The Miners' Journal

POTTSVILLE, PA.

Saturday Morning, June 4.

B. BANNAN, Editor and Proprietor:
O. 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.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN MARYLAND.

The Catholic agitation against the Public Schools, in Maryland, has resulted in the passage of a Bill, to a third reading, prohibiting the use of *sectarian books* in Public Schools, after amending by adding a proviso that this' prohibition shall not extend to the Bible.

A similar law will be asked of our Legislature next winter. In the present School Law of this State, the Books are under the control of the Directors; and the Protestant Directors have never, to our knowledge, introduced a single sectarian book into the Schools, unless the Bible is called a sectarian book; but in almost every instance where there is a preponderance of Roman Catholic Directors, the books of the Church, particularly the Catechism, are introduced into the Public Schools. We know of one instance in this County, where a Catholic Teacher was employed, who threw all the books out and refused to use any other kind than those approved by the Catholic Church, until the Directors notified him that unless the books were removed from the School in one week, he would be instantly dismissed. The books were removed, but the Teacher succeeded in exciting the odium of the Catholic population against the Board of Directors. In many districts timid Directors would have overlooked such movements sooner than encounter the opposition of the Catholic population. As far as we can learn, there are at least eight or ten Schools—Public Schools—in Schuylkill County, where the Catholic catechism is used by permission of the Directors.

"THE COLLIERS OF ENGLAND."

Under this caption we recently copied from an exchange an article credited to the *Gospel Herald*, professing to give an account of the condition, moral, mental and physical, of English Miners. It was inadvertently selected, noticing the heading, as appropriate for our Mining Department, without giving more than a casual glance at the body of the article. On re-examination, however, we recognize it as an old extract from some traveler's letters, and quite inappropriate to the present state of things in the English Collieries. The description was, no doubt, very correct some twenty or fifteen years ago—females and children were then employed in the Mines, and their powers greatly overtasked; but Parliament turned its attention to the subject, and this class of operatives are now, and have for many years, been forbidden by law from the labors of the Collieries, and much has, of late, been done to elevate the moral and social condition of the Miners. It is a worthy fact that the Miners are among the most skillful and most industrious Miners in this country.

We cheerfully give place to the following communication, in further correction of this matter:

GOLD MINE GAP, Lebanon Co., May 29, 1853.

SIR:—Having been a reader of your valuable paper for some months past, judging from its contents that you are a man not given to jumping at, but one that will give a poor man a space in your locomotive as freely as a rich man—it has induced me to write to you on the present occasion to ask a small space in your columns, as it is the duty of every man, if he sees a wrong statement in a newspaper, to refute the error if it lies in his power.

I shall, in the present case take it upon me to refute the statement made in your *Journal* of May 21st, 1853, respecting the Colliers of England; whereon your correspondent comments on the ignorance and degradation of the Colliers of England, and particularly the female race. He is known to you and to all the readers of your widely circulated paper, that females are not allowed at all to work in the mines, nor any where near the mouth of the Pit; and as to their ignorance, I can say, for months, it is all a falsehood, as every man and boy leaves the pit at the close of every day's labor, which, in some places, terminates at 5 o'clock, and in others, at 6 P. M. And as to their dress, I see the doors belong in bits of rags; it is not reasonable man judge for himself—what can either man or boy do in total darkness? In every part of the district where I have been and that has been in two of the largest coal districts in England, the boys that tend the doors are never provided with candles or supplied with a lamp, by the owners of the Mines. It is true, gunpowder provides to a great extent among them, but it is not to be put down because a part are in ignorance! Show me a class of operatives or trade-men where there are not some ignorant and depraved characters. There are many respectable and intelligent men employed in Collieries of England; and I can, without fear, be ashamed of White's the mendacious upstart American Miners' Church Engineer, at the utmost statement is an insult to the feelings of the Colliers of America, as the great majority of the Miners are Englishmen or descendants of English stock. To whom is America indebted for her present prosperity but to miners? It is either English miners or their descendants that have opened the mountains in quarries of iron Ore—that work the Blast Furnace to convert the iron into Pig Iron—English men that work the Pig Iron into different kinds of manufactured iron with which the Foundries made Stoves, Hollow ware, and all kinds of machinery, which adds to the wealth of the United States. So that any reasonable and impartial man will at once conclude that miners are a useful class in society, and of a different class of men to the brute creation, as if they were devoid of reason and all moral feelings. It is true the masters take very little care of the morals of their workmen; but I can say, that of Colliers, there are some deeply Christian Christians among them. Really, we think they are deserving of commiseration and pity, but not you were to be the man. Let mining districts of England, you would be impartial, miners are in good and comfortable circumstances, and, though their masters neglect them, yet the time has come when they are beginning to occupy a position to take care of themselves morally, mentally for the young men have formed Institutes, into classes, to meet to read and to pass lectures to each other, some on one science and some on another. They have also established reading rooms and lending libraries. Where you find good and useful books for one penny per month, and you will find that miners are raising themselves in society and that they are men who deserve respect rather than censure and insult. Not wishing to be offensive to any one; I have written to you with the truth hoping that you will be kind enough to publish the above, and much oblige,

