greatest importance to its prosperity are the introduction of a copious supply of water into the city of Washington, and the construction of suitable bridges across the Potomac to replace those which were destroyed by high water in the early part of the present year.

At the last session of Congress an appropriation was made to defray the cost of the surveys necessary for determining the best means of affording an unfailing supply of good and wholesome water.—Some progress has been made in the survey, and as soon as it is completed the result will be laid before you.

Further appropriations will also be necessary for grading and paving the streets and avenues, and enclosing and embellishing the public grounds within the city of Washington.

I commend all these objects, together with the charitable institutions of the District, to your favorable regard.

Every effort has been made to protect our frontier, and that of the adjoining Mexican States, from the incursions of the Indian tribes. Of about 11,000 men of which the army is composed, nearly 8,000 are employed in the defence of the newly-acquired territory, (including Texas,) and of emigrants proceeding thereto. I am gratified to say that these efforts have been unusually successful. With the exception of some partial outbreaks in California and Oregon, and occasional depredations on a portion of the Rio Grande, owing, it is believed, to the disturbed state of that border region, the inroads of the Indians have been effectually restrained.

Experience has shown, however, that whenever the two races are brought into contact, collisions will inevitably occur. To prevent these collisions, the United States have generally set apart portions of their territory for the exclusive occupation of the Indian tribes. A difficulty occurs, however, in the application of this policy to Texas. By the terms of the compact by which that State was admitted into the Union, she retained the ownership of all the vacant lands within her limits. The government of that State, it is understood, has assigned no portion of her territory to the Indians; but as fast as her settlements advance lays it off into counties, and proceeds to survey and sell it. This policy manifestly tends, not only to alarm and irritate the Indians, but to compel them to resort to plunder for subsistence. It also deprives this Government of that influence and control over them without which no durable peace can ever exist between them and the whites. It must, therefore, that a due regard for her own interests, apart from considerations of humanity and justice, will induce that State to assign a small portion of her vast domain for the provisional occupancy of the small remnants of tribes within her borders, subject of course to her ownership and eventual jurisdiction. If she should fail to do this, the fulfilment of our treaty stipulations with Mexico, and our duty to the Indians themselves, will, it is feared, become a subject of serious embarrassment to the Government. It is hoped, however, that a timely and just provision by Texas may avert this evil.

No appropriations for fortifications were made at the two last sessions of Congress. The cause of this ommission is, probably, to be found in a growing belief that the system of fortifications adopted in 1816, and heretofore acted on, requires revision.

The subject certainly deserves full and careful investigation; but it should not be delayed longer than can be avoided. In the meantime there are certain works which have been commenced—some of them nearly completed—designed to protect our principal seaports from Boston to New Orleans, and a few other important points. In regard to the necessity for these works, it is believed that little difference of opinion exists among military men. I therefore recommend that the appropriations necessary to prosecute them be made.

I invite your attention to the remarks on this subject, and on others connected with this Department, contained in the accompanying report of the Secretary of War.

Measures have been taken to carry into effect the law of the last session making provision for the improvement of certain rivers and harbors, and it is believed that the arrangements made for that purpose will combine efficiency with economy. Owing chiefly to the advanced season when the act was passed, little has yet been done in regard to many of the works beyond making the necessary preparations. With respect to a few of the improvements, the sums already appropriated will suffice to complete them, but most of them will require additional appropriations. I trust that these appropriations will be made, and that this wise and beneficent policy, so auspiciously resumed, will be continued. Great care should be taken, however, to commence no work which is not of sufficient importance to the commerce of the country to be viewed as national in its character. But works which have been commenced should not be discontinued until complete, as otherwise the sums expended will, in most cases, be lost.

