The Miners' Journal

POTTSVILLE, PA.

Saturday Morning, April 2.

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

DEMOCRATIC WHIG NOMINATIONS.

FOR AUDITOR GENERAL,
ALEX. K. M'CLURE, OF FRANKLIN COUNTY

FOR SURVEYOR GENERAL,
CHRISTIAN MYERS, OF CLARION COUNTY.

FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER,
MOSES POWNALL, OF LANCASTER COUNTY.

THE MINE HILL STRIKE AGAIN.

Mr. Bishop, the author of the annexed communication, is an Engineer on the Mine Hill Road, and the others, whose names are appended, are, also, employed in various capacities by the Company. It is with great pleasure we print their statement of the cause of the late difficulty on the Road, that both parties may have a fair hearing before the public; and the more willingly, because the tone of the communication is temperate and seemingly prepared with the view of presenting the truth of the matter, and moreover because it is signed by responsible names, not leaving us to question its authenticity over an anonymous signature:

SCHUYLKILL HAVEN, *March 29th, 1853.*

MR. B. BANNAN—*Dear Sir.* In an editorial article published in your paper of the 26th ult., you openly accuse Mr. A. DEVO as being one of the instigators of the difficulty on the Mine Hill & Schuylkill Haven Rail Road, between the Engineers, Conductors, Firemen and Brakesmen, and the Company.

In vindication of the course pursued by that gentleman, permit me to make the following statement, and inasmuch as this statement must from necessity contain the reason of our past difficulty, and the course pursued by both parties, I wish it expressly understood, that I am not instigated by personal malice towards any one.

The strike originated in the following manner: Mr. WILSON, the clerk lately appointed to fill the vacancy caused by Mr. DEVO leaving the Road, called upon Mr. CLARK to await him in making up the Check Roll, and upon an examination of the Check Roll, it did not appear that the percentage was on it. Mr. WILSON said he did not know anything about any percentage. The former Check Roll was examined and no percentage appeared on it. Mr. CLARK informed him that there was a percentage on the Tremont and Mountain Roads, but did not know the amount, the Check Rolls were then deferred for the present. Shortly after Mr. Clark asked me whether we still received our percentage. I informed him we did, and wanted to know the reason why he asked. His reply was, that they had been looking over the Check Rolls, and could not find it. The same day Mr. WILDER came into the Depot, where I was at work, and I inquired of him, if the percentage had been taken off of our wages; whereupon he replied that it had been taken off, and should remain off, that he had orders from the Company to take it off from the first of January last. This was communicated to the men; and on the evening of the next day, we had a meeting in the Valley School House, and resolved not to go to work until this percentage was allowed as heretofore; up to this time we acted within ourselves, and I really believe that our movements were not known beyond ourselves, and further, I do not think, during the entire continuance of the strike, that Mr. DEVO's advice was either asked or given.

Hoping that a sense of honor to yourself and others will justify you in publishing this, I remain,

Yours, WM PAGE BISHOP.

Schuylkill County ss:

Personally appeared before me, E. F. WESTON, a Justice of the Peace, in and for said County, W. P. BISHOP, of Schuylkill Haven, who being duly sworn according to law, doth depose and, say, that the foregoing is a true statement of the circumstances having relation to the recent strike on the Mine Hill & Schuylkill Haven Rail Road, set out in the above and subscribed by him.

Sworn and Subscribed } Wm. Page Bishop.
this 29th day of Mar., }
A. D. 1853, before me, }
E. F. Weston. }

Josiah Rodenbach, Boas Dreher, Richard Hodson, William Haverty and Michael Thomas, of the town of West Haven, in North Manheim Township, who being duly sworn, each say that they have examined the foregoing statement, and that it contains a true statement of the cause of the strike, and that Mr. WILDER also told us the percentage had been taken off our wages, and should remain off and that he had orders from the Company to take it off from the first of January last.

Sworn and Subscribed } J. Rodenbach,
this 29th day of March } Boas Dreher,
A. D. 1853, before me, } Richard Hodson,
E. F. Weston. } William Haverty,
Michael Thomas.