Yours respectfully,
GEORGE GARRETT Miner.

THE NATURAL CONSEQUENCE.

"It is a long lane that has no turning." Our State administration is now beginning to prove the force of this old adage. The enormous extravagance of our government machinery, of late, has driven the Executive to the necessity of a loan of $700,000 from the city Banks, to be applied to the North Branch Canal and other improvements—the money to bear interest at 6 per cent. Upwards of $2,000,000 were appropriated, by the last Legislature, for the repairs of the State Canals, besides innumerable other useless expenditures, to an alarming amount—hence the collapsed condition of the State Treasury now.

Tax-payers, look sharp after your interests—this money comes, eventually, out of your pockets. It is high time Pennsylvania lawmakers should be taught a lesson on public economy, or if they will not learn, let them stay at home hereafter and spend their own money, not other people's.

IMPORTANT TEMPERANCE MOVE.

The Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows of this State, recently assembled in Philadelphia, passed the following telling resolution, with but eight dissenting voices in the whole body:

Resolved, That any member of a subordinate Lodge, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the I. O. O. F. of the State of Pennsylvania, who shall keep a tipling shop, or in other words, an unlicensed place for the sale of intoxicating liquors, in violation of the laws of the State, shall be formally proceeded against, and if found guilty, shall be expelled.

The Order now numbers upwards of *Forty-four thousand strong* in Pennsylvania, and if this resolution be sustained—and from the known character of Odd Fellowship, we see no reason why it will not be carried out, to the letter—it will not be a powerful tendency toward the uprooting of the strong-holds of King Alcohol.

☞ ARCHBISHOP HUGHES, of New York, paid a visit to President Pierce last week.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

"LOUPER LYLON, OR THINGS SEEN AND HEARD," by Mr. MARY E. HERBERT—just published by LIPPINCOTT, GRAMBO & Co., Phila. This book is written in easy form, in a style highly interesting as well as instructive. The reader will not repent the time spent over its pages. For sale at *Bannan's*.

PETERSON, for June, even surpasses the previous numbers of this interesting Monthly. The contents present a most pleasing variety of reading matter, besides several good illustrations. This work is well worth the price of subscription. Published by PETERSON & Co., New York. To be had at *Bannan's*—price $3 a year, or 25 cents a number.

THE MESSRS. BIDDEL, Philadelphia, have just published "An Elementary Treatise on Book-keeping, by single and double entry," designed for schools, containing four sets of books by single entry, and six sets by double entry. The author is S. W. CRITTENDEN. This is a valuable work for merchants, clerks, and indeed all who have business accounts to keep. To be had at *Bannan's*.

Local Affairs.

☞ *Town Improvements Continued:*—

THE PENNSYLVANIA HALL, one of the oldest and best Hotels in the Borough has lately been undergoing a rejuvenating process, at the hands of the Painters, Paper-hangers and Upholsterers. The hall, parlors, bar, dining and reading rooms have been beautified with new wall-paper, and the floors covered with carpets and oil-cloths of the handsomest patterns, fresh from the manufacturers. Chairs, tables, sofas, mirrors, table-service, &c., &c., have also been added, to correspond with the improved appearance of the different apartments.

The history of the Hall is quite identified with that of the County. Its old time "friends will be glad to learn of its prosperity, while its present patrons grow fat in their comfortable quarters, over its daily good cheer. The Hall table has long been justly celebrated—it is always supplied with the best of the market and prepared in a style that only good housewives understand. So also with the sleeping apartments—everything there is arranged with the most scrupulous regard to neatness and cleanliness. These are two departments of Hotel accommodations—the table and the bed-chamber—about which travelers are most particular and yet in which often the best that is, the most popular) are sadly deficient. The Hall (we speak from experience) is preeminent in both.

