be held in the City of Lancaster, on TUESDAY, June 24th, 1851, for the purpose of selecting Candidates for the offices of Governor and Canal Commissioner, and also for Judges the Supreme Court.

HENRY M. FULLER, Chairman.

JOSEPH S. FLANIGEN,	SAMUEL M'SWEANY,
F. KNOX MORTON,	C. THOMSON JONES,
WM. H. SLINGLUFF,	SAMUEL B. THOMAS,
SAMUEL BELL,	JOHN S. BROWN,
NATHANIEL ELLMAKER,	T. TAYLOR WORTH,
WM. J. ROBINSON,	ALEXANDER E. BROWN,
WORDEN E. PRESTON,	WILLIAM BAKER,
THOMAS E. COCHRAN,	WM. M. WATTS,
HENRY JOHNSON,	JAMES CLARK,
CHAS. B. BORDMAN,	SHERMAN D. PHELPS,
GEORGE CHESS,	EDWIN C. WILSON,
D. A. FINNEY,	JOHN ALLISON,
C. O. LOOMIS,	DANIEL M'CURDY,
JOHN BACHMAN,	GEORGE MEANOR,
WILLIAM EVANS,	ALEX. M. M'CLURE,
JOHN C. NEVILLE,	FRANCIS JORDAN.

B. RUNDLE SMITH, Secretary. Centre county.

☞ *Mass Meeting.*—A Mass Meeting of the citizens of the county will be held at the Town Hall, on Monday evening, at 7 o'clock, to express the views of the people upon the course pursued by the Reading Railroad, in relation to the trade of the Region, and to urge the necessity and expediency of constructing a new Road from Pottsville to Norristown. Mechanics, laborers, and miners, turn out! You are all interested, and let the proceedings of Monday's meeting be the expression of the whole County. The subjects to be presented are of the first importance to every class, and to every individual citizen of the Coal Region.

RAILROAD MEETING.

A large meeting of the citizens, was held here on Wednesday evening, to express their views, and take some action upon the course pursued by the Reading Railroad Co., in relation to the interests of the Coal trade. The proceedings will be found in another column. Several excellent addresses were delivered, and the resolutions, it will be seen, speak to the point. They are temperate, but independent and forcible.—The proceedings will meet with the cordial support of every citizen of the county.—The sentiments, therein expressed, exhibit the feeling engendered among the people of the Region, by the unjust and oppressive course of the Reading Railroad. The foreign influence, by which that Company is controlled, has no interest in common with the prosperity of this Region, and though the vital support of the Road, depends upon our trade, its managers nevertheless manifested a spirit of reckless indifference to the expression of our wishes, and an utter absence of all co-operative sympathy, with the crippled condition and necessities of the county. There is considerable feeling among the Operators, and evidently a determination to resist the further encroachments of the Company—they will do almost any thing rather than submit to its impositions any longer.

The People's Road is now looked to as the only remaining means of redressing our grievances, and establishing the trade upon a fair footing, and in a condition to compete favorably with other Regions. If a fair and equitable means of transportation to market be afforded us, with the advantages naturally possessed by this Region, and the yearly increased demand for Coal, there is no doubt but the amount of production we are capable of, would be sufficient for three lines of public improvement, and make the investments in the new enterprise pay liberally.

RATES OF FREIGHT ON COAL.

By reference to the rates of Toll and Freight, for the transportation of Coal on the Reading Railroad, found under the proper head, it will be seen that the freight from Mount Carbon has been fixed at $1,60 per ton. The new arrangement went into operation on Monday last—to continue till "further notice." This reduction is something in favor of the operators, but not so much as they had hoped for, or as much as the present depressed condition of the Trade demanded. The Navigation rates will also be found in our columns. A reduction of 10 cents per ton has likewise been made on the Canal for toll for Coal from this Region. We had hoped that a further reduction would have been made by the Company, and we still insist upon it, that had an independent course been adopted by the Directors, and the rates been proportioned to the condition of the Trade, and with a regard to the wishes of the people, the greatly increased amount of business would have confirmed the superiority of low rates in the Company's advantage.

There is one obvious effect, that the course of these Companies will certainly have—it will only arouse the people to the immediate necessity of a new means of transportation, and excite them to greater zeal and activity for the Charter of the People's Road. It is the only provision now left for the people of the county to save themselves from inevitable ruin, and no time should be lost and no efforts should be spared in accomplishing an end of such importance.

PEOPLE'S ROAD.

A Committee was appointed at the meeting on Wednesday evening to visit Harrisburg, and urge the application for a Charter for the new road, before the Legislature.—A Mass Meeting will be held at the Town Hall next Monday evening, to express the views of the citizens of the county in relation to the enterprise.