We, the undersigned, do say that the statement above in regard to the strike is a correct one, for he, Mr. Wilder, said the same words out of the office window to us.

Charles Fesler, Thomas Mellon,
Michael Fesler, John Zeckmann,
Elias Bartolet, George Fertig,
LeVis Bartolet, Charles Geary,
Daniel Zeckman, Henry Harris,
Elias Sheriff, J. Frey,
Patrick Whalen, Moses Kleckner,
Jacob Berger, George Henry,
John Nutts, William Koch,
Jacob Bittle, Robert Wright,
Franklin Kantner William Kantner,
Israel Boyer, Benville Reber,
Jacob Zeckman, Edward Boyer.

Here we have the "strike" attributed directly to the withholding of the percentage in question, after the 1st of January last, in accordance, it is alleged, with the company's instructions to Mr. Wilder; while according to the letter of Mr. Rea, published in the *Journal* last week, it is distinctly stated that the usual per centage was *allowed* in December and *January*, by Mr. Wilder's direction. That letter reads thus:

MR. CARMEL, PA., *March 21, 1853.*

DEAR WILDER, Esq.—*Dear Sir.* I perceive by the papers of Saturday that the cause of the recent "strike" by the Engine crews was the supposed withholding of the per centage up on the Mountain and Tremont Cars.

Having prepared the Check Rolls for December and *January*, I would mention that *by your direction the usual percentage was to be allowed* and fifteen per cent was added upon all the Mountain Cars with eight per cent more for such as went to "Adams & Hecksher's Collieries as far as the Conductors books indicated the latter.

There was also added fifteen per cent upon all the Tremont Cars, but this I presume should have been fifty per cent. Yours Truly,

A. W. REA.

Now, which is right or which mistaken. Here are the statements of both sides, one saying that Mr. Wilson, the new clerk, knew nothing about the percentage—nothing of the kind appearing on the check rolls coming into his hands; while Mr. Rea as positively asserts that he himself made out the accounts for December and *January*, and added the usual percentage; and both parties quote Mr. Wilder, acting under instructions from the company, as authority for these opposite statements. There is certainly some mistake or misunderstanding in the matter somewhere—at whose door to lay it, however, we leave for others to determine.

As we have before stated, our only object in this matter, from the beginning, was to present a truthful account of it to the public; and in so doing we were incidentally drawn into a defence of Mr. Wilder, because we thought he had been grossly misrepresented and unjustly attacked by certain outside parties—and we think so yet. We *know* that Mr. DEVO is personally hostile toward Mr. W., and if we did not, the article in the *Register* before alluded to would leave us no doubt of it. A writer, who could thus, unchallenged, pen the grossest charges against a gentleman, could be prompted only by the bitterest personal enmity and the dominant passions of a malicious disposition.

For the information of the public in accordance with our duty as a Journalist, we spened our columns to whatever was offered for publication on the subject and heard from various sources what was represented to be a straight account of the whole difficulty, corroborated, as it afterwards was, by the manner in which the trouble was settled. All this we published and drew our own inferences therefrom—and very natural ones they were, every unprejudiced mind must admit, with the given data before us. This letter of Mr. Bishop and others above, now gives an entirely different version of the whole affair, and if believed in opposition to the previous statement that the difficulty grew out of a misapprehension on the part of the men, as corroborated by Mr. Rea's letter and their subsequent ready return to work, on the assurance of a proper correction of the mistake, by Mr. Cresson, then different conclusions necessarily follow; but before we make any, we want to know which statement is correct and reliable.

There is evidently some mistake as to Mr. Wilder's language or meaning. But waiving that for the present, and admitting that he did say all the communications above attribute to him, was it a judicious move, on the part of the men, to "turn out" before acquainting the President or other proper officers of the Company with their alleged grievances and asking for the necessary redress? *Then*, and not till then, if refused, was the time to "strike." Besides, they certainly knew, or at least they ought to know, that no company or individual *can* change the established wages of their employees without giving due notice of the same, or if such authority is assumed, the latter have the unquestionable right to recover at law whatever has thus been unfairly withheld.