The report from the Navy Department will inform you of the prosperous condition of the branch of the public service committed to its charge. It presents to your consideration many topics and suggestions of which I ask your approval. I call to him an unusual degree of activity in the operations of the Department during the past year. The preparations for the Japan expedition, to which I have already alluded; the arrangements made for the exploration and survey of the China Seas, the Northern Pacific, and Behring's Straits; the incipient measures taken towards a reconnoissance of the continent of Africa eastward of Liberia; the preparation for an early examination of the tributaries of the River La Plata, which a recent decree of the provisional chief of the Argentine Confederation has opened to navigation; all these enterprises, and the means by which they are proposed to be accomplished, have commanded my full approbation, and I have no doubt will be productive of most useful results.

Two officers of the navy were heretofore instructed to explore the whole extent of the Amazon river from the confines of Peru to its mouth. The return of one of them has placed in the possession of the Government an interesting and valuable account of the character and resources of a country abounding in the materials of commerce, and which, if opened to the industry of the world, will prove an interminable fund of wealth. The report of this exploration will be communicated to you as soon as it is completed.

Among other subjects offered to your notice by the Secretary of the Navy, I select for special recommendation, in view of its connexion with the interest of the navy, the plan submitted by him for the establishment of a permanent corps of seamen, and the suggestion he has presented for the reorganization of the Naval Academy.

In reference to the first of these, I take occasion to say that I think it will greatly improve the efficiency of the service, and that I regard it as still more entitled to favor for the salutary influence it must exert upon the naval discipline now greatly disturbed by the increasing spirit of insurbordination, resulting from our present system. The plan proposed for the organization of the seamen furnishes a judicious substitute for the law of September, 1850, abolishing punishment with cords from henceforth sustains the policy of that act, under conditions well adapted to maintain the authority of command and the order and security of our ships. It is believed that any change which proposes permanently to dispense with this mode of punishment, should be preceded by a system of enlistment which shall supply the navy with seamen of the most meritorious class, whose good deportment and pride of character may preclude all occasion for a resort to penalties of the lash or degrading nature. The safety of a ship and her crew is often dependent upon immediate obedience to a command, and the authority to enforce it must be equally ready. The arrest of a refractory seaman, in such instances, not only deprives the ship of indispensable aid, but imposes a necessity for double service on others whose fidelity to their duties may be relied upon in such an emergency. The exposure to this increased and arduous labor, since the passage of the act of 1850, has already had, to a most observable and injurious extent, the effect of preventing the enlistment of the best seamen in the navy. The plan now suggested is designed to promote a condition of service in which this objection will no longer exist.—The details of this plan may be established in great part, if not altogether, by the Executive, under the authority of existing laws; but I have thought it proper, in accordance with the suggestion of the Secretary of the Navy to submit it to your approval.

The establishment of a corps of apprentices for the navy, or boys to be enlisted until they become of age, and to be employed under such regulations as the Navy Department may devise, as proposed in the report, I cordially approve and commend to your consideration; and I also concur in the suggestion that this system for the early training of seamen may be most usefully engrafted upon the service of our merchant marine.

The other proposition of the report to which I have referred—the reorganization of the Naval Academy—I recommend to your attention as a project worthy of your encouragement and support.—The valuable services already rendered by this institution entitle it to the continuance of your fostering care.

Your attention is respectfully called to the report of the Post Master General for the detailed operation of his Department during the last fiscal year, from which it will be seen that the receipts from postage for that time were less by $1,431,686 than for the preceding fiscal year, being a decrease of about 23 per cent.

This diminution is attributable to the reduction in the rates of postage made by the act of March 3, 1851, which reduction took effect at the commencement of the last fiscal year.

Although in its operation during the last year the act referred to has not fulfilled the predictions of its friends by increasing the correspondence of the country in proportion to the reduction of postage, I should nevertheless question the policy of returning to higher rates. Experience warrants the expectation that as the community becomes accustomed to cheap postage, correspondence will increase. It is believed that from this cause, and from the rapid growth of the country in population and business, the receipts of the Department must ultimately exceed its expenses, and that the country may safely rely upon the continuance of the present cheap rate of postage.