The new road is now regarded as the last resort of the people of the county from the oppressive impositions of the present road, and as the only means left for saving themselves from the ruin inevitable in the trade. By letters from Harrisburg, we learn that a favorable feeling exists in the Legislature, in relation to granting the charter; and in view of the facts that can be presented, as to the present condition of the trade, with the course of the Reading Railroad toward our interests, and the necessity for a new line of transportation, which the certain increased demand for Coal is likely to require, we are quite sanguine of success.

☞ *Canal Commissioner.*—The Philadelphia *Inquirer*, justly noted for its correct opinions, and its shrewdness in judging of men and things, noticing the Hon. Chas. W. Pitman urged by several papers as the Whig candidate for Canal Commissioner, remarks, "A better man is not to be found in Pennsylvania. He is eminently and deservedly popular, and posesses all the essentials for an efficient officer."

His popularity cannot be questioned, and his faithful discharge of duty in the responsible posts he has already filled, is a sufficient guarantee of what might be expected in any situation, with which the people may honor him.

☞ *Navigation.*—The Pittsburgh *Gazette* says that the water was let into the Canal on Sunday last, from Sharpsburgh to Pittsburgh, so that the communication between that place and Philadelphia is now uninterrupted. A brisk spring trade is anticipated by the Pittsburgh merchants.

STATE LEGISLATURE.

A bill recently introduced by Mr. Mowry of Somerset, before the House and referred to the Judiciary Committee, providing for the publication of the Laws in the newspapers of the various counties of the State, has been reported back to the House with a negative recommendation. The bill is complicated, though its object is plain and worthy of support. It might, no doubt, be readily simplified, and thus the benefit of this excellent suggestion be secured, without the inconvenience of the pharaphrenalia accompanying it.

The Free Banking Bill passed the Senate by the following vote:

YEAS—Carothers, Carson, Cunningham, Frailey, Frick, Guernsey, Haslett, Hoge, Ives, Lawrence, M'Alone, Myers, Robertson, Savery, Walker, and Matthias, *Speaker*—16.

NAYS—Bailey, Brooke, Crabb, Fernon, Forsyth, Fulton, Jones, Konigmacher, M'Caslin, Muhlenberg, Packer, Sanderson and Shimer—13.

The Bill designs to establish a system of General Banking based on State Stocks. It has been ably advocated by the friends of the measure, and as fiercely opposed by its opponents—Mr. Crabb, of Philadelphia, and Mr. Muhlenberg, of Berks, taking the lead. During the discussion on Saturday, the following amendment was added without a division:

That it shall be the duty of the State Treasurer in paying the semi-annual interest on the loan deposited by virtue of this act, to deduct therefrom, at the rate of two per cent. per annum on the amount of loan so deposited, which sum of two per cent. shall be held in the Treasury, for the benefit of the sinking fund, in lieu of tax on dividends and stocks, except the State tax on the State loan.

The Bill before the House for the substitution of a Superintendent of the public works, in place of the present organization of the Canal Board, has been virtually defeated by indefinite postponement.

A Supplement to a previous act regulating the rates of Usury, providing that, after the 1st of July, any person or corporation may in writing pay any rate of interest agreed upon, was proposed in the House some days ago, but its discussion postponed on account of the indisposition of Mr. A. E. Brown, who wished to speak upon it.

Mr. Frailey, in the Senate, read in place, some days ago, a bill to incorporate the Baptist Church in Pottsville.

The House has fixed upon the 16th of April for the day of the final adjournment of the Legislature.

A petition was presented before the Senate on Tuesday from the coal dealers of the city and county of Philadelphia, praying for the passage of a law restricting corporations to the payment of cash for their liabilities.

HUSTER'S BILL,

The following is that article of the recent Act of Congress regulating the appraisement of merchandise subject to *ad valorem* duties, now undergoing so much disscussion as to the construction likely to be put upon it, by the Secretary of the Treasury:

AN ACT to amend the acts regulating the appraisement of imported merchandise, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in all cases where there is or shall be imposed any advalorem rate of duty on any goods, wares, or merchandise, imported into the United States, it shall be the duty of the collector within whose district the same shall be imported or entered to cause the actual market value or wholesale price thereof, at the period of the exportation to the United States, in the principal markets of the country from which the same shall have been imported into the United States, to be appraised, estimated, and ascertained; and to such value or price shall be added all costs and charges, except insurance, and including in every case a charge for commissions at the usual rates, as the true value at the port where the same may be entered, upon which duties shall be assessed.

We see it stated by some one of the Washington writers, that Secretary Corwin was consulted and had much to do in the original preparation of the Bill, and consequently, the construction now put upon it by him, would necessarily be the normal design of the Bill. We gave his interpretation of it last week.

It is said that the Secretary of the Treasury has ordered the preparation of a circular, promulgating the proper construction of the Law. It will be looked for with general interest.

