The Miners' Journal

POTTSVILLE, PA.

Saturday Morning, Dec. 24.

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

THE MINERS' JOURNAL:

Its Age, History, Cost of Publication, Prospects

One's birth-day is naturally regarded above other days; and its anniversary is fraught with numerous reminiscences, pleasurable and sad, while at the same time it forms a most convenient epoch from which to date and map out our future plans of action. So in newspaper life, it seems a fit and becoming time, at the close of the year, to reckon up accounts, count costs and determine the amount of profit or loss (as the case may be), to look over old files, lay to heart the lessons of past experience, and to stake out prospective fields of labor.

With the close of the present year is completed the Twenty-ninth Volume of the JOURNAL, and on the 1st of January, 1854, it enters upon the XXXth year of its existence. As a matter of interest to our readers, especially in this immediate vicinity, as it is equally a pleasure to ourselves, we will recur to its early days, and briefly trace its history down to the present.

THE MINERS' JOURNAL was founded, in 1824, by George Taylor, Esq., and a coincidence not a little singular, it was started on the very spot now occupied by the present buildings; the office and residence of its original Proprietor being a small frame building on the S. E. corner of Centre Street and Church Alley, where now stands the store and main office of the present establishment. It continued in Mr. Taylor's charge, we believe, for two or three years; when C. A. Bradford, Esq., assumed the proprietorship, but disposed of his interest at the expiration of a twelvemonth to "Sergeant Hall Esq., son of Judge Hall of this State. Under his management unfortunately the establishment shortly after fell into the Sheriff's hands, and was fast locked up, in other than a Printer's meaning. In this condition the present Proprietor found it in 1829 (Twenty-four years ago—whew!), and bought the whole concern, good will (?) &c., for $500, the materials in the office being hardly worth half that sum.

Pottsville then had about twenty houses, and most of them of primitive construction; and the County was a comparative wilderness. Time has wrought a material change—our thriving "burg" now numbers upwards of 10,000 inhabitants, and the population of the County in 1850 was over 63,000. THE JOURNAL was then printed on a very small sheet, and had a circulation of corresponding size, besides being in poor credit generally. By pretty hard and continuous labor, sometimes performing the triple duties of Editor, Compositor and Carrier, and with an active spirit of enterprise, which the public have never been slow to appreciate, we have succeeded in bringing it up to its present condition—(we say it gratefully) its present *prosperous* condition. To those who know us, it were useless to enlarge on this, and for others, perhaps, it would have no interest. Suffice it to say that through all the vicissitudes of fortune, in business or otherwise, incident to the rapid growth of a large and valuable Trade, and the settlement of a new district of country, especially a Mining Region; speculative inflations of the money market, sudden panics and disastrous reverses—all of which have been witnessed to perfection within the last thirty years hereabouts; through all these changes, the JOURNAL has maintained in our hands a constant progressive course in patronage and consequent influence. At no one period has its subscription gone back, but on the contrary there has been a steady increase week after week, and year after year, from the time we became its owner, a quarter of a century ago, down to to-day. So much for the past.

The JOURNAL is now printed by steam, on one of Hoe's Cylinder Presses, (the only instance in the State out of the large cities)—The sheet used has been enlarged at various times (the last one year ago), till it is now among the very largest sized papers published; and it contains more matter than any other in the United States, out of the cities, and more than a large proportion even of them. This is no empty boast, but a simple statement of facts, of which any one can readily satisfy himself by examination and comparison.

We have never been satisfied with publishing an ordinary "country" paper, as our City cotemporaries sometimes rather invidiously style Interior publications; but it has always been our aim, no matter what the cost or labor, to cope with the foremost, in town or country, and to get but something superior to the general run of weeklies, in which subscribers should have a fair *quid pro quo*, and no room to grumble. By way of confirmation, it will be sufficient to state that our regular expenses, for materials and labor (editorial and for composition) now employed on the JOURNAL, amount to $3,120 a year! We mention this simply to show that the profits of our establishment are a large collateral consideration, but that for the benefit of subscribers we expend about as much on the paper as it produces.

In conclusion we have a word in favor to ask at the hands of our friends, far and near. Ambitious mortality is seldom content with the present, but naturally turns its expectant gaze future-ward. Though the JOURNAL will enter upon the new year, in good condition and with likely prospects of being able to hold its own in the [illegible] of newspapers it aspires to, still we have room for, and the ability to supply, more subscribers—the more new subscribers we have, the better the paper will become for both old and new. And what we wish to request of each and every one of our friends is simply, that he make known our qualifications and wants to his neighbor and thereby help to extend the circulation of the paper—a very little favor singly considered with reference to each friend and one additional subscriber, but in the aggregate of material service to us.

The principles and general character of the JOURNAL are too well known to need any exposition now—the sum and substance of our whole newspaper course has in Davy Crockett's practical maxim,—

"Be sure you're right, then *go ahead!*"

TERMS:

Single Copy, 1 year	$2,00
FOR CLUBS:	
Three Copies to one Address,	$5 00
Seven do do do	10 00
Fifteen do do do	20 00

☞ Clergymen and School Teachers supplied with the *Journal* at $2 50 a year.