In former messages, I have among other things, respectfully recommended to the consideration of Congress the propriety and necessity of further legislation for the protection and punishment of foreign Consuls residing in the United States; to revive with certain modifications the act of 19th of March, 1838, to restrain unlawful military expeditions against the inhabitants of conterminous States or territories; for the preservation and protection from mutilation or theft of the papers, records, and archives of the nation; for authorizing the surplus revenue to be applied to the payment of the public debt in advance of the time when it will become due; for the establishment of land offices for the sale of the public lands in California and the Territory of Oregon; for the construction of a road from the Mississippi valley to the Pacific ocean; for the establishment of a bureau of agriculture for the promotion of that interest, perhaps the most important in the country; for the prevention of frauds upon the Government in application for pensions and bounty lands; for the establishment of a uniform fee bill, prescribing a specific compensation for every service required of clerks, district attorneys, and marshals; for authorizing an additional regiment of mounted men, for the defence of our frontiers against the Indians, and for fulfilling our treaty stipulations with Mexico to defend her citizens against the Indians "with equal diligence and energy as our own;" for determining the relative rank between the naval and civil officers in our public ships, and between the officers of the Army and Navy in the various grades of each; for reorganizing the naval establishment by fixing the number of officers in each grade, and providing for a retired list upon reduced pay, of those unfit for active duty; for prescribing and regulating punishments in the navy; for the appointment of a commission to revise the public statutes of the United States, by arranging them in order, supplying deficiencies, correcting incongruities, simplifying their language, and reporting them to Congress for its final action; and for the establishment of a commission to adjudicate and settle private claims against the United States. I am not aware, however, that any of these subject have been finally acted upon by Congress. Without repeating the reasons for legislation on these subjects, which have been assigned in former messages, I respectfully recommend them again to your favorable consideration.

I think it due to the several Executive Departments of this Government to bear testimony to the efficiency and integrity with which they are conducted. With all the careful superintendence which it is possible for the Heads of these Departments to exercise, still the due administration and guardianship of the public money must very much depend on the vigilance, intelligence and fidelity of the subordinate officers and clerks, and especially on those entrusted with the settlement and adjustment of claims and accounts. I am gratified to believe that they have generally performed their duties faithfully and well. They are appointed to guard the approaches to the public Treasury, and they occupy positions that expose them to all the temptations and seductions which the cupidity of speculators and fraudulent claimants can prompt them to employ. It will be but a wise precaution to protect the Government against that source of mischief and corruption, as far as it can be done, by the enactment of all proper legal penalties. The laws, in this respect, are supposed to be defective, and I, therefore, deem it my duty to call your attention to the subject, and to recommend that provision be made by law for the punishment not only of those who shall accept bribes, but also of those who shall either promise, give or offer to give to any of those officers or clerks a bribe or reward touching or relating to any matter of their official action or duty.

It has been the uniform policy of this Government from its foundation to the present day to abstain from all interference in the domestic affairs of other nations. The consequence has been that while the nations of Europe have been engaged in desolating wars, our country has pursued its peaceful course to unexampled prosperity and happiness. The wars in which we have been compelled to engage, in defence of the rights and honor of the country, have been fortunately of short duration. During the terrific contest of nation against nation, which succeeded the French revolution, we were enabled by the wisdom and firmness of President Washington to maintain our neutrality. While other nations were drawn into this wide sweeping whirlpool, we sat quiet, and unmoved upon our own shores. While the flower of their numerous armies was wasted by disease and perished by hundreds of thousands upon the battlefield, the youth of this favored land were permitted to enjoy the blessings of peace beneath the paternal roof. While the States of Europe incurred enormous debts, under the burden of which their subjects still groan, and which must absorb no small part of the product of the honest industry of those countries for generations to come, the United States have once been enabled to exhibit the proud spectacle of a nation free from public debt; and, if permitted to pursue our prosperous way for a few years longer in peace, we may do the same again.