As to the merits of this particular "strike," we do not now undertake, nor have we at any time before assumed, to determine them. Long ago we laid down the broad principle, which we still believe to be the true and only relative tie between the employer and the employed—that the parties are mutually interested in the *making*, as well as the subsequent fulfilment, of the contract between them, and that one has an equal right with the other to refuse its conditions and to determine for themselves and "among themselves" what wages they will give or what they will take. This is but reasonable and consequently right. It is, moreover, the ultimatum of our strictures on the late difficulty in question, and any inference contrary or in any way different is a wilful perversion of our meaning, thus simply and plainly stated.

This will, perhaps, elicit some reply—if proper for publication, we will give it place in our columns; but after that, we now give notice in due time for the benefit of both parties, we have done with the matter, and anything relating to the "strike," already long past, and interesting, at most, to none but comparatively a very few of our readers, can only secure insertion at our usual rates of advertising.

AGAINST THE MINING LAW.

What Individual Enterprise has done.

That individual enterprise *alone* is sufficient to carry on the Mining business of this Region is abundantly proven by reference to the statistics of the Trade. Of the whole amount of Coal sent to market last year, (1852,) Schuylkill County alone furnished more, than one-half—thus:

From Schuylkill County,	2,519,493	Tons.
" all other Regions,	2,476,037	"

And of the entire quantity sent to market since the commencement of the Anthracite Coal Trade of the United States, the figures stand thus:

From Schuylkill County.	20,447,221	Tons.
" all other Regions,	17,413,631	"

It will, moreover, be found by comparing the operations of this with other Regions worked with Corporate privileges, that with the same amount of capital and equal facilities, individual enterprise will mine *ten* tons of Coal to every *one* got out by a Corporation.

The comparative amounts of Coal sent to market from this and the Lehigh Regions last year, are:

From Schuylkill,	2,519,493	Tons.
" Lehigh,	1,114,026	"

So much for the alleged necessity of Mining Corporations in this County, urged by certain interested parties at Harrisburg.

During the whole period of twenty-odd years, since the first opening of the Trade in this Region, there has never been a time with the solitary, accidental, exception of one year, that our ability to mine coal has not exceeded the demand; and for the last ten years our operations have not been worked to their full capacity, on that account.

Should this Bill unfortunately pass, contrary to the known wishes of our citizens, and in the face of our most urgent remonstrances, they should unite, as one man, in defence of their rights. Let no opportunity pass unimproved to expose the speculations of the Company carrying it into effect to lay bare its false pretentions, by showing up its *red schale* with its little spot of *coal* land, and to open the eyes of its worldly dupes.

In such an event, the people should, and they will, rise, as one man and urge Repeal and Reform. Dropping all other distinctions of party or sectional differences, they will choose their Representatives hereafter with this sole end in view, and every energy will be strained to secure the overturning of such an obnoxious Law, in this County, and to teach these Cormorant speculators a lesson they will not soon forget.

We repeat,—we have no objections to other Regions, enjoying the full benefits of the Law, if they want it. But, as for Schuylkill County, individual enterprise alone has proved itself, indisputably, adequate to our Business, and the people want no Coal Corporations in their midst. The extension of the Law to us is now urged mostly by speculators abroad—men owning land, perhaps, in the outskirts of the Region, but who are not engaged directly in mining coal: while our Operators—those who are actively employed in the business, spending their time, labor and money for its prosecution and development, they, to a man, oppose it and are daily using every possible remonstrance against the passage of the Bill.

NEWSPAPER EMBELLISHMENT.