The new STEAM ENGINE, we noticed last week, has been put in operation since, but did not work as was predicted for it, on account of the mal-construction of an important part of the machinery—her connections for the passage of steam from the boiler to the globes, before described. From the power and speed attained, however, even with this imperfect gearing, the inventor, Mr. BECKER, is quite sanguine of his ultimate success. He is also engaged to erect a Pump on the same principle, as soon as possible, for the Colliery where this Engine is to be put up.

The Machine in Philadelphia, constructed on this principle is the Diaphragm Steam Pump, for which a patent was lately secured. Mr. BECKER goes to Camden in a few days to put up another there of similar construction. It was this Pump apparatus we before stated, that suggested the construction of an Engine for driving ordinary machinery.

☞ *Judge Jordan*, of Northumberland, Co., has been holding Court here, during the week, in the stead of Judge HUGHES, who is still lying ill at Sunbury. Much business has been dispatched, and the Judge makes a most favorable impression, both upon the public and the bar, by his bearing on the bench, as well as his courteous manners in private.

☞ *A Nuisance*—not the Gymnasium on Norwegian-Street, but the crowds of noisy children that regularly attend the evening performance—do the neighbors know they're out? If the Police would lead some of them home, it might elucidate the inquiry, besides conferring a general benefit upon the neighborhood.

☞ *I. O. of O. F.*—At a stated meeting in April last, held by the different Lodges in the County D. G. Mentzwalt, Esq., was elected District Deputy Grand Master of the County of Schuylkill.

☞ *Mr. C. M. Hall* has withdrawn from the editorial charge of the *Mining Register* newspaper, in this place, and G. L. VEIET, a former partner in the concern, resumes his place. The firm is now VEIET & DEVO.

SCHUYLKILL HAVEN AFFAIRS.

[FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.]

☞ *The principal theme* of gossip with us at present, is that last freak of his Excellency, our Umpire—the Governor—in his sanctioning the Panther Creek and Laurel Run *Tape Worms*. But from what I can learn the "old gentleman" is not to blame. Those "what wanted" the bill to *go through*, knew that there was a time when Morpheus had full sway of the "great of mankind," and therefore took "this method" to bring the *fairy* under the benign influence of *mint drops and Hairing stock*. Blessed be the man that invented night; for it is at this particular time that "some things can be done as well as others."

Mr. J. Breinig's shoe store was entered one night last week and robbed of about Fifty dollars worth of goods. The robber or robbers gained entrance from the second story.

The vicinity of S. Haven is certainly most beautiful and picture-quest this time. Rich valleys surround us which never looked more luxuriant.

Yours truly,
"Schuylkill Haven, June 1st, '53. SETH-EL.

☞ *Drowned.*—An unknown man, about 40 years of age, was drowned in the canal at Schuylkill Haven, on Monday night last, under circumstances that have given rise to much excitement and still more talk in the community and surrounding neighborhood.

The story runs thus:—A stranger appeared in Pottsville some days ago with a horse and wagon, and after some difficulty sold the horse to Mr. John Temple of this place. He then hitched his wagon behind a cart going to Schuylkill Haven, and on reaching that place employed some boys to haul it to the Railroad Depot, for the purpose, as he said, of sending it off by the Freight line. About 11 o'clock, in the evening, two citizens passing saw a lingering horse to the wagon, and in reply to their enquiry, he said he was going to Harrisburg. It was thought strange a stranger bent on starting for such a journey, and one of the passers-by, actually, and more in jest than earnest, remarked to the other, "he would bet that the horse was stolen," when much to their surprise, the stranger left the horse and wagon and scampered off as fast as possible. The citizens gave chase, and, after running some twenty or thirty yards, heard a splash in the water. Thinking he intended to swim across, one ran over the bridge to the other side to prevent his escape, when his friend immediately called him to return, that the man was drowning. A boat was at once on foot, and every effort made to save him, but although he had been at the water scarcely over 15 or 20 minutes, when taken out, he was found dead, and all the restoratives applied proved useless.

He is represented to have been a good looking man and well dressed. Several gold dollars and a $24 gold piece were found in his pockets. No clue whatever could be discovered as to his name, occupation or residence. The mistaken report of his being a counterfeiter arose from finding some advertising medals about his person. The verdict of the Coroner's Jury, subsequently held upon his body, was rendered in accordance with the facts as stated above. Our Schuylkill Haven correspondent supposes the deceased to have been Andrew Dewes, a notorious character of Philadelphia.

The horse, agreeable to suspicion, proved to belong to Capt. Stewart Lyle, a boatman on the Canal. He was found outside the stable at Mr Butz's Tavern, where he had been taken with part of the harness on him, some portions having fallen off, on his way back from the wagon to the stable.