But it is now said by some that this policy must be changed. Europe is no longer separated from us by a voyage of months, but steam navigation has brought her within a few days' sail of our shores. We see more of her movements, and take a deeper interest in her controversies. Although no one proposes that we should join the fraternity of potentates who have for ages lashed the blood and treasure of their subjects in maintaining "the balance of power," yet it is said that we ought to interfere between contending sovereigns and their subjects, for the purpose of overthrowing the monarchies of Europe and establishing in their place republican institutions. It is alleged that we have heretofore pursued a different course from a sense of our weakness, but that now our conscious strength dictates a change of policy, and that it is consequently our duty to mingle in these contests and side with one party against the other.

This is a most seductive but dangerous appeal to the generous sympathies of freemen. Enjoying as we do the blessings of a free government, there is no man who has an American heart that would not rejoice to see these blessings extended to all other nations. We cannot witness the struggle between the oppressed and his oppressor anywhere without the deepest sympathy for the former, and the most anxious desire for his triumph. Nevertheless, is it prudent or is it wise to involve ourselves in these foreign wars? Is it indeed true that we have heretofore refrained from doing so merely from the degrading motive of a conscious weakness? For the honor of the patriots who have gone before us, I cannot admit it. Men of the Revolution who drew the sword against the oppressions of the mother country, and pledged to Heaven "their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor" to maintain their freedom, could never have been actuated by a base or worthy a motive. They knew no weakness or fear where right or duty pointed the way, and it is a libel upon their fair fame for us, while we enjoy the blessings for which they so nobly fought and bled, to insinuate it. The truth is, their course which they pursued was dictated by a stern sense of international justice, by a statesmanlike prudence and a far seeing wisdom, looking not merely to the present necessities but to the permanent safety and interest of the republic. They knew that the world is governed less by sympathy than by reason and force; that it was not possible for this nation to become a "propagandist" of free principles without arraying against it the combined powers of Europe; and that the result was more likely to be the overthrow of republican liberty here than its establishment there. History has been written in vain for those who can doubt this.—France had no sooner established a republican form of government than she manifested a desire to force its blessings on all the world. Her own historian informs us that, hearing of some petty acts of tyranny in a neighboring principality, "the National Convention declared that she would afford succor and fraternity to all nations who wished to recover their liberty; and she gave it in charge to the executive power to give orders to the generals of the French armies to aid all citizens who might have been or should be oppressed in the cause of liberty."

Here was the false step which led to her subsequent misfortunes. She soon found herself involved in war with all the rest of Europe. In less than ten years her government was changed from a republic to an empire: and finally, after shedding rivers of blood, foreign powers restored her exiled dynasty, and exhausted Europe sought peace and repose in the unquestioned ascendency of monarchical principles. Let us learn wisdom from her territorily sustains the policy of that act, under conditions well adapted to maintain the authority of command and the order and security of our ships. It is believed that any change which proposes permanently to dispense with this mode of punishment, should be preceded by a system of enlistment which shall supply the navy with seamen of the most meritorious class, whose good deportment and pride of character may preclude all occasion for a resort to penalties of the lash or degrading nature. The safety of a ship and her crew is often dependent upon immediate obedience to a command, and the authority to enforce it must be equally ready. The arrest of a refractory seaman, in such instances, not only deprives the ship of indispensable aid, but imposes a necessity for double service on others whose fidelity to their duties may be relied upon in such an emergency. The exposure to this increased and arduous labor, since the passage of the act of 1850, has already had, to a most observable and injurious extent, the effect of preventing the enlistment of the best seamen in the navy. The plan now suggested is designed to promote a condition of service in which this objection will no longer exist.—The details of this plan may be established in great part, if not altogether, by the Executive, under the authority of existing laws; but I have thought it proper, in accordance with the suggestion of the Secretary of the Navy to submit it to your approval.

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Local Affairs.

[REPORTED FOR THE MINERS' JOURNAL.]

☞ *Court of Quarter Sessions.*—Court met upon Monday the 5th. Present, Hon. C. W. Heaton, *President Judge*; and Hon. Solomon Foster and Francis Hurley, *Associates*.