☞ *Fire in Philadelphia.*—The Assembly Building at the corner of Tenth and Chesnut streets, was destroyed by fire on Tuesday last. The fire was discovered about 3 o'clock in the morning, and before it had spread to any extent, but the hesitancy of some of the occupants to allow the engines to be used, gave time for the flames to get considerable headway. The fire raged for six hours.—The building was owned by John W. Ridgway, into whose hands it had come some years since at a cost of $95,000. The property was insured for $30,000. The adjacent buildings were but little injured. Among the most important losses, is the destructron of J. I. Williams' Panorama of the Bible—a western production of art and the most beautiful and successful painting of the kind, in the country. It was soon to have been exhibited in the city. $20,000 was recently offered for its purchase. The furniture, gymnastic apparatus &c., of Townsend's Elysium in the fourth story were also destroyed.

☞ *Election of Senator Fish.*—The Legislature of New York has at length made choice of the United States Senator from that State. Ex-Governor Fish was elected on Tuesday night last. The vote stood in the Senate, 16 for Hamilton Fish, John A. Dix 6, and 6 scattering, in the House 68 for Fish, 6 for Dix, 1 for Bouck, 1 for Granger, and two members declined voting.

The two Houses then met, and upon comparing the result of their respective votes, Hamilton Fish was declared duly elected for the term of six years.

Salutes, of a hundred guns each, were fired at Albany and the Battery at New. York on Wednesday, in honor of the event.

☞ *Sudden Transition.*—Carbondale, Luzerne Co., has been incorporated by an Act of the Legislature into a city with all the offices pertaining thereto. The sudden transition from a rustic life to that of a close and noisome city seems to have quite bewildered the Editor of the *Transcript*. Hear him,—"Went to bed one night simply a village rustic, and awoke, next morning, full of dignity and proud as Lucifer—couldn't tell why—went to the Post Office and there sure enough, we learned that our village had had conferred upon it a title in perfect consonance with the new feelings which had posessed us."

☞ *Railroad Iron.*—The *Intelligencer* says one of the items of freight at Danville, awaiting the opening of navigation on the North Branch Canal, is thirty-five hundred tons of finished railroad iron, in front of the Montour Works; and the pile is growing daily. Besides, there are large quantities of smaller iron, pig metal, hollow-ware, and other tonnage ready for shipment at the same place.

☞ *Archbishop Hughes* is expected to be elevated to the title of Cardinal shortly.—He will be the first Cardinal in America.

Local Affairs.

Reported for the "Miners' Journal."

ORWIGSBURG, MARCH 10th, 1851.

☞ *Court of Oyer and Terminer*, March 17th, 1851.—Monday was occupied by the Court in hearing applications for Tavern Licenses, motions, &c. Edward Owen Parry, Esq., presented several Petitions, numerously signed by the good citizens of the County, praying the Hon. Court not to grant any new licenses, and urging the necessity of closing the Bars of the Hotels upon the Sabbath day. His Honor, Luther Kidder, then stated that similar Petitions had been handed to the Court, and they had come to the conclusion to direct the District Attorney, to send a circular to all Hotel-keepers in the County, commanding them to close their Bars upon that day. That vice and immorality prevailed to an alarming extent in the County, and they were now determined to make the fulfillment of this order, the "*ultimatum*"—and all persons hereafter applying for a License, could be resisted successfully if they continued to sell Liquor upon the Lord's day. That the Court were informed that neighbors, apprentices, boys and men, made it their constant habit to meet together and drink upon that day, and that the great amount of crime in the County could be traced to that source. After some slight skirmishing between the Attorneys, employed by the Hotel-keepers, Court adjourned.

March 18th.—The next person called was Phebe Flemming, who had prosecuted Mary Walker, for an Assault and Battery upon her a few months ago. Phebe having failed to make out her case against Mary, the Jury placed the costs upon her, and having been called to the stand, the Court sentenced her to pay the cost, or give security to pay the same within ten days. Not having the cash, Phebe was committed.

Com. *vs.* Mathew Wier. This case had been tried at December Term, and Wier found Guilty of Involuntary manslaughter. Wier appearing in Court, on motion of Christopher Lesser and F. W. Hughes, sentence was arrested, in consequence of two counts having been joined in the same indictment, one for a misdemeanor, and the other for Homicide. The Court having doubts upon the legality of this rule, judgment was arrested.

Com. *vs.* Daniel Rose. Rose was found Guilty, last week, for passing counterfeit money. When called up and sentenced, Daniel stated that he had not been always so debased and low as at present. That at one time he had pleasant friends, and honorable companions, but that now *they were all gone—Whiskey and dissipation had destroyed him.* He asked for indulgence at the hands of the Court, and promised amendment, if he ever came out of prison. After a short consultation, the Court sentenced him to pay a fine of five dollars and the cost, and one year's solitary confinement in the Eastern Penitentiary.

