Miners' Journal.

Saturday Morning, March 29.

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 of the Supreme Court.

HENRY M. FULLER, Chairman.

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

E. RUNDLE SMITH, Secretary.

☞ *Mass Meeting.*—We are requested to state that a Mass Meeting of the citizens will be held at the Exchange Hotel this evening. The object of the meeting is to urge the charter for the new Railroad, and to sustain the Coal Operators in procuring a reduction of the present rate of tolls, &c.

THE PEOPLE'S ROAD,

Its practibility—and how it can be made.

In conversation with a practical business man, the other day, acquainted with almost every inch of ground in the valley of the Schuylkill, he stated that our estimate of the construction of the new Railroad from the Coal Region to Philadelphia was entirely too high, and was calculated to retard the project to some extent. He proposed the following plan for making the Road, which we submit to the public, feeling confident that it is not only feasible, but that the Road will be made in less than two years after the charter is obtained.

Commence grading the Road from Norristown to Port Clinton, and also a branch from Manayunk down the Schuylkill, to connect with the Schuylkill Front Railroad, now made or making, and strike the Delaware below Philadelphia—afterwards push the Road from Port Clinton to Pottsville as rapidly as possible, and lay down only a single track. The expense of grading the Road for the whole distance to be made, and laying down a single track, would not exceed *two millions of dollars*, and it would require about a half million more to stock the Road, to carry a half million tons of Coal and the other trade, making the whole investment only about *two millions five hundred thousand dollars*, for a single track of Railroad from the Coal Region to the Delaware, stocked with machinery to carry upwards of 500,000 tons of Coal, together with Passengers and the other trade.

All the Iron required for a single track, we are authorized to state, will be furnished by the Iron men in the valley of the Schuylkill, for which they will take the Bonds of the Company.

A considerable portion of the Machinery can be obtained on the same terms.

A large town having been built up at Richmond, in consequence of that site being fixed upon as a shipping port, other interests on the Delaware are ready to give this Company all the Landings they require, in order to build up a town on their property.

When this track is completed, and ready for transportation, the half million tons of coal, which can be carried over it at 81 per ton, will control the rates on the other avenues, *and the value of the two tracks of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, together with all its machinery, will be worth only about six millions of dollars.*

The heavy lauded interest, the vast body of Coal lands owned by the City of Philadelphia—the great manufacturing interests, and the commercial interests of the City of Philadelphia, are deeply interested in this project—and as soon as it is rightly understood, and the press of Philadelphia does its duty in laying important information before the people, it can and will be made in less than two years.

SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION.

Our attention has recently been called to the burning of the ships Waldron, Nonantum, Humayoon and Fauchon, from the spontaneous combustion of their Coal. It is remarkable that three of the four were supplied with Cumberland (Bituminous) Coal.

Some years ago, when we suggested that Bituminous Coal was subject to spontaneous inflammability, and proposed to attribute the loss of the missing steamer President to this cause, but few gave it any attention, and very many, who had been engaged in the Coal business for years, scouted the idea. Instances, since that, however, have been so frequent, that no one, who is at all familiar with the subject, can doubt the danger of using Bituminous Coal on this account.

Not long since, a patent was taken out in England, by which air was conveyed through pipes to the holds of ships, where the Coal was stored, to prevent its taking fire. This answered only partially; and now, as an additional means of safety, the "bunkers" are divided by partitions, so that the quantity of Coal is separated into a number of small parcels, rendering them less liable to accidental inflammability. But no adequate means of protection against the liability to accident, have yet been discovered.

All Bituminous Coals are not alike dangerously inflammable. The productions of some mines, both in Europe and in this country, are exceptions, but the Cumberland Coal seems to be peculiarly unfortunate in this respect. The danger of using Bituminous Coal, for sea voyages, is daily becoming more apparent. It being much finer, it packs more closely than the Anthracite, and when the least wet or damp, it readily heats and emits a large quantity of highly inflammable Gas. We would therefore suggest as a safer method of using it than any yet adopted, that a mixture of Anthracite with the Bituminous, about half and half, will be most likely to secure safety from accident. The large lumps of Anthracite prevent the packing of the Bituminous, and afford sufficient ventilation to keep it in good condition.

Anthracite is undoubtedly the better fuel for Ocean Navigation. Besides being free from the danger of spontaneous combustion, it is much cleaner, and occupies less space for storage a very important desideratum in long voyages. The time is not far distant, when its substitution for the Bituminous in Navigation, if not for most other purposes of life, will be general.

For ourselves, we would be almost as willing to go on board a powder magazine, as on board a Steamer destined for a long voyage using most kinds of bituminous Coal.