☞ *A Masonic Lodge* is to be opened at Schuylkill Haven, next Tuesday afternoon. The ceremonies will, no doubt, attract many persons.

MINERSVILLE AFFAIRS.

[FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.]

MR. BANNAN:—The Laborers engaged upon the New Ashland Railroad, under the employment of the Contractors, made a decided "strike," Saturday afternoon. The disease originated, I am informed, among the hands of Mr. Nagle, at the head of the line, and some 200 in number, all "sprigs of the Emerald Isle," each provided with one of their favorite implements of destruction, a "Shillelah," took up their line of march.

Their cries of "Tin hours and a Livy an hour," passed unheeded, though issued from "stentorian lungs," as their employers seem determined that they will not comply with so unreasonable a requirement.

The Schuylkill County Educational Convention will commence its session in our Borough, on the 1st of July next. A meeting of Teachers and others interested, was held on Saturday afternoon, 28th inst. relative to the appointment of committees, &c. We have in our midst those who feel a deep interest in the cause of Education, and, I have no doubt, they will use every exertion to render the occasion an interesting and profitable one.

On Monday last, an Irishman named John Buckley was almost instantly killed by a fall of Coal, at the mines of Mr. John Stanton, Glen Carbon. He was a single man, 34 years of age.

A lad named Lewis Christopher was severely injured in the mines of E. Miller & Co., on last Saturday morning, by having his head caught in some manner between a drift car (while in motion) and an adjoining prop. Though still living, his recovery is considered doubtful.

The weather, except a slight shower, has been pleasant for the past week.

Yours truly,
Minersville, June 2d, '53. KEYSTONE.

PORT CARBON AFFAIRS.

[FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.]

MR. BANNAN:—It is very consoling to have a sympathising friend, into whose ear can be poured our tales of woe!" where there is secrecy as well as confidence. Now, if you cannot keep a secret you have only to impart it to your thousands of readers, and there it is safe.

The inhabitants of our town, whose properties, in the low ground, are very indignant at the treatment they have received for several years from the Coal Operators, both in the Valley and Mill Creek. They have for years been emptying the coal dirt from their breakers directly into the streams running by us, until it has accumulated to a very annoying extent; and the Schuylkill Navigation Company, to preserve a sufficient depth of water, have raised their dam above its original height, inundating the above property with dirt and water. The occupants are determined to submit no longer, and it will soon be damage or no damage, according to law, made and provided.

The Schuylkill Navigation Company, being the greatest sufferers by this influx of dirt, (being obliged to keep a steam excavator and a number of men cleaning the channel nearly all the time,) ought to prevent the Operators from putting this dirt into the water, in order to secure their works below and make them more profitable. It would be better to make the upper Dam navigable for boats of the largest burden, as far as the Steam Mill, thus securing both the grain and iron business of this place.

There arrived in our Dock, this week, a Steam Propeller, the Daniel P. Shenfelter. They say she can "walk the water like a thing of life."

If any capitalists propose starting a Locomotive manufactory, according to your suggestion, in this region, let them call here and examine our stock of facilities, such as room, access and every other convenience imaginable, before purchasing elsewhere," as the advertisements say.

Port Carbon, June 3d, 1853.

[FROM THE MINERS' JOURNAL.]

PORT CARBON, June 1st, 1853.

DEAR BANNAN:—Any person at all conversant with Port Carbon and its affairs for the last ten years, in coming into it now, would be led to suppose that its inhabitants had just waked up from a long continued sleep, or dream, to a sense of their true interests and danger. They now seem to realize that it is their interest to improve the place by raising, grading and curbing their streets, and thereby give the place an air of health and comfort, that will induce business men and capitalists to come and settle among them, and in that way enhance the value of their property. They also see that they are in danger of being drowned by the back water of the Schuylkill Navigation, and finally covered up by the coal dirt sent down by the streams from both valleys, and they have set themselves manfully to work to remedy the evils so long endured. Many thanks to a good Labouring Legislature, who thought by incorporating our village into a Borough they would make us all good Democrats; but if they have failed in that, as the returns of last fall election will show abundantly they have they have taken the control of the affairs of the Borough out of the hand of the original proprietors, who have always acted (except when some person wished to purchase a lot) as though the town plot was only a fit place to deposit coal dirt, and that their interests would be first promoted by driving every kind of business out of the place and converting it into a pool of stagnant water for the generation of Fever and Ague. The place, for the last ten years, has presented so forbidding an aspect that a stranger would not stay over night in it, or if from some mishap he was obliged to stay, he would hurry away by the earliest peep of dawn, congratulating himself on his happy escape from a place where people paid so little attention to external appearances, or their individual comfort. But there is a point beyond which endurance ceases to be a virtue, and they think they have arrived at that point, and so, as an evidence of it, I would state, that a large and enthusiastic meeting was held at the house of Mr. Wrath, on Friday evening last, for the purpose of ascertaining if they had any rights, and if they have, what those rights are or if the Schuylkill Navigation Company have a right to raise their dam to such a height as to ruin all private property and yet not be liable for damages, or if the coal men on the Mill Creek have a right to make their property a place for depositing their coal dirt without first paying for it. After the object of the meeting was stated, a committee was appointed to receive contributions to a fund to be expended in furthering the object of the meeting, and to employ counsel to commence prosecution immediately against the Schuylkill Navigation Company and all others engaged in filling up the stream and obstructing the free passage of the water. A large contribution was paid down at the time by those present, and all who have been waited upon by the committee, since, have paid liberally for the object in view. More anon.