The day was consumed in the usual business of a criminal Court, such as receiving reports of Constables from each district in the county, and in the appointment of officers, charging Grand Jury, &c. The Criminal Calendar presented quite an array of petty cases, but none of them of a very heinous character. Assaults and Batteries, petty Larcenies, Disorderly Houses, &c., constituted the greatest number, the balance being composed of the usual character brought by excited foolish persons who fancy they are aggrieved and insulted.

After all the business of the day was disposed of the first case called up was the

Com. vs. Nancy Murphy and Catharine Martin—Surety of the Peace on oath of Nancy Sweeny. Court directed that each party be bound in the sum of $100, and pay the costs and stand committed, &c.

Com. vs. Thomas Coarel—Surety of the Peace, December 6th. Court directed defendants to pay the costs of this prosecution, and enter into the sum of $100 to keep the Peace for one year, and stand committed, &c.

Com. vs. Henry Ryan—Assault and Battery, on James Ward—Jury trial, verdict guilty. The same day (Dec. 6th) Court sentenced Henry Ryan to pay the cost of prosecution and undergo an imprisonment of six calendar months in the Schuylkill County Prison, and stand committed until this sentence be complied with.

Com. vs. Thomas Coffield—Surety of the Peace on oath of Lewis Heintz. Sentenced to enter into a recognizance of $100 to keep the Peace for one year and pay the costs.

Com. vs. Thomas Quinn and John Quinn—Assault and Battery. Ignorammused and prosecutor to pay the costs.

Com. vs. James C. Robertson—For Larceny. Jury Trial. This was a contested case, and occupied nearly one day, but the Jury concluded that James was a little too fond of other people's property, particularly of chickens; so they found him guilty and the Court sentenced him six month's imprisonment and to pay the cost.

Com. vs. Patrick Gallchef—Assault and Battery; Jury Trial. Defendant pleaded guilty and was sentenced to pay one dollar fine and the cost of the prosecution.

Com. vs. Bridget Reilly—Larceny on oath of Maria Sawyer—Jury Trial; Verdict guilty. Sentenced to pay the cost of prosecution and undergo an imprisonment in the County Prison for thirty days.

Com. vs. Adeline Carter—Common prostitution; sentenced to pay the cost of the prosecution and give bail in the sum of $100 to keep the Peace.

Com. vs. Elizabeth Daniels—Common prostitution; sentenced in the same sum as the above and was in default of bail committed.

Com. vs. Elizabeth Shorts—Common prostitution; the same as the preceding cases.

Com. vs. Ralph Marley—Tippling and Disorderly house. Not guilty, and the prosecutor John Nicholas to pay the cost. Sentenced accordingly.

Com. vs. James Sexton—Assault and Battery on oath of James Buckley. Ignoramus and Buckley to pay the cost. Sentenced accordingly.

Com. vs. George Heggins—Assault and Battery on oath of John Thomas. Ignoramus, the prosecutor for the cost.

Com. vs. Wm. Johns and Patrick Dohrmir.—Assault and Battery; Jury trial. After hearing several witnesses in this, the defendant withdrew the plea of not guilty, and the same day the Court sentenced Mr. Johns to pay a fine of $30,00 and the cost of prosecution, and Patrick Dohrmir to pay a fine of $15,00 and cost, and stand committed &c. The costs were paid instanter, and defendants left pleased with the result.

Com. vs. Neal Gallcher—Assault and Battery; Jury trial. Verdict guilty, and sentenced to pay $1 fine, the cost of the prosecution, and undergo an imprisonment in the County Prison for the period of sixty days.

Com. vs. Peter Mandy—For Larceny; Jury trial. Verdict guilty and sentenced to pay a fine of $1.00, the cost of prosecution, and undergo a imprisonment in the County Prison for one year.—Committed accordingly.

Com. vs. Martin Conway—Assault and Battery. Verdict guilty; not sentenced.

Com. vs. Joseph Walker and Joseph Lee—For Larceny. Jury trial—verdict not guilty.