☞ *Washington National Monument.*—The Cliosophic Society, one of the two literary associations connected with Princeton (N. J.) College, will present a block of marble, as soon as it can be prepared, for a place in the Washington National Monument.—The block will exhibit the Arms and Motto of the Society, handsomely executed.

☞ *Maj. Geo. Getz* (Whig) has been re-elected Mayor of the city of Reading.

REVENUE COMMISSIONERS.

REPORT.

This Board terminated their valuable labors for two weeks past at Harrisburg, by an adjournment on Friday 21st. From their report we glean the following facts in relation to the financial condition of the State.

The Board of Revenue Commissioners was at first organized as a mere experiment, but each year has proven their services more indispensable. The Board of 1845 added $8,759,625,26, that of 1848 $7,114,274 to the valuation of the State. But it is not the direct influence alone of the Board which has proved of service. The knowledge on the part of county and township officers that their proceedings are subject to severe and careful revision, serves as a salutary check to local partiality, and as an inducement to the honest discharge of duty. As a means of assisting them still farther in the discharge of their duties, they recommend such an enactment, in addition to the facts furnished by the appointed assessors, as shall make it the duty of the Prothonotaries of the several counties, to furnish a list of all Sheriff's sales made during the year, immediately before the meetings of the Board, and requiring the Clerks of the various Orphan's Courts, to transmit statements of all appraisements and sales, and the Recorder of Deeds, of all transfers of property placed on record during the same period, with, in all cases, the rates at which the property sold or appraised is assessed.

The deficiency in the amount of taxes received below that assessed, varies from 20 to 30 per cent. in some counties. The aggregate amount of tax assessed in the Commonwealth for ten years from 1841 to 1850 inclusive, was $11,626,767 66, while the amount paid into the Treasury was $9,932,485 94; showing a deficiency of $1,694,282, or 14.58 per cent.

The valuation of the taxable property of the State in 1845, as adjusted by the Revenue Board, was $420,296,130. The Board in 1848 fixed it at $463,631,458—showing an increase of $42,735,328. Yet the amount of tax received during the year 1845 was $1,318,332 02, while there was paid into the Treasury in 1849 only the sum of $1,293,921 23, and in 1850 $1,317,821 55—showing that notwithstanding an increase in the amount of property to be taxed, which would have yielded at the lowest rate $128,205 additional revenue per annum, there was an actual falling off of the revenue of the State.

A reference to a few counties will show how this state of things arises. Thus, in Centre county the taxes assessed during the year amounted to $123,231; the amount paid into the State Treasury was $84,837,—deficiency $38,294. Monroe, assessed $36,755 paid $24,167—deficiency $12,588. Mercer, assessed $95,327, paid $76,173—deficiency $19,154. Schuylkill, assessed $178,301, paid $127,492—deficiency $58,809.

The Board therefore urge the necessity of adopting a more stringent method for the collection of taxes, of which they suggest the following as the main provisions:

1. Making it the duty of the County Treasurer to collect the State taxes and pay the same to the Treasurer of the Commonwealth.

2. Requiring the Treasurer of each county to attend at the place of holding elections in the several townships, wards and boroughs of the Commonwealth, on or before a day to be fixed by law, for the purpose of receiving the State Tax—from which a certain percentage, as determined by the Legislature, shall be retained by the County Treasurer, as his compensation for services rendered the Commonwealth.

3. Taxes unpaid after the day designated by the Treasurer, shall be paid to the County Treasurer, at his office before the 1st day of October of every year; after which time the Treasurer shall issue his warrant to the Sheriff, authorizing and requiring him to collect the unpaid balances, with the addition of five per cent. for his compensation.

4. Making it the duty of the County Commissioners to allow such abatements, and exonerations as they may think just and reasonable to the Sheriff, up to the 1st of January annually, after which time the Treasurer to charge the Sheriff with the unpaid balance.

The aggregate of taxable property of the State as now adjusted, exclusive of watches, is $492,889,829. This amount, if any are disappointed in its not being higher, the Board account for by the great depreciation of the value of property in many counties, owing to the depressed condition of the Iron manufacture in the State.

STATE LEGISLATURE.

In the Senate since our last, on motion of Mr. Frailey, the Bill to authorise the School directors of Schuylkill Haven to borrow money, was taken up, read a second and third time, and passed.

The Bill to re-annex Montour and Columbia Counties passed to a second reading in the Senate and was then postponed.

A Bill was reported in the House by Mr. Reid to incorporate the Pottsville, Norristown and Philadelphia Railroad Company.

The Divorce Committee of the House met some days ago, and agreed to report the Bill divorcing Dr. William Wetherill, by a vote of 6 to 3, the Committee consisting of nine members.