A CITIZEN.

NEW YORK LETTER.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Quake week—Fire in Brooklyn—Late Accident on the New Haven Railroad—Orphan Asylum and Charity—Arrival of Celebrities—Departures—Murders—Arctic Expedition—Foreign News—New Post Office Envelopes—Hage nuggets.

NEW-YORK, May 29th, 1853.

DEAR JOURNAL:—It is a trite saying that there is nothing new under the sun, and a trifling one it seems to be verified by the present unpleasant weather we have had during the past week. It was the anniversary season during which the disciples of Fox & Burbs hold their annual meeting in our city, and from time immemorial, "quake week" has been the signal for postponement of every sort and kind—overshoes and umbrellas are in brisk demand, while broad brimmed hats and dinged streets are synonymous terms. Quakers! Though were the saying true in the letter, I fear your readers would be but little edified by the communications of their New York correspondent. Still, notwithstanding, this remnant of literary Cayenne, we think that a little news may possibly be gathered for the amusement of the public.

Our sister city, over the river, Brooklyn, has been visited by a conflagration, which, though extensive, destroyed a comparatively small amount of property, and is looked upon by some as a benefit than otherwise. The fire burned over about two acres, consuming nearly thirty houses and forty thousand dollars worth of goods. The buildings were, for the most part, old wooden affairs, in Hell, of little value, and as the ground is very valuable and finely located, the site will be occupied by elegant edifices much to the improvement of that portion of the city.

Numerous suits have been commenced against the New Haven Railroad Company, in consequence of the late accident, among which we notice one for $25,000, and one for $100,000, by the relatives of a Boston Physician there killed. Five said that the Directors have voted to declare no more dividends at present, but apply the earnings of the road to the payment of these claims. Their stock has fallen materially under these circumstances, and the calamity is likely to cost them a very large sum of money.

Speaking of stocks, the largest variation has been in that of the Crystal palace, which has fallen from 17½ the highest figure, to including, to 110, at which rates it is now offered. The reasons are evident; the long delay has rather prejudiced the minds of holders, and the creation of new capital stock, has, of course, diminished the value of the original. The exhibition will, if possible, be more attractive than ever, it seems, and it will be a great loss if we should not succeed in opening the exhibition this season. I am fearful that it will be late in the summer before we shall be enabled to dedicate the crystal roof.

Property in the immediate vicinity has increased in value almost fabulously, and the prices asked and paid for rents are beyond belief, indeed they are such as no business can pay, with the exception of retailing liquor to the vicious portion of our mankind, congested therewith in great cities—The location being without the fire limits, the buildings erected are mostly wooden, which are rented at the rate of several thousand dollars per annum, several times the first cost of the house itself. Your readers may mark me when I say that the neighborhood of the great Exhibition will be one of the greatest sinks of vice and iniquity that ever any city could claim for its. We regret to be obliged to entertain such an opinion, but a candid correspondent should not conceal candid conjectures.