The next case called, was the Commonwealth *vs.* Martin Peifer, indicted for the murder of his Wife, Margaret Peifer. On Saturday, March 15th, the following gentlemen were empannelled in the case, after a contest of about four hours:—John Provost, H. A. Aechternacht, Geo. Frailey, Lewis Dreher, Jos. Albright, Blair McClenachan, John F. Derby, Joseph Zoll, Solomon Shindle, John Maiz, Wm. Christian, Jacob Rapp. After they were sworn, the Court admonished them not to hold conversation with any person concerning the case, and dismissed them until Tuesday, the 18th.

Attorneys for Com., R. M. Palmer and J. Henry Adam. For Defence, Benj. Bartholomew, George W. Matchin and Jno. C. Neville.

At ten o'clock, the 18th, their names were called by the Clerk of the Court, and the District Attorney, R. M. Palmer, opened the case in a clear and succinct manner, highly creditable to himself—evidently having no disposition to take advantage of the position in which he was placed, to urge aught against the prisoner, but that which he could prove. The manner in which the case had been prepared, proved conclusively that the interests of the Commonwealth will never suffer, whilst it remains in the hands of the present District Attorney. To give a clear understanding of the case, it will be necessary to transcribe some of the testimony.—The first person called, was Dr. Lewis Royer, Coroner of the County:—"I am the Coroner of Schuylkill County. Upon the 21st of December, I was called upon to hold an Inquest upon the body of Margaret Pifer. When I came to the house, I found her lying in bed, covered with a feather bed, and upon examination, I found her dead. I then summoned a Jury, held an Inquest, and they rendered a verdict in the case. When I first entered the room, it was in confusion, three or four hours having passed since the murder had occurred. The table was spread for dinner, and some Sausages were in a pan in the stove, but not cooked, the fire having gone out. Near the door, about three or four feet from the sill, there was a large quantity of blood, it had run to the door sill and there coagulated, but a small quantity of it had run over the sill, out of the door. There was very little blood on the bed clothes, or in the bed,—there was a knife lying on the table, upon the corner nearest the bed, and over the knife, a handkerchief saturated with blood. The knife was bloody, and not quite dry, *but had evidently been handled.* Cannot say whether there were finger marks upon the knife or not. I found a frock hanging upon the wall, near the door, besprinkled with blood—the part sprinkled with blood was about four feet from the floor. I found a pair of old boots sprinkled with blood on the upper leather and the soles covered with blood—they were lying under the table. Hanging against the wall, I found a spear and a club. This is the spear. There were no marks upon it when I first saw it. It had been handled. The room is about 18 by 20 feet long. Upon uncovering the body, the hair was tangled, lying down over the face, neck, and shoulders. The frock and underclothes were torn down to her knees; the petticoat torn to the seam; the breast was bare, and she was lying on her back. It was some time before I found the wound. When I did find it, I fancied it was a flesh wound, but upon examination, I soon saw it was fatal. Upon elevating her arm, I found the internal to correspond with the external wound, and by pressing, I found the orifice sufficiently large to admit the finger. The external wound was near the third rib, and three inches from the breast bone. The internal wound was about one inch from the breast bone, and upon close examination, I found protoding from it, a small portion of the Lungs, and upon elevating the arm, a small quantity of blood was seen oozing from the wound, partially coagulated. The wound perforated the superior lobe of the left lung, thence through the pericardium into the right ventricle of the heart—the length of the incision being a little less than half an inch. It was a mortal wound, and must have caused death almost instantly. (A knife was here exhibited to the Doctor.) The knife I hold in my hand, I believe to be the instrument that caused the wound—its size corresponds with it, and its length is also about the same. I think Mrs. Peifer was standing when the fatal blow was inflicted. The wound was a little downwards, inwards and backwards. (A spear was here produced, and Dr. Royer was asked if the wound could have been inflicted with it.) Witness answered yes, but thinks it would almost be a matter of impossibility. The children had been sent to the Alms House before I came."

The Commonwealth examined about thirty witnesses, and proved the following admission of the Prisoner:

When Peifer was arrested, he stated that upon the morning of his wife's death, he was at Schuylkill Haven, and stopped at the Hotel of Mr. Boyer, and drank several times. Upon his return home, his little boy had a spear which he had made to keep away bad men from his house. After he had spoken to his wife, he told her to take the spear away from the child—she told him she could not. Prisoner then stooped down on one side of the child, and Mrs. Peifer on the other, and the prisoner pulled the spear out of the child's hand with a quick jerk, and the point being sharp, it ran into his wife's breast. When he looked up, he saw her look pale, and, as she was sinking, he caught her in his arms, and carried her around the room a short time, and then laid her on the bed. When he saw the blood flowing out of the wound, he was frightened, and he ran up stairs, got a bottle of vinegar, and washed her face and side with it, but she would not come to life. Prisoner was then frightened, and not knowing what to do, he ran away to Virginia. While there, he saw in the newspapers that a Reward was offered for his apprehension, on account of the murder of his wife, he then determined to come and give himself up to R. M. Palmer, to be tried, as he killed her by accident, and not design. The defence relied upon Insanity for an acquittal, and, from a close examination of twenty or thirty witnesses, they partially succeeded in establishing the fact that Martin was not at all times perfectly sane. At half-past 8 o'clock, P. M., the defence closed, and J. C. Neville asked the indulgence of the Court until morning. After a short consultation, his request was granted, and the Court adjourned.