Mr. Struthers reported a Bill in the House vesting chancery powers in the Court of common Pleas of Schuylkill county.

After much discussion in the Senate upon the Repeal of the Kidnapping Law, an amendment was passed on Wednesday last, repealing only that part of it relating to the use of the State prisons for the confinement of persons arrested as fugitive slaves—leaving it *optional* with the jailor, his obligation to act being now annulled.

Nothing has yet been done with the Free Banking Bill in the House.

On Wednesday Mr. Struthers presented a Bill in the House from citizens of Philadelphia, for a thorough and effective revision of the tolls on the public works; also, of 87 citizens of New Castle township, Schuylkill county, for the repeal of the act to incorporate the Zerby Run and Shamokin Improvement Company; also, of Citizens of Reading, for the incorporation of the Tremont and Mount Eagle Railroad company; also of Minersville, Schuylkill county, in favor of free Banking, based upon State stocks; also of 118 citizens of Blythe township, Schuylkill county, asking that the question of removal of their election polls to New Philadelphia, in said township, be decided by them at the next township election.

Both houses have concluded upon the 15th of April as the time for adjournment.

☞ *Schuylkill Navigation Open.*—The Canal is now open and ready for transportation. The repairs are complete along the whole line from Pottsville to Philadelphia, and the Boatmen are making preparation for their usual labors.

☞ *Contested Election.*—Col. H. B. Wright has given notice to Hon. H. M. Fuller, member of Congress elect from Luzerne district, of his intention to contest his seat, on account of alleged illegal voting in some of the districts.

☞ *Philadelphia and Reading Railroad.*—The Passenger trains will run twice a day between this place and Philadelphia, after the first of April. The charges, we understand, will also be reduced.

Local Affairs.

☞ *Literary Society.*—The lecture of Wednesday evening, was delivered by Rev. Mr. Wardlaw, of Port Carbon. Subject—Ancient Civilization. As a literary production, it was neat and chaste—the language was well-chosen, and the style beautiful throughout. It evinced much accurate research into the history of past ages, and a familiar acquaintance with their manners and customs.

At the conclusion of the usual exercises, President THOMAS H. WALKER delivered an excellent Valedictory Address, in which the success, the future prospects, and the present condition of the Society were beautifully alluded to. We are sorry that we have no room for the whole of it—but at the request of the members, give place with pleasure to the following extracts:

[Wednesday evening, it will be remembered, was the time appointed for the adjournment of the Society, for the present season.]

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—This evening closes our present Session, and terminates my service as the presiding officer of the Society. After we part, we will feel the loss of our mutual association, and for some time each Wednesday, as it rolls around, will bring with it a vacancy, which must be sensibly felt by every member who has taken part in our exercises. Nor will this feeling be confined merely to us. There are those among our audience who, we feel assured, will regret a suspension of those exercises, which they have been instrumental in upholding and encouraging. We have cause to rejoice that the Society has now assumed a prominent position, and by the example and energy of its members, called, as it were, into existence, many other Societies, conducted upon a similar plan. In Schuylkill County, there are 9 Literary Associations, eight of which received their progressive incentive from the Pottsville Literary Society.

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On the last Wednesday in October, 1849, this Association was first organized, and from that day to this, has continued to improve in discipline and order. By a prudent arrangement, no business is transacted before the public. This we consider a matter of great importance, equally desirable to the members and the audience.

* * *

The first Exercise of the Society is a Lecture of half an hour long. It is the sole branch of our voluntary exercises—the rest, embracing Reading and Speaking in debate, being compulsory. The Lectures of the past session, I am happy to say, have been highly creditable to the Society—and in the opinion of the Committee, superior to those of the former session. This, instead of relaxing effort, should cause every member to exert himself more strenuously in the improvement of his composition and delivery, and in the cultivation of his voice. In order to become eloquent, close and patient energy are requisite. They are the indispensable ingredients of greatness, and above all, of usefulness. Even Genius itself, at whose shrine the adorations of man have so long been offered, is less powerful than the iron resolution of that man, conscious of mediocrity, but determined to succeed. There are few acts of the mind, that carry with them more moral grandeur than the indomitable will, directing towards one object the powers of the imagination—of physical energy—of moral conviction, and of intellectual perception.

* * *

When a Lecturer comes before an intelligent audience, we expect him not only to be thoroughly acquainted with his subject—but imbued with the spirit of his argument. We want him not only to give us ideas—but ideas that he has examined in every shade of light, and viewed in every position. We expect not only his own opinion upon matters of controversy—but reference to authority and views of those calculated to judge correctly. If he select the *Historical*, he should give us the philosophy of events—their influence upon Society, and the circumstances that gave them birth—rather than the precise day a battle was fought, or a prince ascended the throne. And, in order to do all this, and to do it in the most approved manner, time and study are not only necessary, but indispensable. The Society knowing this, wisely enjoins upon its members the necessity of reading and thinking with a definite purpose.