Com. vs. Aaron Brown—For Larceny and Burglary; Jury trial, December 7th. The particulars of this case have been already laid before our readers. The articles, stolen belonging to Mr Heaston of this Borough, were recovered by the confession of Brown, he having made known to the officers who arrested him the place they were secreted. When called up for trial he pleaded guilty, and was remanded back to prison. Not yet sentenced.

Com. vs. Israel Zerbe—For Larceny; Jury trial. The prisoner pleaded guilty, and the Court sentenced him to pay a fine of six cents and to undergo an imprisonment in the County Prison for the period of thirty days.

Com. vs. Margaret Williams—For keeping a Disorderly House. Jury trial—verdict guilty, and the same day sentenced to pay a fine of $50 and costs of prosecution and undergo an imprisonment of three calendar months in the County Prison.

Com. vs. Wm. B. Lebo—For Misdemeanor in office; Jury trial. Verdict not guilty, and the prosecutor, David Maritz, to pay the costs.

Com. vs. Samuel K. M. Kepner—For Assault and Battery; Jury trial. Verdict guilty and sentenced to pay a fine of $1,00 and costs of prosecution.

Com. vs. Patrick Igo—For Larceny; verdict not guilty, and the county to pay the costs.

Com. vs. Patrick Bannan—For Larceny; Jury trial and verdict not guilty.

Com. vs. Henry Hill—For Assault and Battery; Ignoramus, and the prosecutor to pay the costs of the prosecution.

Com. vs. Bridget Fadden, Michael, Hall and Thomas Keefe—For Assault and Battery, on oath of Edward Fadden; Jury trial, verdict not guilty as to Michael Hall, Thomas Keefe or James Fadden, and that Edward Fadden pay the costs.

Com. vs. Sarah Fuller—For exposing and deserting her infant child. Sentenced to pay the cost. Committed to prison.

Com. vs. Henry Lawyer—For Surety of the Peace; Jury trial, December 8th. Sentenced to pay the costs of prosecution and to enter into his own recognizance in the sum of $50,00 to keep the peace for one year.

Com. vs. Adam Kahling—For Larceny; Jury trial. Verdict guilty, and sentenced to pay the costs, a fine of six cents, and undergo an imprisonment of ten days in the County Prison. Committed accordingly.

On motion of James H. Campbell, Esq., Mr. J. T. Shoener was yesterday morning admitted to practice in the Courts of this County. We understand that Mr. S. passed his examination, on the day previous, in an unusually satisfactory manner. He is undoubtedly a young gentleman of superior abilities—we shall expect to see him rise to eminence in the profession.

☞ *Military.*—The election for Colonel and Lieutenant-Colonel, of the 1st Regiment of Schuylkill County Volunteers, made vacant by recent resignations, takes place to-day. There is much spirit manifested in the matter, by all parties concerned. The several candidates have been very busy in urging their qualifications and claims, for the last few weeks, and the companies, on the other hand, seem anxious, as they naturally should be, to select the best men for such important offices.

N. B.—The winning parties will please bear in mind that we print by steam—we can get the news out an "extra," with the result, in less than no time—if well paid.

☞ *Literary Society.*—The Hall was crowded to excess on Wednesday evening—many persons being obliged to stand. The ladies especially were out in unusual numbers. Unfortunately Rev. Mr. Lightner, of Reading, the appointed Lecturer, did not arrive. We have not learned the cause of the disappointment, though we have no doubt it was imperative, as we had previously been informed of the gentleman's perfect willingness and determination to come.

☞ *School Convention.*—The State School Convention assembles at Harrisburg on Tuesday, 28th inst. Delegates are invited from every county in the State. It has been suggested to us by several gentlemen interested in the cause of Education, that a County Convention be held in Pottsville, next Saturday, 18th, at 1 o'clock P. M. to appoint Delegates to the State Convention. The reason assigned for this is that the regular County Educational Convention, called at St. Clair, Monday 27th inst., will be too late for the appointment of Delegates—it is, therefore, indispensable that an extra meeting be held for that purpose and, upon consultation, Saturday 18th, has been fixed as the time, and Foster's Hall, Pottsville, as the place.—It is hoped the Teachers of the county and others interested in the matter will be present.