The case occupied three days, and the citizens of this portion of the County were very much excited during the trial, the Court House being crowded from the commencement to the conclusion. In the morning, John C. Neville and Benj. Bartholomew addressed the Jury in behalf of the Prisoner, &c. In the afternoon, J. H. Adam, for the Commonwealth.

The argument for the Commonwealth closed at four o'clock, and his Honor, Judge Kidder, then reviewed the law, and the facts, taking up point after point, which had been made by the Defence, showing their fallacy and unsoundness. It was a powerful charge, a little too strong perhaps against the prisoner, but sound in law. The Jury then retired and, at half-past seven o'clock, returned into court with their verdict, which was Guilty in manner and form, as he stood indicted. After a short consultation, Martin Peifer was sentenced to be hung by the neck until dead. The sentence delivered by Judge Kidder, was one of the most affecting we have ever heard, and tears stood in many eyes, which never before were seen in the melting mood.

☞ *See* the delivery of the Sentence and Judge K.'s remarks in another column.

☞ *Pottsville Rolling Mill.*—We recently noticed that a Rolling Mill was about to be established in Fishbach, in the suburbs of this Borough, under the management of the firm of Harris, Burnish and Co. We are indebted for further particulars to the kindness of Mr. J. Wren of the firm of Wren & Bros., machinists of this Borough, employed in constructing the works for the Mill. The Machinery, which is being made of the best materials, and of the most improved patterns, is rapidly progressing—the Messrs. Wren sparing no labor in so important a part of the work as they have undertaken.

The Building will be put under contract on the first of April, and every arrangement made to complete the mill and put it in operation as soon as possible. It will be 120 feet square, and contain 6 Puddling furnaces, 1 Scrap furnace, 2 Heating furnaces for puddling Rolls, 1 Merchant mill, 1 Hoop and Guide mill, & Bench and fire to manufacture Gas pipes. The work will be driven by two engines, one of 60 horse power for the Rolling and heavier operations, and the other of 10 horse power for driving the fans and pumps.

The location is in every respect a desirable one—being accessible by Railroad and two good Turnpike roads, with a stream of water flowing through the grounds—a very important desideratum to such an establishment. The design of the building will besides add much to the beauty and business appearance of that neighborhood.

We understand that the Company is composed of gentlemen of large practical experience in their line of business, several of them having conducted similar establishments in England, France and Russia, as well as in this country. They have every confidence in being able to prepare the best quality of Iron, both as to strength and finish. There is ample encouragement for an extensive Iron business in this Region, and an establishment for its manufacture would no doubt annually save to the county an immense amount of money, now expended elsewhere to supply our demand.

☞ *Apprentices Association.*—The Apprentices and Young Men, we recently noticed, forming themselves into an Association for the establishment of a Library, Reading Room, and other measures for their mutual improvement, have taken the room, gratuitously offered by Mr. E. T. Taylor, and are now making a move with respect to furnishing it for their use. The Finance Committee was instructed, at the last meeting, to tax the members and procure subscriptions to be appropriated for that purpose, and to other objects designed by the Association.

We like everything about the enterprise, except the place of meeting—that we regard as unfortunate, it is too near the Billiard Saloon. The danger of temptation there will be likely to detract from the good, otherwise accomplished by the Association. We hope the members will see to it, that the excuse for attending one may not be rendered a pretext for visiting the other.

☞ *Rev. Mr. Wadsworth.*—This able Divine, from Philadelphia, preached for the congregation of the Central Presbyterian Church, on Sunday last. In consequence of their not having a convenient place of worship, the First Methodist Church was tendered for that purpose—a commendable courtesy, especially between Churches of different denominations. Notwithstanding the very unfavorable weather, large numbers attended the morning and evening service, as also, we understand, the service at Port Carbon in the afternoon. All were alike impressed with the beautiful language, and powerful appeals of the eloquent preacher.

In consequence of this (the Presbyterian) Congregation being without a Pastor, they have been peculiarly favored of late in securing the appointment of several of the most eminent Divines in the Church to occupy their pulpit. Rev. Dr. Janeway, it will be perceived, by the usual notice, preaches for them next Sunday.

☞ *Literary Society.*—Mr. T. D. Kempton lectured on Wednesday evening. The bad walking prevented the attendance of the usual audience. The last regular meeting of the Society, for this season, will be held next week. Rev. Mr. Wardlow of Port Carbon lectures. We shall expect to see a full attendance.