Our city now contains one of the finest works of art, now extant. The colossal statue of DeWitt Clinton, once Governor of the State of New York, and a man unequaled by any other in internal improvements, the master spirit of that great work, national, indeed, we may call it, the Erie canal. The statue is 10½ feet in height, elevated upon a pedestal of 32 feet, representing Clinton standing with his right foot forward, his cloak taken from one shoulder, displaying the chest and head to full advantage. His fine features are splendidly cut, and evince that talent of design and that energy of execution, which made him emphatically the man of his day and enabled him to leave his mark deep and indelible on the institutions of his native country. The front and rear faces of the bas-relief are copied by five reliefs, and those on the sides are plain, having been left for an inscription. The front represents the ceremony of breaking ground upon the Erie canal. At one side stands the surveyor and his assistant with a chain measuring off the ground, and at the other, we see the workmen busily engaged upon the work. Here, beneath the ringing strokes of the woodman's axe, lofty trees are falling, while we almost hear the forest re-echo the blows, and there with stalwart arm the laborer's shovel and pick with unresistant labor heaves away the rock and soil. In the back ground are seen the hire crowds intent upon the work. The rear face shows us the completed undertaking in the shape of a boat taking on her cargo and preparing to start. Upon her deck stands the sturdy son of the Pilgrims with his *fair* and children, upon his face depicted the sweet reminiscences of the home he has left, for home is home no matter where it be, yet as he pulls phlegmatically away upon that page, he seems to think of the "good time coming," away in the vast west of this refuge, for that oppressed of every clime—full in front we see a stout negro tugging at a box of Virginia Tobacco, how well displayed that third up and that woolly pate and yet that good humored face, whose every lineament seems to say "Hey boys, carry me 'long." would put to rout a dozen Uncle Toms with their doleful tales. And lastly, the saddest group of the entire, an Indian squaw and child stooping upon the ground and at their back a noble Indian, surveyors of the scene. How sadly they strike the heart! The Empire lost, the dismal vista of the future too plainly speaks from that dejected family.

This exquisite statue is the work of H. K. Brown, and cost $15,000. It is to be erected over standing in the park, for addition to the public.

After having enlarged thus far on generalities, let me give you a short resume of particulars. The use of the knife is becoming alarmingly frequent in under sentence of death in the dungeons of our jails. We have to chronicle within the past week, no less than three, two of which were fatal, and will, undoubtedly consign their perpetrators to a dance upon nothing. On Wednesday night, one Charles Clancy was murdered by his brother, whom he was endeavoring to prevail upon to go home when intoxicated, and on Tuesday a man named Michael Lawler was stabbed in a quarrel at a groggery on the Five Points. Both of these have resulted in death, and still on Thursday, one man stabbed another with an opera-glass, in 13th street, and is now awaiting in prison the result of his injuries. Here is a wide field for the speculators upon capital punishment to argue in, and were I to incline I might preach quite a sermon thereon. This *readers*, and there it is safe.

The inhabitants of our town, whose properties, in the low ground, are very indignant at the treatment they have received for several years from the Coal Operators, both in the Valley and Mill Creek. They have for years been emptying the coal dirt from their breakers directly into the streams running by us, until it has accumulated to a very annoying extent; and the Schuylkill Navigation Company, to preserve a sufficient depth of water, have raised their dam above its original height, inundating the above property with dirt and water. The occupants are determined to submit no longer, and it will soon be damage or no damage, according to law, made and provided.

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A CITIZEN.

[FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.]

PHILADELPHIA, June 2, 1853.

The General Assembly—The new High and Normal Schools—A Terrible Scene—Sunday School Union—Death—Escape of Joseph Gibbon—Catholic Strife—City Hotel—Trial of Spear, &c.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church is still in session. The most important business transacted thus far, has been the election of Professors and the establishment of a first-class Theological Seminary at Danville, in the Mississippi Valley, to be called "The Danville Theological Seminary," and also the election of the eloquent Dr. Boardman, of this city, to fill a vacant professorship at the Princeton Seminary.

The corner stones of the new High and Normal Schools were laid on Tuesday last, in the presence of large assemblages; both buildings are to be noble structures, well suited for the object in view—the imparting of a collegiate education to those who, whose parents are unable or unwilling to place them in the care and expense of private institutions.

A most melancholy picture of real life has just come to our view—a poor woman, residing in the county of 10th and Vine streets, attempted to murder her three children and commit suicide, with a blunt carving-knife, and whilst laboring under temporary insanity—the result, probably, of poverty and the want of the common necessaries of life. The children and poor mother have been cared for, and are now doing well.

A very large meeting was held on last Tuesday evening to adopt measures in aid of the "American Sunday School Union," before adjournment the sum of $15,000 was pledged to the funds of the institution, whose objects are building Sunday Schools, circulating books, and sending out "Colporteurs" to the destitute portions of the United States.

I have to chronicle the decease of another well-known citizen in the death of Thomas M. Pettit. Among his early labors, he was District Court of Philadelphia, afterwards U. S. District Attorney, and lately appointed by President Pierce to the Directorship of the Mint.