For convenient reference, we append, in this connection, the several officers and committees of the County Educational Association, chosen at the last semi-annual meeting, in Tamaqua:

President—Elias Schneider; *Vice President*—W. E. Porter; *Cor. Secretary*—F. Lauderbrun; *Recording Secretary*—H. J. B. Cummings; *Treasurer*—Jacob Betts.

Executive Committee.—B. Bannan, N. Olmstead, S. M. Reinhart, A. P. Spinney and S. W. Lawton.

Committee on Invitations.—C. Little, B. S. Jackson, Plinny Porter, P. D. Barnett and George Wynkoop.

It is hoped these gentlemen will bethink themselves of their respective duties, as the time is close at hand for the holding of the next Convention.

☞ *A Good Time.*—The first of the "Bachelors' Sociables" came off at the Town Hall last Tuesday evening. The company was large, and we have seldom, if ever, seen a more happy assemblage on any occasion. Every thing passed off delightfully.

The room was newly papered and well lighted, and the floor hand somely painted in Coitillion squares, presenting altogether a tasteful, if not elegant, appearance, not manifest in that quarter for many years. Its effect, together with the seductive influence of the excellent music (a Pottsville band) added to the irresistible display of beauty and grace, on the part of the ladies, evidently played sad havoc among the worthy originators of the entertainment—the Bachelors; how they will hold out for the remainder of the series, under such provoking circumstances, is more than we can now foresee, but nothing would surprise us less, than that some of them should play "Benedict," before the Winter is over.

☞ *A Good Work.*—The Borough Council have now employed a number of men carting off the mud in Centre Street. From the peculiar location of our "burg," a large quantity of mud, from the wash of the side streets, is soon accumulated in Centre Street, and it needs frequent scrapings, to keep it in passable order. It now begins to assume an appearance unknown for many years. We hardly know which to commend most for this good service—Judge Heaton for threatening the Council for their neglect or the latter for their aptness to take a salutary hint.

☞ *The Ladies of the* Presbyterian Church, in this place, will hold a Fair in the Second Story of Mr. E. T. Taylor's Building, corner of Centre and Mahantongo streets, on Thursday and Friday, 23d and 24th inst—see notice.

☞ *The Scott Rifles* are making preparations for a grand Military and citizens Ball to be given on Christmas eve, 25th inst., at the Town Hall.

☞ *The Pottsville Gas Company*, at a meeting on Monday, declared a dividend of 3 per cent, for the last six months.

Tamaqua Affairs.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE MINERS' JOURNAL.]

Catawissa Railroad—Extension of other Roads—Business Spirit—Spiritual Rappings—Literary Society—New Locomotives—Theatre.

There is quite a Railroad spirit prevailing here at present. It is confidently asserted that the Catawissa Railroad will now be pushed forward to completion without delay. The Little Schuylkill Company will place the extension of their road under contract some time during this winter. It will extend six miles north of Tamaqua and intersect with the Catawissa road; they will also probably open a road to their lands in Mahanoy, and thus bring into market the rich deposits of coal in the eastern section of the Mahanoy basin.

Upon the completion of the Catawissa and the Mahanoy branch roads, there will, undoubtedly, be a road opened through the Mahanoy Valley to the Lehigh, thus giving us a continuous Railroad, via Easton, to New York. Judging from present manifestations, business will open here briskly in the Spring; at least, so far as improvement is concerned, there will be more activity than we have ever known in Tamaqua.