* * *

The next branch of our exercises is Reading, which is a difficult performance. To read properly, not only requires an acquaintance with the nature and spirit of the piece, but also a clear, distinct, and sonorous voice. Every syllable should be distinctly articulated, and the author's meaning conveyed in the tone of the reader.

The Debates form the principal portion of our Exercises, and one, in the preparation of which, I fear our members are more careless, than in other of the former. They trust too much to off-hand arguments, gathered up in the course of debate. By this means they frequently miss the precise issue of the question, and fill a 15 minutes speech with irrelevant and foreign matter. This is a versatility of talent, better suited for conversation and *repartee* than for public argument.

* * *

Last Summer, upon an application made to the Court, a Charter was granted, to incorporate a Library, in the Borough of Pottsville, to be called the Library of the Pottsville Literary Society. The price of shares was fixed at $5 each. On account of the pressure in business, and other pecuniary embarrassments, it was found impracticable to comply with the requisitions of the Charter, and as the burden principally fell upon the members of the Society, it was thought best to abandon the idea for the present. Afterwards, on motion, the whole affair was *brought up* before the Society, and a By-law was added to establish a Library on the entire control of the Society, and connected as an integral part of it, of donations of Books and monies from members, and those favorable to our views. The prospect, I am happy to state, has met with encouragement. The Library now numbers nearly 100 Books of a Historical, Scientific, and Literary nature. A nucleus of valuable information is thus formed, which, in a great measure, will contribute to the permanency of our Institution.

With the design of establishing a Magazine, under the control of the Society, to be called "THE POTTSVILLE QUARTERLY," I presume, most of the audience are already familiar. The Prospectus, just issued, contains all information necessary.—Whether there is talent sufficient in the Society to insure success to a Periodical of solid and useful matter, is yet to be determined. The Society is desirous of having this Work occupy no intermediate ground with Monthly publications, embellished with plates, and containing light and imaginative writings. Its aim will be to obtain principally solid original matter. The Periodical will be devoted to the interests of our Region, and its publications will be of a Statistical, Scientific, Mechanical, and Philosophical nature. Geographical incidents—Historical investigations—Critical reviews, and essays, are better calculated than Poetical effusions and light literature, to give the work that standing which the Society claims for it. If this course be pursued, the Periodical will contain much useful material, and will amply repay all the efforts of its friends.

* * *

I would suggest, before you adjourn, that a vote of thanks be tendered to all those (not connected with the Society) who have lectured before us, and others of the audience, who have co-operated with us, for the *good order* and encouragement of the Institute. I would also propose a slight alteration in assessing our taxes, by ascertaining the yearly amount, and making it payable at the commencement of the session. I conclude without alluding briefly to the amicable and friendly feeling that exists among the members of the Society, for the success of each other, and the common good of the Association. A difference of opinion, relative to its interests, has at times manifested itself, and called forth irritable remarks. But this has happily ceased, and the Society is again steadfast in the unity of opinion and of interest among all its members. A bond of fraternity has been cast around us, sufficient to check, correct, and restrain the undue feelings of any one, who is, or may hereafter be connected with us. There are firmness, ability, and gentlemanly behavior here adequate to disarm any one, no matter what his talents may be, who whould seek to bring disgrace or ridicule upon the Society. With these remarks, entertaining towards you the kindest feelings, and hoping that Providence may spare us all to meet again at the commencement of the next session, I BID YOU NOW FAREWELL.

☞ *Case of Peifer.*—It is said an attempt will be made to carry up to the Supreme Court the case of Martin Peifer, tried and convicted last week, at Orwigsburg, for the murder of his wife, at Schuylkill Haven. The exception to the trial, upon which an application for a review of the proceedings is made, consists in the Jury having been empanelled on Saturday, but released till Tuesday, when the case was begun. This arrangement, on account of the press of business, was originally proposed by the Court, and acceded to by the Counsel on both sides, with the distinct understanding, that it should be made a matter of record, and that no exception should be taken to the trial on this account. The plea of insanity, urged for the prisoner by his counsel, was entirely refuted during the trial. Previous to Judge Kidder's delivery of the Prisoner's sentence, being asked to make any remarks he might wish to communicate to the Court, Peifer replied at length, for nearly an hour, plainly and unequivocally admitting that he had killed his wife, but charging the deed upon accident and not design.

☞ *Superintendent of Public Schools.*—At a meeting of the School Directors, on Thursday Evening, the election for Superintendent resulted in the choice of Mr. ELIAS SCHNEIDER, the present Principal of the Academy.