Contributions are still being made to the Library, both by members of the Society and other citizens of the Borough. A committee should wait upon different individuals in the Borough and receive from them whatever Books they may have to give.

The prospectus of the QUARTERLY which we noticed last week, will be found in another column. It is recommended that the members of the Society in different parts of the county, and others favorable to the enterprise, interest themselves in procuring subscriptions for the new Periodical. It deserves encouragement, especially from the citizens of the Coal Region, to whom such a publication will be highly valuable. Communications respecting it may be addressed to C. LITTLE, Principal Editor.

☞ *The Locomotive Coal Burner.*—This Engine, with improvements by Mr Dimpfell, to adapt it to the burning of Coal, has been running on the Reading Road for some time, as an experiment. It is said to have worked admirably, and to have fully answered the expectations of the inventor. It was removed on Wednesday, the time of its engagement on the road having expired. Mr. D., wishes the Company to buy it of him. We understand its complication of machinery is their only objection.

☞ *Snow.*—On Monday and Tuesday last, Snow fell to the depth of 12 inches or more in this vicinity, heavier than any fall during the previous winter. One or two sleighs were out in the Borough, but they did not venture far from home.—The streets have been wet and muddy, and we understand the travelling in the country has been very bad. A few traces of the Snow still remain, but only in spots. Winter seems to have changed the time of his visits in this Region—the character of them too.

☞ *Livingston & Co.'s Express.*—Mr. E. G. Harris, has lately taken charge of Livingston & Co.'s Express Office, at this place, formerly under care of Mr. J. P. Sherwin. Mr. Harris is also the Express Agent at Schuylkill Haven, Minersville, Tremont, and other places. The Company could not have selected an Agent of greater popularity for gentlemanly accommodation, and prompt attention to business. The appointment will give general satisfaction. The Firm of the Company is now changed to Howard, Earl & Co.

☞ *May. S. M. Mills.*—We notice by the Coudersport *Union*, that this gentleman, who recently removed from this Borough to Potter County, has purchased the "Coudersport Hotel" and invites his friends to give him a call. The Major has had considerable experience in that line of business—enough to give him the "hang" of keeping a first-rate House. He used to keep the North West Ward Hotel here.

☞ *St. Patrick's Day.*—Monday last, the Anniversary, sacred to the Patron Saint of the Emerald Isle, was duly observed by a number of the friends of "Swate Ould Ireland," by a dinner at Simpson's Hotel, Mount Carbon. Toasts and Speeches were abundant, and the entertainment is represented as in all respects a No. 1 affair.

☞ *Dancing.*—Mr. Frederick Richter, Dancing Master, proposes to give a public dancing exercise, at the Town Hall, on Monday evening next, at 8 o'clock. Gentlemen will be admitted for 25 cents a ticket—Ladies free. If this first trial prove successful, it is the intention of Mr. R., to continue these entertainments weekly.

MINERSVILLE AFFAIRS.

At a Borough Election, held in Minersville, on Friday of last week, the following officers were chosen:—Chief Burgess, Jacob F. Thumm; Town Council, Samuel Gumpert, Fred. Roehry, Moses Weiser, Joseph H. Christ, Wm. Williams, David Foley; Auditors, Joseph H. Christ, Isaac Straub, John Shay; Treasurer, Newsom Baker; Town Clerk, T. T. Jenkins; High Constable, Frederick Turner; Supervisor, James Watkins.

SCHUYLKILL HAVEN AFFAIRS

Mr. Charles W. Spare lectured on Friday and Saturday evening last, in Schuylkill Haven, on Astronomy. The subject was illustrated by exhibitions with the Magic Lantern.

Fire.—An untenanted house, in the lower part of the Borough, was burned on Tuesday night. No alarm was given, and the fire not known till next morning.

TAMAQUA AFFAIRS.

We understand that, in accordance with the orders of the Court, all the Liquor-bars in Tamaqua were closed last Sunday.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

It is not often we venture to "astonish the natives," but really in the present instance we can't forbear—it is equally seldom we can afford to set out fare for our friends, so rich and rare as the following slices from an author's larder. The literary epicure cannot fail, we are sure, to enjoy a "lunch," so deliciously fresh and redolent of the fragrant spices of the green-room, whence recently extracted. But to the point:—We have received certain lines for publication, intended by the author to be interpreted as Poetry. He assures us of their originality—we don't doubt it in the least. They are headed in large letters, "The Last Request." Whether or no the last attempt at Poetizing from that quarter, the author does not acquaint us, but, as a newspaper critic, we are at liberty to surmise, rather suggest, if they are not, they ought to be. Here they are—we share them with the world rather reluctantly:

My lovely stars, how bright ye shine!
Like black dogs' eyes by moonshine.
—*Byron.*

The clouds had pass'd—the storm was o'er,
The Sun peeped from the West;
When Molly stood frenenst the door,
All primped in her best.
The light winds whisk'd each dark brown curl.
With posies sweet entwined,
And she catch'd cold, poor lovely girl,
And (boo-hoo!) slowly pined.