Our Borough has been visited by a spiritual medium in the employ of a person styling himself Dr. Barnes, of New York City, and through this medium the spirits have actually deigned to hold communication with our citizens. The Doctor is also vending a certain cure-all, which he styles an "Electrical Fluid," extracted from the atmosphere. During the entertainment on Monday evening, a gentleman enquired mentally of the spirits if the Electrical Fluid, sold by the Doctor, would not kill everybody that used it, when an affirmative answer was rapped most emphatically. The enquiry was then audibly made if they were not mistaken in the answer they had just given, and a negative answer was rapped—"they were not mistaken." The gentleman then stated audibly the question he had mentally asked which very much disconcerted the Professor, who turned to his spirits and asked them if they had not been mistaken in their former answer. They rapped that they had.

That it is an imposition and a humbug is so evident, it is not likely that they will be successful in duping many of our citizens. As regards the "Electrical Fluid," after the *striking* evidence we have had of its fatal effects, I do not think it probable that it will be much used.

Our Literary Society has again commenced its sessions. Its last meeting, on Wednesday evening, was very numerously attended—a large proportion of the audience being composed of ladies. The expediency of enacting a law similar to the Maine Liquor Law was very ably discussed, and decided in the negative.

A Dramatic Company have opened a Theatre in the Town Hall, and appear to be well patronized. The Little Schuylkill Company have placed upon their road two new coal burning engines from the manufactory of Morris, Brothers; they are beautiful specimens of the artisan's skill.

CONGLOMERATE.

Tamaqua, December 9, 1852.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

We will give the price of our next new beaver, to know what pretty girl (she must be pretty) sent us a newspaper with some choice poetry in it the other day.

Several Book notices have been unavoidably crowded out this week.

INFORMATION WANTED.

We find in the *Independent* the following statement respecting a son of Deacon Whitney, lately deceased in Darien, Connecticut, with a request that the Press generally will copy:—

Four or five years ago he went to N. York to get into business. He fell in with a gentleman from Cincinnati, Ohio, who offered him $20 a month, as a clerk in a store, if he would go West. He accepted the offer and started for Cincinnati. He wrote back from Pittsburg, giving the above particulars.—This is the last his friends have heard from him. His name is Francis W. Whitney. If he is living he might be a great comfort to his worthy and affectionate mother, and his brothers and sisters. If any person has any knowledge of this lost son, they are requested to communicate to Rev. E. D. Kinney, Darien, Connecticut.

☞ Australian Gold.—The accounts from Australia of the amount of gold taken from the diggings there are almost incredible and account for the number of ships put up in the Port of New York for that region. One of the finest of these ships is the Baltimore, advertised in another part of our Paper; she belongs to the favorite Monthly Pioneer Line of John Ogden & R. W. Cameron. These ships are fitted out in a superior manner, commanded by skilful officers, and are in every way suited to the voyage. The B is very roomy, having eight and a half feet between decks, rendering her healthy almost beyond the possibility of chance. We have little doubt that she will soon fill up.—*Excelsior.* The Baltimore will sail on the 1st of January, 1853.

Miners' Journal.

Saturday Morning, Dec. 11.

B. BANNAN, Editor and Proprietor:
C. LITTLE, Associate Editor.

THE MESSAGE.

On Monday last, the day appointed for the assembling of the second session of the XXXII Congress, there being a quorum present upon roll-call, in each House, the usual message of the President was delivered immediately. We print it in full, in this morning's paper. It is a most comprehensive and able document—we advise all to read it. That portion of it, relating to the international policy of our country, is conclusive in argument and eloquent in language, discussing the adverse doctrines of intervention and non-intervention in a logical style, and evidently with an eye single to the best interests of the Republic.

On the subject of the Tariff, the President has not changed his opinions as expressed in his former message. He especially recommends specific, instead of ad valorem duties, wherever practicable. His views on Protection—a discriminating Tariff, are worthy of careful perusal—they address themselves pertinently to the good sense of our people, without distinction of party.

The attention of Congress is called to the necessity of legislation upon a great variety of subjects, such as the Fisheries, Indian affairs, River and Harbor Improvements, Navy and Army regulations, National Fortifications, &c., &c. It is recommended that, tho' the revenue from the Post