He will enter upon the duties of his office on the 1st of April, when the Male Schools will be transferred from their present places, to the New School House. On the 2d, the Female department, now in the basement of the Methodist Church, will be taken to the Old Academy building, in Norwegian street.

☞ *On Friday*, the 21st inst., on motion of John Kay Clement, Esq., and Report of Examiners, LEMUEL G. TRAUGH was admitted to practice as an Attorney in the several Courts of Schuylkill County.

☞ *A Cotillion party* came off at the Town Hall last Monday night, under the direction of Mr. Richter the new dancing master. It is said to have been well attended.

☞ *John W. Hawkins*, one of the original Baltimore Washingtonians, delivered Temperance lectures here on Thursday and yesterday evenings.

MINERSVILLE AFFAIRS.

☞ *The Bulletin* has completed six months of its natural existence. May it live a "thousand years," and the purse of its editor wax fat and heavy.

TAMAQUA AFFAIRS.

☞ *Death from Intemperance.*—On Monday Evening, 17th inst., a man living in Tuscarora, named Dougherty, became intoxicated, and commenced a quarrel with his wife, which resulted in her ejection from the house. Being also under the influence of liquor, she wandered out in the snow storm. No tidings of her were had until last Saturday, when her dead body was discovered in the woods, near Brockville. It is supposed she perished in the snow storm of Monday night.

Newkirk Library Association.—The following gentlemen were elected officers of this Association, for the ensuing year:—President, John K. Smith; Secretary, Frederick Lauderbrun; Treasurer, Edward Dubois; Trustees, D. Hunter, M. D., W. W. McGuigan, M. D., John Hendricks, Rowland Jones and John Anderson, Esqrs. The Library is to be removed to the Public School House, and a Reading Room, for the use of its members, opened in connection with it. The Library now contains about fifteen hundred volumes.

Calvary Church (*Episcopal.*)—The building committee, of this Church, are receiving proposals for its early erection. It will be placed under contract in the course of a few weeks. The Congregation has been presented, by the Little Schuylkill Company, with a beautifully located lot on Broad street. They are under the Pastoral charge of Rev. A. Beatty, to whose praiseworthy exertions the Congregation is much indebted.

The Hotels of our Borough all close their Bars on Sundays, as far as we have been able to learn. L.

☞ *We glean* the following items from the *Legion*:—The Borough Election held on Friday of last week, resulted in the election of D. H. Goodwin for the office of Chief Burgess; Milton Balliff and Robert Ratcliff, Councilmen, and Jacob Moser Constable.

An effort is being made, among the musical young men of the Borough, to organise a Brass Band.

Sabbath-Breaking.—The Port Carbon Band, passing through Tamaqua, on Sunday last, about noon, on their way to Summit Hill, where they were engaged for the next day, struck up "Hail Columbia," when the authorities interfered and imposed a fine of $4,50 on each member. They paid dear for their whistle. Served them right. If people have *no regard for the Sabbath themselves*, they should at least be made to respect those who have.

St. Patrick's Day.—The Irish citizens of Tamaqua and vicinity, celebrated the Anniversary of their Great Apostle and Patron Saint, by a procession and dinner, with numerous speeches, toasts, resolutions, &c.

Buckville Improvements.—The new operations now being erected by the Little Schuylkill Company, under the auspices of the firm of Jones, Birkbeck & Cole, at Buckville, about two miles west of Tamaqua, will be ready for operation in the course of a month or two. The work is being pushed forward with vigor, and the extention of the Railroad to that point is also nearly completed.

Veal.—The editor of the *Legion* saw a great Calf the other day, the property of Mr. Crouse, of Tamaqua. It weighed 89 pounds when born.—When 5 days old, its height was about 3 feet.

New Passenger Depot.—The Little Schuylkill Company propose building a new Railroad Depot, at Tamaqua. The present one is said to be in a dilapidated condition.

COUNTY MASS MEETING.

At a large and enthusiastic meeting of the citizens of Schuylkill county, convened in accordance with the call of a Committee appointed at a previous Meeting, on Monday evening, March 24th, 1851, at the house of Col. John C. Lessig in Pottsville—

BENJAMIN CHRIST, Esq., was elected President, WILLIAM PAYNE, THOS. QUINN, R. CARR WILSON, HON. STRANGE N. PALMER, P. FOGARTY, and J. P. BERTRAN, Vice Presidents, and *Charles Bennett, John Sillyman* and *David K. Klock*, Secretaries.

The President having explained the object of the meeting, on motion, Robert M. Palmer, Charles Bennett, J. M. Long, Michael Weaver, Wm. Payne, J. Conner, Thomas Foster, Edward Colahan, and Wellington Kline, Esquires, were appointed a Committee to draft resolutions for the consideration of the meeting.