We find the following *embellished* article going the rounds of the papers:

"THE BURNING COAL MOUNTAIN.—That portion of the Broad Mountain, called the "Fiery Mountains," from the fact of the Anthracite Coal Vein burning on fire—which has been burning for the last fifteen years, is situated about 5 miles from Minersville and 15 from Schuylkill Haven. It is now considered a very dangerous experiment to travel over the mountain, as it is supposed that in many places the surface is a mere superficial crust or shell, the coal having been consumed up to the surface, and hence the least pressure thereon, it is presumed, might break through and let the adventurer down into the fiery chasm below. At the base of the mountain in one place a stream of water almost boiling hot oozes out. The surface of the mountain presents a desolate appearance as far as the eye can reach. The mountain is either cracked, burnt or broke into enormous and fearful depths by the approach of the fires to the upper stratum; roots and trunks of the lofty trees are charred and blackened, emitting their pyrogeneous odor with the sulphurous vapors from the hot caves and crevices around. The calcined bones of birds, reptiles, and small quadrupeds, lie here and there, half mixed with the mineral ashes, to fill up the blasted view, while amidst the vast scene of desolation may be seen a solitary wood-flower, springing from this perpetual "hot-bed," and presenting in the congenial atmosphere a mockery of bloom."

All very pretty, but rather more than folks hereabouts, acquainted with the "diggings," are willing to swallow—those who can, however, are welcome to.

☞ RAILROAD ACCIDENT.—It has been truthfully said that in no place in the world is human life held so cheaply as in this country. Almost every day, we read accounts of fatal accidents, by Railroad, Steamboat or otherwise. One of the most frightful, late ly chronicled, was that on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad on Sunday afternoon last. The two hindmost cars of the Passenger train were thrown off by the parting of the track, and precipitated down a steep embankment 100 feet high, making *four somersets* in their fall, and shattered to pieces at the base. There were about 40 persons in the two cars, of whom eight were killed, and a number of others injured—several, it is thought, fatally. This is said to be the first accident on the Road, resulting in the loss of life.

☞ THE *Miners' Journal* deserves much credit for its efforts to drive the use of intoxicating drinks from the coal regions. There is no place (out of Philadelphia, which is cursed to perfection with rum shops,) where efforts of the kind can be employed to a better advantage.—*Pottstown Ledger.*

Thank you, neighbor, for your compliment. Your accompanying remark, we are sorry to admit, is but too true.

☞ HON. JAMES POLLOCK, of Northumberland, has been named by several cotemporaries as the next Whig candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania. He is, undoubtedly, a strong man.

☞ THE Winter Term of Burlington College, New Jersey, closed last week. The institution, though young, is represented to be in a flourishing condition.

☞ COL. F. M. WYNKOOP, formerly of this place, has been appointed by President PIERCE, Marshal of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

☞ RT. REV. BISHOP DOANE will not go to Europe, as heretofore given out—his health having improved and his duties at home being too pressing to allow his absence.

☞ THE NEW-YORKERS are complaining loudly of dusty streets.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

AMONG THE MANY interesting articles in the last number of the *North British Review*, we notice, "The Prospects of France and the Dangers of England," "Litton on the Church," "Progressive Aspects of Literature," "The Universe and its Laws," "The Legal Profession" &c., &c. Published by SCOTT & CO., New York, together with *Blackwood* and four other English Reviews. For sale at *Bannan's*.

WE ARE INDEBTED to a friend for a handsomely executed copy of the last Anniversary Address before the Delta-Phi Literary Society of Delaware College. This Society is the oldest Literary institution connected with the college—it was established in 1835 and obtained a charter, with the right of conferring diplomas, &c., from the State Legislature in 1849.

THE APRIL NUMBER of the *Illustrated Magazine of Art* contains some twenty embellishments, with a variety of excellent articles—among the latter "Eugenie, Empress of France," "Layard and the Discoveries of Nimrod," and "Sketches of Spanish America" hold a prominent place. For sale at *Bannan's*.

GODEY FOR APRIL is excellent. Besides the usual amount and variety of reading matter, it contains many handsome embellishments, with the latest styles of dress, embroidery patterns, &c., peculiarly interesting to the ladies. To be had at *Bannan's*.

PUTNAM even excels the expectation of his readers and friends. The last number is rich in both embellishment and reading matter. Price $3 a year. To be had at *Bannan's*.