Here we must allow time for the author to recover himself, and take fresh air—one minute and three-quarters at least gone. All right:

The scene was changed. Alas! how soon
Our hopes are smashed—our best!
Ill fate off blights the honey-moon,
And puts our "joys" to rest.
Her hour was come—she breathes her last,
She soon must be Death's guest—
"My Molly dear," her mamma asked,
"Have you a last request?"
"I have," the fading flower replied,
And close each ear was bent—
"My b-s-s-le, ma, must be preserved
And to sweet Billy sent."

Here sympathy with the author, and our regard for the public welfare, oblige us to omit two whole verses. The author then winds up with the following consolatory reflection:

Years since have come and fled;
But ne'er can I forget
The mem'ry of Dear Moll what's dead—
I've got that bustle yet.

SCRAGGS.

THE AMERICAN LAW JOURNAL.—A friend has sent us a copy of this excellent Periodical. It is edited by an association of gentlemen of the legal profession. Publishers, A. McElroy, Mercantile Library Buildings, Philadelphia, and Hamersly & Co. Lancaster. We know of no better recommendation that can be given the work, than by stating that the Hon. Judge Lewis is the principal Editor, and that it is to be found in the hands of almost every prominent lawyer in the State, and that it has a wide circulation besides throughout the United States. Terms, $4 per annum.

WE MUST decline the poetic effusion from Silver Creek. Its publication, our friend will at once see would now be somewhat unseasonable—it should have been written sooner. The production, notwithstanding many palpable faults, has merit enough to induce us to request a similar favor upon some future occasion.

GREAT RAILROAD MEETING.

At a Public Meeting of the Citizens of Schuylkill County, held pursuant to public notice, at the house of Col. J. C. Lessig, in the Borough of Pottsville, March 19, 1851,

On motion, N. M. WILSON, Esq., was called to the Chair; JOHN MADISON, FRANK POTT, Hon. S. N. PALMER, JONATHAN WASLEY, and W. POLLOCK, of Pottsville, GEO. SEITZINGER Esq., of Butler Township, and WILLIAM FEGER, of Pinegrove, were duly elected Vice Presidents, and *Chas. Bennett, and David K. Klock, Esqrs.*, were elected Secretaries. When upon motion, Hon. S. N. Palmer, Col. James Connor, W. Feger, Geo. Seitzinger, Col. J. M. Long, D. F. Glassmire, and Chas. Bennett were appointed a Committee to draft a Preamble and Resolutions. During the absence of the Committee, B. W. Cumming, and Jas. H. Campbell, Esqrs., addressed the meeting. After a short absence, the Committee returned, and reported through their Chairman the following Preamble and Resolutions, which were unanimously adopted, to wit:

WHEREAS, Experience shows that the larger the amount of freight transported on the Reading Railroad, the higher is their rate of charges; and that in proportion to the increase of tonnage transported upon their works, we find their charges increasing, in as great, if not a greater ratio. While all other lines of transportation, when economically managed, invariably reduce charges in prorortion as their tonnage augments.

Resolved, That the tariff of tolls for the present year, as promulgated by the Reading Railroad Company, is much higher than the trade can bear, and retain a remuneration for the capital invested.

Resolved, That the fact of a single House in London owning one third of the capital of the Reading Railroad, shows conclusively that the said Company is under a foreign influence, hostile to the prosperity of this region.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting, founded upon the estimates of competent Engineers, a new Railroad can be constructed from Pottsville to Philadelphia, via, Phœnixville and Norristown, equal in every respect to the present Road, at an expense not exceeding $6,000,000 and which would be capable of transporting Coal at a charge not exceeding one dollar per ton, and yield to the stockholders a handsome interest on their investment.

Resolved, That in view of the certain increased demand for Coal, the time is not far distant, when the production in the Schuylkill region will be fully equal to the entire capacity of both the present as well as the proposed new line.

Resolved, That a Committee of five be appointed to proceed forthwith to Harrisburg, and urge upon the Legislature the importance of passing an Act, incorporating a Company with authority to construct the proposed new Railroad from Pottsville to Philadelphia via Phoenixville and Norristown.

On motion, the Committee, suggested in the 5th Resolution, was increased to seven, whereupon the following gentlemen were nominated and appointed by the meeting said Committee, to wit:

Hon. S. N. Palmer, Capt. Frank Pott, Col. C. Feger Jackson, Col. James Connor, Col. J. M. Long, E. W. McGinnis and A. Sillyman, Esqrs.

On motion it was resolved that the citizens of the County of Schuylkill be requested to assemble in Mass meeting at the Town Hall in the Borough of Pottsville, on Monday evening next, the 24th inst., at 7 o'clock, to express their views in relation to the course and conduct of the Reading Railroad Company, and the propriety of urging the construction of the proposed Pottsville, Norristown and Philadelphia Railroad.