The Committee having retired, John C. Neville, Esq., was called upon and addressed the meeting, setting forth in a clear and forcible manner the necessity of a new Railroad to Philadelphia, when the Committee returned and reported through their Chairman, Robert M. Palmer, Esq., the following resolutions, which were adopted by acclamation:—

WHEREAS, It is evident to every citizen of Schuylkill County, who at all understands or has reflected upon the subject, that our staple interest, the Coal Trade, cannot much longer sustain itself against the adverse influences that have been brought to bear against it, and that unless something is done to relieve our operators from the pressure of those influences, they will be sacrificed and with them our whole community must suffer; and whereas, the projected People's Railroad from Pottsville to Philadelphia, via Norristown, offers a mode of escape from the incubus of the present Reading Railroad monopoly, which controlled by British influences, appears determined to crush and ruin our County, Therefore,

Resolved, That as citizens of Schuylkill County deeply interested in her welfare, we earnestly ask of the Legislature to grant the Charter or Incorporation asked by the friends of the new Railroad.

Resolved, That every consideration of justice to the people of this county, as well in the circumstances that at present surround them as in the past history and conduct of the Reading Railroad Company, demand, this grant of a Charter for the new Road at the hands of the Legislature.

Resolved, That a new Railroad from this Coal Region to Philadelphia, that shall be constructed economically and prudently, so as to keep it free of the millions of debt that have been imprudently squandered upon the present Road, whether in facilitating and cheapening the rates of passenger travel, or in affording to the consumer of Coal, one of the necessaries of life at a reduced and reasonable rate, must prove a great public benefit and can only be objected to by the present horde of Reading Railroad plunderers and their allies.

Resolved, That the energy and enterprise of the Coal Operators of this region, have in times past, proved themselves equal to every emergency, and that if they must fall in the present struggle with the Reading Railroad monopoly, they at least fall like men, "fighting in the last ditch."

Resolved, That although the present attitude and recent movements of the Reading Railroad Company, appear as if they were determined to defy the efforts of those whom they are attempting to destroy, we are not without hope that an enlightened public opinion operating upon an honest Legislature, will yet compel them to apply for the payment of their enormous debt.

Resolved, That we most earnestly protest against any Representatives of the British Stockholders in the Reading Railroad Company, sitting in conclave in their office in Philadelphia, to fix and regulate the value of property and price of labor, in Schuylkill county.

Resolved, That the cheering accounts from Harrisburg, with regard to the prospects of the passage of the People's Railroad Bill, ought to inspire every man in our community, who feels interested in its welfare to make an earnest effort in behalf of himself and his neighbors, by lending his influence in favor of our present object.

Resolved, That our warmest thanks are due our Representatives in the Senate and House of Representatives of our State Legislature, who have so unitedly given their aid and countenance to the carrying out of the wishes of their constituents, upon the subject of the new Road.

Resolved, That the Committee appointed at our recent meeting, to represent the application for the People's Road before the Legislature, have our entire confidence, and to their hands we cheerfully entrust our interest in this respect.

Resolved, That these proceedings be published in the Pottsville *Emporium* and *Miners' Journal*.

Addresses were then made by Robert M. Palmer, J. H. Adam, D. G. McGowan and James Neill, Esqrs., which elicited unbounded applause, when on motion, the meeting adjourned.

Signed by the Officers.

☞ *The depot* in course of construction at Savannah for the use of the Great Central Railroad will, it is said, be one of the finest edifices of the kind in the country. It will cover twenty-one acres of ground.

MEETING OF COAL OPERATORS.

At a meeting of the Operators, held at the Exchange Hotel, on Thursday afternoon, JAMES SILLYMAN, Esq., in the Chair, with the following Vice Presidents: Messrs. JOHN PINKERTON, G. BAST, WM. DONALDSON, M. G. HEILNER, and J. G. HEWES.

Mr. Neill in a few brief remarks laid before the meeting the objects of this call, which he stated to be the position of Schuylkill county in the struggle now going on in the Coal Trade, and the necessity of a reduction in the charges now made for carrying our products to market.

On motion, it was resolved, that a committee of eight be appointed to draft resolutions. The committee consisted of Patrick Fogarty, Jas. J. Connor, James Neill, Chas. Bennett, Geo. S. Repplier, B. Milnes, F. Macdonald.

The committee on Resolutions were authorized to appoint a committee from their own body, to call on Mr. Tucker and ascertain the fact of a draw-back being allowed on Coal shipped from Richmond to New York.