Local Affairs.

☞ *Mechanics' Meeting.*—At an adjourned meeting of the Associated Mechanics of Schuylkill county, held at the Pottsville House on Wednesday evening, March 30th, among other matters of business, it was ordered that the following resolutions be published:

Resolved 1st, That this meeting fully sanction and approve the published proceedings of the 5th of March, and will adhere to the principles and resolutions therein expressed.

Resolved 2d, That the date fixed for an increase of wages be extended to the *first Monday of April*, in every case, where the employer or the employers acquiesce in our demand—as expressed in said resolution—and do not seek to prosecute in any way those who have joined in these measures; the workmen in such establishments are hereby authorized to continue in work—at said increased wages, and in consideration of such portion *losing no time* by reason of the contemplated strike on the 2nd first Monday in April, they are hereby requested *and expected to pay*—the whole of said increase for two weeks—into the general fund—should it be deemed necessary by the Executive Committee; and should we be compelled to continue the strike, the delinquent parties are further required to pay into said fund, 50 per cent of said rise for the two weeks next ensuing, for the benefit of those who are thrown out of work, *through the obstinacy of their employers.*

Resolved 3d, That in the event of any of our employers refusing to raise *our wages* as stipulated in the resolution of the 5th of March, steps be taken as a snudering of all present interests between them and us—as employer and employed, and every man thrown out of work by reason of such refusal, *ought to be at liberty* to seek employment elsewhere, and be at perfect liberty to conclude engagements with other and more liberal employers.

Resolved 4th, That the thanks of this meeting are hereby due, and are hereby tendered to Messrs. Lewis Vastine, of Pottsville, and Abram Dellavan, of Minersville, for their liberal admissions as to the justice of our cause, and their willingness to raise the wages—thus partially sanctioning the principle of *Live and let live!!*

Resolved 5th, That a meeting be held at the Pottsville House, on Saturday, (this) evening, April 2nd, and on Monday evening, April 4th, at 10 o'clock—to further carry out the principles and resolutions of the 5th of March. Adjourned. WM TILL, *Chairman.*

N. A. WYNKOOP, *Secretary.*

☞ *Methodist Appointments.*—From the proceedings the Philadelphia Annual Conference of M. E. Church, we note the following appointments relating to this County and Mauch Chunk:

Pottsville 1st Church & St. Clair—Rev J. L. TAFT
2d Church—C. F. TURNER.
Tremont and Lawrenceville—J. T. GRACEY.
Minersville—J. E. MEREDITH.
Port Carbon—J. H. WYTHES
Schuylkill Haven and Pt. Clinton—L. B. BECKLEY.
Tamaqua, Messer & Gaven, Mauch Chunk—J. E. MCCULLOUGH.

The Rev. Mr. CARROW, of the First Methodist Church, goes to Wilmington, Delaware

"The following resolution was adopted by the Conference by a vote of 105 to 17:

Resolved, That we hereby pledge ourselves to use our influence on all proper occasions to procure the enactment of a law prohibiting entirely the manufacture and sale of *all* intoxicating liquors as a beverage.

Such an almost unanimous approval of a Prohibitory Liquor Law from such a body of men, cannot fail to carry an important weight with it

☞ *Literary Society.*—The last public meeting of the Society, for the season, was held last Wednesday Evening. The usual lecture by S. D. BAER, Esq., was followed by an appropriate and interesting Valedictory from the President Mr. A. P. SPENCER of this place.

At a subsequent Business Meeting the following officers were elected for the ensuing term:

President—WILLIAM H. WELSH.
Vice-President—THOMAS H. WALKER;
Secretary— — DOUGLASS;
Treasurer—I. MACOMB WETHERILL;
Librarian—HOWELL FISHER

☞ *Among the many* improvements, now progressing in the Borough, we notice a large and convenient two-story building just finished before the American House by Mr. JACOB LOSIG, to be fitted up for Billiard and Bowling Saloons. The building runs back from Centre street some 60 feet, and due attention is now being given to fitting up both departments in a comfortable and handsome style.