One of the greatest villains that ever disgraced Pennsylvania, Joseph Gibbons by name, made his escape from the temporary lock-up, below the Mayor's office, on Saturday last; he was held in default of $15,000 bail for two attempts at murder, and some dozen other crimes.

The Catholics here are slowly coiling their serpent forms around the free institutions by building new churches, parochial schools, daily papers, lectures (with Pope of New York, at their head) and same Church fairs, failing to get a share of the "public" school fund, they are setting out for themselves. Strife cannot be long in abeyance, so they may in this case, should matters come to blows, the fearful scenes of 1844 will be repeated.

Many of your readers may remember the City Hotel, in Third Street above Market, for a long time the chief Hotel in the "town" of 1810, and where that strange being, Lafayette Randolph, killed his betrothed bride, Miss Nell! the venerable edifice has fallen before the iron hand of improvement; a row of fine stores will soon occupy the site.

Hope—hope beyond the pleasure which the tongue can tell—shall I feel, if, with this same hand I can smooth the pillow of the dying soldier, give, like Abercrombie in the sands of Egypt, to his quivering lip, the cup which shall soothe the fever of his hot breath, or over his humble coffin, like the poet over the grave of young Marcellus, strew the purple flowers. [Applause.]

And since, also, it is denied me to kiss the damp wet with the blood of those young noble—the Shadrach, Meschach, and Abednego of freedom—then let me embrace this. [He here embraced the tattered and shot-riddled flag of the Volunteers, which they had so bravely borne at the storming of Chepultepec the symbol of that citizenship which—in the words uttered on the steps of the Capitol on the morning of the 4th of March—shall be an invulnerable panoply for American rights, and invested with which the poorest laborer shall stand unabashed even in the presence of kings. [Vociferous and prolonged applause, and waving of hats and handkerchiefs.]

Soldiers of Cerro Gordo! Soldiers of Contreras and Churubusco! Far from your homes, from the Hudson to Lake Texuca, you have borne this flag with honor. Remains carried it in the left hand while the right hand was shattered, and pressed with it only when death struck it from his grasp. [Applause.] Lake seized it, and, waving it, was shot down. And then another, and then another, until you struck to the captured field. [Hissing and long applause.] From the storming trusty you have brought it back unsullied to your homes beside the Hudson, save by those rents which have rendered it a sacred relic, and it is due to you that, henceforth, it should be a sacred relic, and it is due to you that, henceforth, it should be a sacred relic, and it is due to you that, henceforth, your fading strength shall go with it. You should enjoy that peace which in the words of the sacred book, "is like a clear heat upon herbs, and a cloud of dew in the heat of the harvest," and so spend serenely the remainder of the days spared to you in the great storm that swept the base and summit of the Sierra Madre.

May that day ever fail to find her cause champion on the battle field, to shield it from decay, and bear it like a charmed robe, unhurt through the flames of war. [Long and loud applause.] May that flag never lose one star. [Applause.] but, as the Old Thirteen have multiplied in time, may others be no less brilliant, be added thereto; and may the constellation which first shone out through the tempest and the lightnings, and has now become fixed in the blue expanse of peace on every season, serve, as the nations, journeying like the Magi of old, by its mellow rays, to lead to a new faith and destiny, by the light it gives! [Applause.] May it mount to where the Amazon leaps from fount to crag, in the Andes; may it be seen upon the river Amur, and the Indian Archipelago of Japan, and in the effulgence which it sheds, side by side with the rude structures of your making, may the grates of life spring up, may literature and the arts flourish; may the canvass become memorable immortal with the great conceptions of your sons; and may the chisel and the furnace contribute to the genius of America the fame of Phidias and Corinna, as we have seen that genius immortalize the beauty of Greece in her maidens and chaste, and later still unveiling that famous production which fronts the White House, in which the features of nature are not only copied, but the laws of nature, by the dumb charger, are obeyed! [Long and loud applause.]