Mr. Bannan now addressed the meeting, and stated to them some very interesting facts and figures in regard to the project now entertained of building a new Road on the east side of the Schuylkill river, to Philadelphia.

The following resolutions from the committee on resolutions were then read and adopted:

WHEREAS, great efforts are being made by other mining districts to trammel and ruin the mining interests of this county, by offering their Coal in the New York and adjacent markets, at low prices, for this professed object; therefore,

Resolved, That in our opinion, it is impossible for the Colliers of Schuylkill county to compete successfully with other Regions, under the present rates of toll and transportation charged by the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company.

Resolved, That unless something is done by the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company to relieve us from the present onerous tax for transportation, the utter ruin of our trade is inevitable.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to confer with the President of the Reading Railroad Company, to ascertain what reduction they are willing to make, to save us from our unequal position as competitors for the Coal market.

A committee of six consisting of the following persons, was appointed by the Chair to confer with Mr. Tucker, viz: Jas. Niell, Patrick Fogarty, G. Bast, R. Ratcliffe, John Pinkerton, and M. G. Heilner. The President was added to the committee.

The committee, on their return, reported as follows: They had an interview with Mr. Tucker—they report that he was not authorised to act on the part of the Board, but that they consider that he (Mr. Tucker) was in favor of a reduction of the charges now made; therefore it was

Resolved, That this meeting shall adjourn until this day week, before which time Mr. Tucker will lay our resolutions and remonstrances before the Board of the Railroad Co., and report to us their answer before this meeting comes together again.

On motion, it was *Resolved*, That we reduce our shipments by Railroad at least 50 per cent. until we hear from Mr. Tucker.

A committee of three persons, consisting of Gideon Bast, F. Macdonald and George S. Repplier, was appointed to call on Operators not present, and prevail upon them to act with us in this matter.

On motion, *Resolved*, That we adjourn to meet again next Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock, at the same place.

A. M. MACDONALD. Sec'y.

TAXING BACHELORS.

Among the many curiosities of Legislative proceedings at Harrisburg, we notice the following petition lately presented by Mr. Walker:

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

The petition of the undersigned citizens of Pennsylvania, respectfully represents, That the enormous increase of bachelors amongst our citizens, calls loudly for legislative action to force the obstinate and perverse into the regular beaten track. We therefore most earnestly pray your Honorable bodies to enact a law imposing a tax of one dollar per head upon all single men of twenty-five years of age, and an additional dollar for every year above that age, and that the fund so raised be devoted to the endowment and maintenance of a seminary for the education of illegitimate children. With a proviso, however, that any single man who shall satisfy the commissioners of his county that no woman within twenty miles of his place of abode can be found willing to marry him, may obtain an abatement of the tax. And they will ever pray.

Tristram Shandy, Tam O'Shanter, David Jones, John Smith, John Jones, Peter Fritz.

This memorial was, on motion, referred to a Committee of Bachelors over 30 years of age. Mr. FRETZ, received the honorable appointment of Chairman of the Committee.

GERMAN OPINION OF AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS.

The following is translated from the *Grensboten*, an excellent weekly paper published at Leipsic. Our readers may perceive by it that their beloved country is not universally admitted to excel all others, at least in its newspapers. By way of consolation, however, let us assure them that the writer does not know so much as he thinks he does;—in fact the scantiness of his information and the excess of his assurance give his remarks a rather amusing character, even while our national vanity winces under the truth there is in them. It will be observed, too, that the worst thing he says of the press in the United States is fortified by the ponderous authority of the *North American Review*.

"America is that country of the earth where perhaps the press has the least of useful influence, and where, at the same time, there are the most newspapers. The American newspapers are almost exclusively devoted to news. This material part of journalism has absorbed everything; talent is of little account, and no other rivalry is known. As everybody in America subscribes for some paper or other, the only thing is to get ahead of other papers with the latest intelligence. To do this the publisher of an American journal is capable of every sacrifice and every exertion. Expresses, couriers, extra trains, are put in requisition, and the electric telegraph employed to an extent unheard of in Europe. Even the President's Message, a very long document, is regularly dispatched by telegraph. The steamers too, coming from Europe, are boarded miles from land by boats kept for the purpose by the journals. As soon as a boat gets its dispatches it makes off with all speed for their publication. One conquers his competitor by means of an arrow shot ashore. Every city, even the smallest, has several papers. Rochester, with 30,000 inhabitants has five papers, which, however contain nothing but advertisements, communications, and often slanderous abuse.—"No American," says Tocqueville in his excellent work on America, "would dare to propose to restrict the liberty of the press." The recklessness of the North American press surpasses all bounds. "Too often" says the *North American Review*, "the newspapers are the organs of the meanest and basest passions. They contribute little, can serve no useful or honorable interest, and are a disgrace to the country." In England there are about 370 papers for twenty-six millions of human beings: in America, for fourteen millions of inhabitants there are 11,000 newspapers. All travellers in the United States, and the most respected statesmen of the country itself—we cite only Webster—are unanimous in their condemnation of the mean and reckless tone of the American Press.