On motion, Frank Pott, Chas. Bennett, and Jacob M. Long were appointed a Committee to give public notice of said meeting.

B. W. Cumming, James Neal, and Chas. Bennett, Esqrs., being called upon, severally, addressed the meeting in most eloquent and forcible terms.

It was on motion, resolved, that the proceedings of this meeting be published in the Pottsville *Emporium* and *Miners' Journal*.

On motion the meeting adjourned.

SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION.

Captain Bates, of the ship Nonantum, from Baltimore for California, which was destroyed by fire from spontaneous conbustion of her cargo of coal, took passage at the Falkland Islands in the Scotch ship Hermagoon, Captain M'Kenzie, for Valparaiso, with coal, but when 12 days out, west of Cape Horn, this ship also took fire from spontaneous conbustion, and every exertion to smother it proved unavailing. They took to their boats and were picked up soon after by the british ship Symmetry, Captain John Thompson, of Liverpool, for Acapulco, with Coal. Captain T. would not deviate from his course, to land Captain Bates and wife, or the other ship's company; but December 15th, in latitude 47 S. longitude 79 W. they fell in with ship Franchon, of Newburyport, from Baltimore for San Francisco with coal, which also took on fire and was destroyed as before reported, making the third ship burnt by that means within a few months, while Captain B. and wife were on board.

Captain Thompson, of the Symmetry, had the cruelty to demand and receive of Captain Bates, for the thirteen days he and his wife were on board his ship "thirty pounds sterling," taking an advantage, unexampled in meanness, of persons who had suffered a double shipwreck, and had no means of redressing themselves. Captain Bates and wife were at Payta Jan. 26th, on their way to San Francisco.—*Boston Daily Adv.*

☞ *The* Legislature of New Jersey adjourned *sine die*, on Wednesday last.

BANKS.

The February number of the Bankers' *Magazine*, has the following statement respecting the Banks of the several States, and their aggregate capital at the close of the year 1850:

States.	*No. of Banks.*	*Capital.*
Maine,	35	$3,548,000
New Hampshire,	22	2205,000
Vermont, "	27	2,225,000
Massachusetts,	130	38,260,000
Rhode Island,	63	11,179,872
Connecticut,	42	10,073,101
New York,	195	48,976,868
Delaware,	9	1,440,000
Louisiana,	5	16,600,000
New Jersey,	26	3,754,900
Pennsylvania,	53	18,609,781
Georgia,	17	5,329,215
Maryland,	24	9,072,873
Virginia,	35	9,713,100
North Carolina,	19	3,650,000
South Carolina,	14	11,431,183
District of Columbia,	4	1,182,300
Mississippi,	1	100,000
Ohio,	57	7,427,171
Kentucky,	26	10,180,000
Alabama,	2	2,000,000
Indiana,	13	2,082,910
Tennessee,	21	8,165,197
Missouri,	6	1,208,751
Wisconsin,	1	225,000
Iowa,	1	200,000
Texas,	1	300,000
Michigan,	6	702,000
	855	$226,902,222

BELGIAN OPERATIVES.

A European correspondent of the New York *Tribune* transmits the following official statistics in reference to the wages of the working population of Belgium:

MEN.

5,342 men earn from 56 to 78 cents per day.
180,440 " " 30 to 40 " "
113,950 " " 20 to 30 " "

WOMEN.

152 women earn 40 cents and upward per day.
37,721 " " 30 to 40 cents per day.
29,620 " " 10 to 20 " "
13,612 women earn *less* than 10 cents.

BOYS.

5,890 boys earn from 20 to 30 cents per day.
12,459 " " 10 to 20 " "
17,531 boys earn *less* than 10 cents per day.

GIRLS.

1,385 girls earn from 20 to 30 cents per day.
0,346 " " 10 to 20 " "
22,538 girls earn *less* than 10 cents per day.

The above figures do not represent the whole working population in Belgium, of course; in fact, they exclude the whole agricultural class, which would have made the statistics still more melancholy; but they represent, without doubt, a fair average estimate of town wages throughout the Kingdom.

☞ *Cassius M. Clay* is spoken of as a candidate for Governor of Kentucky.

THE CHOCOLATE, COCOA, &c., prepared by W. Baker, of Dorchester, Mass., have a high reputation, and are said to be the best articles of the kind now manufactured. See his advertisement in this paper.

PERSONS AFFLICTED WITH COUGHS, Colds Whooping Cough or any Pulmonary Affections, would do well to procure some of Hughes' Expectorant, it is a palatable, speedy and certain remedy. See Advertisement in another column.

ANOTHER SCIENTIFIC WONDER:—PEPSIN, *the True Digestive Fluid or Gastric Juice!* A great Dyspepsia Curer, prepared from Renet, or the fourth stomach of the Ox, after directions