☞ A *Grand Gift Concert* is announced at the Town Hall for next Monday evening, at which 400 Gifts are to be distributed. This is novel as well as a peculiarly illegal way of entertaining an audience—we bespeak for them a full house. See advertisement in another column.

☞ *Thomas Foster, Esq.*, the oldest member of the present Board of County Commissioners, having served for nearly 24 years, tendered his resignation on Monday last to Judge Pollock, and Mr. Foster will cease to act on Wednesday next.

☞ *The Columbia House*, at Tamaqua, was entered by burglars, one night last week, and a carpet-bag belonging to a traveler, carried off. Several stores in the place were attempted the same night.

☞ *The Continental Ball* on Monday night, was very largely attended. The entertainment throughout is said to have been in excellent style.

☞ *Numerous.*—The mornings in town.

SCHUYLKILL VALLEY AFFAIRS.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE MINERS' JOURNAL.]

MR. EDITOR:—The Schuylkill Valley has been holding on the "even tenor of its way" since my last communication to the *Journal*, and nothing remarkable has occurred deserving special notice.

In all the towns, located at distances of about two miles, literary associations have been organized during the winter, and considerable interest has been manifested in their meetings by a numerous attendance of both sexes. Such meetings cannot fail to exercise a healthful influence upon its participants.

The most exciting occurrence in the valley took place on last Friday. A dog, bearing all the symptoms of Hydrophobia, was chased from New Philadelphia, biting everything in its way. Dogs, Hogs, Goats and Geese, until the marksman of Patterson succeeded in "laying him low," at that place. This is the fifth, having been shot at Patterson within a few weeks, all bearing unmistakable signs of that disease. To prevent the further extension of this dreadful malady, a meeting of the citizens of Middleport was held, when it was resolved that "all Dogs running at large without being muzzled shall be shot," and after such notice had been given to the public, the Resolution was executed in fact.

It reports be correct, the number of dogs killed between New Philadelphia and Tuscarora, within a few weeks, must far exceed one hundred, and yet there are "a few more left."

The Middleport Lodge, No. 474, I. O. O. F., has just closed the first term of its existence, during which time upward of fifty members have been initiated. The Lodge is in a flourishing condition. At an election held by its members at their Hall on Friday evening last, the following officers were elected for the ensuing term, viz:—Henry Meyer, W. G; Michael Dormetzer, V. G.; Charles Bensinger, S.; Gerhard Gengelhoff, A. S.; Daniel Koch, T.; William Walker, R. G. L.; Charles Marsh, John Williams, George Bearnhard, Trustees

Yours &c., X

Middleport, March 28, 1853

MINERSVILLE AFFAIRS.

☞ *The Bulletin* establishment has been disposed of to Mr. S. S. MILLAR. It was started two years and a half ago by Mr. GEORGE WYNKOOP, and up to this time has been conducted by him. The new Editor introduces himself in a short but happily expressed article. The paper will be conducted as heretofore, with, of course, various promised improvements, &c. We have no other than a wish for the success of the enterprise.

☞ *Peter Fritz, Esq.*, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows, visited the brethren at Minersville last week, and delivered a lecture before the Social and Anthracite Lodges present at their Hall.

☞ *Michael Weaver* has been appointed Postmaster at Minersville. He was to have entered upon his official duties yesterday, so the *Bulletin* says.

[COMMUNICATED.]

CURIOUS DISCOVERY.

MR. B. BANNAN:—As some workmen were engaged in clearing the ground near the old Coal Mine, about a mile east of Mt. Carmel, on Friday last, (25th ult.) they discovered a human skull plainly covered by the leaves. Upon examining the spot they found the bones of an apparently tall man, covered with an inch or two of decayed leaves, and a growth of small underbrush. The bones were considerably decayed, and must have laid there many years. Traces of the hair, of a light color, could be detected; and portions of the clothing, quite rotten, and still retained the fine roots of growing plants to cover the bones