☞ *Incombustible Hemp Rope.*—The St. Louis *Republican* contains a very interesting notice of the trial of incombustible hempen rope, recently made in that city. A piece of prepared rope and a piece of wire rope were put in a blacksmith's fire. The heat was intense enough to weld the strands of the wire rope together; whilst the hempen rope was only slightly charred on the outside. Another test was made: a piece of rope and a small bar of iron brought to a white heat; yet the cordage was but little, if any more effected by the fire than in the previous experiment.

☞ *General Scott.*—The Whig papers in Indianna, almost without exception, have placed at the head of their columns, the name of General Scott as a candidate for the Presidency. The Indiana State *Journal*, in speaking of the proposed nomination by the National Whig Convention, says that so far as popular sentiment in that State is concerned, there never before was such unanimity in the selection of a candidate, and if the name of General Winfield Scott should be placed upon the ticket, Indiana will certainly give him her electoral vote.

☞ *Liquor Licenses.*—The Common Council of Oswego have resolved that it is inexpedient, impolitic and unwise, for the Board of Excise this Spring to grant any licenses for traffic in intoxicating liquors, as a beverage, within the bounds of the city.

☞ *The report* of the Surveyor General of California recommends the extensive introduction of turkeys into California, to prevent the depredations of the grasshoppers, which are very destructive in some quarters.

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 Hagler's 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 Cure, prepared from Renet, or the fourth stomach of the Ox, after directions of Baron Liebig, the great Physiological Chemist, by J. S. Houghton, M. D., No. 11 North Eighth Street, Philadelphia, Pa. This is a truly wonderful remedy for Indigestion, Dyspepsia, Jaundice, Liver Complaint, Constipation and Debility, curing after Nature's own method, by Nature's own agent, the Gastric Juice. See Advertisement in another column.

VALUABLE MEDICINES PREPARED BY DR. J. S. ROSE, of Philadelphia:
Dr. ROSE'S Alternative Syrup;
Dr. ROSE'S Expectorant or Cough Syrup;
Dr. ROSE'S Dyspeptic Compound;
Dr. ROSE'S Vegetable Vermifuge;
Dr. ROSE'S Croup or Hive Syrup;
Dr. ROSE'S Family or Sanative Pills;
Dr. ROSE'S Carminative Balsam;
Dr. ROSE'S Hair Tonic.
The Hair Tonic was highly recommended by the late Doctor Physic.
The above are not Quack Medicines—they are in high repute, and can be relied upon as suiting the diseases for which they are recommended, as they are the result of *thirty year's extensive practice* in Philadelphia by Dr. Rose,—and were put up at the instance of his numerous patients, who derived great benefit from their use.
For Sale Wholesale by the subscriber who has been appointed the Wholesale Agent in Schuylkill County, where Druggists and others dealing in Medicines can be supplied at the proprietor's prices by
B. BANNAN.

LIFE INSURANCE.—There is, perhaps, nothing that creates so severe a pang on the death bed as the reflection that we are leaving those we love, perhaps a wife and children, dependent upon the cold charity of the world: Therefore every one in life should prepare for this emergency. It can be done, even by the poorest, through the agency of Life Insurance.
Every man who loves his family ought to get his life insured. Every man in debt, and owning property, ought to have his life insured, lest at his death his property may be sacrificed. There are but few who could not save a small sum annually to insure their lives; which if not invested in this way would be spent perhaps in trifles, and their families thus left to penury and want.
Life Insurance is becoming just as common in this country as Fire Insurance; and should be more so. Wives persuade your husbands—you can save enough in your household affairs to pay the annual premium without feeling it—and the reflection that you are provided for, will alone be a full recompense for the outlay. You can insure the lives of your husbands for your own benefit, and the amount cannot be touched by creditors in case of the death.
Full information on this subject can be obtained on application to B. BANNAN, at the Office of the Miners' Journal.
WE INVITE PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO a new feature in Life Insurance which will be explained by calling at this office. It obviates one of the great difficulties in Life Insurance, while at the same time, it does not diminish the security.

POTTSVILLE MARKETS.

CORRECTED WEEKLY FOR THE JOURNAL.

Wheat Flour, bbl.	$5 00	Dr'd peaches par'd.	$3 00
Rye do do	3 50	do do unpar'd.	1 75
Wheat, bushel	1 00	Dr'd apples pared	1 00
Rye, do	55	Eggs, dozen