Gen. Hull, officers and soldiers of the war, ladies and gentlemen of New York! to this republic—respondering all foreign powers and potentates—have taken the oath of allegiance and, in the new sphere and citizen-hip which it opened to me here do I trust to prove the sincerity with which that oath was taken, and my deep sense of the duties which, by this act devolved upon me. [Applause.] Faithful to the principles on which this commonpile is framed, faithful to the laws on which it proceeds and operates; faithful to the institutions which distribute the vitality while they secure the unity of the whole; faithful, above all, to that moral public sentiment, [Tremendous applause,] which is the illumination of the public mind, ensures the perpetuity of a condition of government and society, based upon intelligence and good sense, qualifying, in each succeeding generation, the entire body of citizens, yet the more wisely to exercise their great faculties, diminishing the chances of the imposter, and in the end, elevating the democracy to the highest level instead of keeping it to the lowest—[pause]—the fee of bigotry, from whatever pulpit it may descend, [applause] or, in whatever garb it may rise or pray its maddening pranks—the fee of tyranny in every clime, whether it be the tiara under which it marches, or whether, in the ceremonies with which it is installed [applause]—acting as you have acted,—true as you have been true, brave soldiers! liberal of my services to the Republic, as you have been liberal of your blood, in the cause of the Republic, as you have been [applause]—I trust that it it be the will of Heaven to crown me with the white lilies and the silver cerulean of age, looking back upon a life well spent, I shall be able to say with the fiery foe of Catoline, the conspirator against the Roman Commonwealth—

"*Rempublicam defessi adolescens, non deseram senes.*"

And why should I not stand, with a proud love and courage to this Republic, her interests, her laws and institutions? Here are my sons, my children, in consequence, I trust, of the sacrifices and the violation of what their ancestors (simple souls) thought would be written down and acted upon as a law.

BEN M.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE MINERS' JOURNAL.]

CATAWISSA VALLEY, May 28, 1853.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Having promised you, in any last letter that, should anything new turn up, I would give you due notice thereof, I now redeem the pledge by fulfilling my promise. In addition to the improvements spoken of in any last, I would mention a few more.

Dr. FORSTER has erected a new and beautiful house, and has yet with a few minutes walk from the Borough of Rugtown. It is said to exceed, in beauty and finish, any other house in the Valley. The tract of land situate in Union Township, and known as the Baily tract, has been connected by Messrs. Reber and Eckert, and HENRY GUTTERMAN, of Port Carbon; and the tract of land, also situated in this township, and known as the Reber and Eckert Tract, has been purchased by Mr. STRAUS and LEBTHAN BUMP, of Port Carbon. Report says a Boston Physician there killed. Five said that the Directors have voted to declare no more dividends at present, but apply the earnings of the road to the payment of these claims. Their stock has fallen materially under these circumstances, and the calamity is likely to cost them a very large sum of money.

Speaking of stocks, the largest variation has been in that of the Crystal palace, which has fallen from 17½ the highest figure, to including, to 110, at which rates it is now offered. The reasons are evident; the long delay has rather prejudiced the minds of holders, and the creation of new capital stock, has, of course, diminished the value of the original. The exhibition will, if possible, be more attractive than ever, it seems, and it will be a great loss if we should not succeed in opening the exhibition this season. I am fearful that it will be late in the summer before we shall be enabled to dedicate the crystal roof.

Property in the immediate vicinity has increased in value almost fabulously, and the prices asked and paid for rents are beyond belief, indeed they are such as no business can pay, with the exception of retailing liquor to the vicious portion of our mankind congested therewith in great cities—The location being without the fire limits, the buildings erected are mostly wooden, which are rented at the rate of several thousand dollars per annum, several times the first cost of the house itself. Your readers may mark me when I say that the neighborhood of the great Exhibition will be one of the greatest sinks of vice and iniquity that ever any city could claim for its. We regret to be obliged to entertain such an opinion, but a candid correspondent should not conceal candid conjectures.

Our city now contains one of the finest works of art, now extant. The colossal statue of DeWitt Clinton, once Governor of the State of New York, and a man unequaled by any other in internal improvements, the master spirit of that great work, national, indeed, we may call it, the Erie canal. The statue is 10½ feet in height, elevated upon a pedestal of 32 feet, representing Clinton standing with his right foot forward, his cloak taken from one shoulder, displaying the chest and head to full advantage. His fine features are splendidly cut, and evince that talent of design and that energy of execution, which made him emphatically the man of his day and enabled him to leave his mark deep and indelible on the institutions of his native country. The front and rear faces of the bas-relief are copied by five reliefs, and those on the sides are plain, having been left for an inscription. The front represents the ceremony of breaking ground upon the Erie canal. At one side stands the surveyor and his assistant with a chain measuring off the ground, and at the other, we see the workmen busily engaged upon the work. Here, beneath the ringing strokes of the woodman's axe, lofty trees are falling, while we almost hear the forest re-echo the blows, and there with stalwart arm the laborer's shovel and pick with unresistant labor heaves away the rock and soil. In the back ground are seen the hire cr