* The files of the paper up to the time when it came into our hands were all taken possession of and rendered by those gentlemen whose avocations made them conversant at the dates of the changes referred to.

☞ GREAT INCREASE OF STATE DEBT.—The Philadelphia Correspondent of the Harrisburg *Telegraph* states that the State Debt has been increased, in the neighborhood of three millions of dollars in the first two years of Bigler's Administration. Can this be possible? If so it ought to open the eyes of the people. During Governor Johnson's Administration the State Debt was considerably diminished.

☞ ARISTEDES, of the Washington *Union*, is very sore because the Senate some days ago gave its public printing to Tucker of the *Sentinel*, his rival. He terms after the "traitor" members with a sharp stick. The choice of Tucker was a hard blow to the Administration.

☞ THE FREE SOIL and old line Democrats of Vermont are at loggerheads.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH.

This has been a fruitful topic for the newspapers for two weeks past, in connection with the arrest of the street preacher, Mr. Parsons, in New York, on Sunday the 11th. He was subsequently discharged, it appearing on examination that he had not violated the City ordinance with reference to this subject, but was holding forth in a private ship-yard, for which the owner's consent had been given. It, the arrest, not the preaching, created an usual degree of excitement even for New York, and on the Wednesday evening following, 10,000 citizens assembled in the Park, and passed resolutions vindicating the freedom of speech, and condemning the procedure against Mr. Parsons. In the midst of the hubbub Bishop Hughes, with all-starred propensity to have a finger in every pie, addresses a published card to his "Reverend Brethren of the Clergy and Dearly Beloved Children of the Laity," first cautioning them, in the most insidious, wolf-in-sheep's-clothing style, to avoid street-preaching and advising orderly, forbearing deportment, on their part; and then, as if roused by the din of the actual conflict, he adds,—"But, on the other hand, if such a conspiracy (against the civil and religious rights, which are secured to you by our Constitution and laws) should arise, unrebuked by the public authorities, to a point, really menacing with destruction any portion of your property, whether your private dwellings, your churches, your hospitals, orphan asylums, or other Catholic institutions, then, in case of any attack, let every man be prepared, in God's name, to stand by the laws of the country and the authorities of the city, in defence of such rights and property."

Now the truth is that no such contingency, as the Bishop advised his flock to prepare for, was at all likely, and hence such an inflammatory address was not only wholly uncalled for by the circumstances, but its direct tendency, whether the Bishop foresaw it or not (and he is not the man to weigh such things lightly), was to provoke the very end he pretended so piously to deprecate. His position was that of a swaggering bully who leaps out into the middle of the street, in sight of the crowd on both sides, and assumes a fighting attitude; though instinctively not to want a quarrel, yet he declares himself a ready match for any one who will knock the chip off his hat. The *Courier*, in publishing this card, denied in the most positive terms the threatened disturbance to be inferred by the reader from the Bishop's authority.—"There is not in our judgment" says the editor "the slightest ground for the apprehension; and it shall not, with our consent, go forth to the world that a purpose so wicked and infamous can be seriously entertained in this community."

But the crowning point of testimony on the side of the friends of freedom of speech, and a signal rebuke to the unwarranted and feud-exciting interference of Bishop Hughes, was the actual resumption of Mr. Parsons' outdoor preaching *last* Sunday, with the most perfect impunity towards the public peace, although there were upwards of twenty thousand persons present. Several other persons also spoke. From the *Courier's* report of the occasion, we make the following extract, to show the character, object and behaviour of this vast collection of people:

"The assembly consisted chiefly of American adults; calm, resolute, and earnest men who sought to vindicate and not to violate the law; and who seemed to feel that the day and the occasion called for the exercise of prudence and forbearance.

"Mr. Parsons began his discourse in presence of at least 20,000 men. Not the slightest symptom of disturbance was manifested, and very little confusion was present. Assistant Alderman Bouton was present, with a permit for the preacher, to be used in case of necessity.

"Mr. P. prefaced the exercise by requesting the assembly, if they had come to hear him, to listen quietly, and make no expression of their approbation or disapprobation. He avowed his intention to preach the Gospel only, and to avoid political topics."

A hymn was then sung, and a portion of scripture read, when Mr. P. proceeded with his discourse, which is characterized by the same authority "of apparently sincere and pious intent, and sober and certainly for the most part, unexceptionable, morally and theologically."

The report concludes thus:

"There were many policemen at the gathering, but they were not in uniform.—They did not exhibit their emblem of Office, and had no occasion to exercise their power.

"Of the character of the vast assembly it is gratifying to state that we have never seen so large a gathering composed of such entirely respectable and orderly citizens.—There was not an intoxicated person present, and as we have said above, every man seemed to feel that he developed upon him personally to demonstrate that the citizens of New York were quite fit to be trusted with the full and uncontrolled exercise of every right belonging to a freeman." Our meridian, before expressed, as to the existence of any conspiracy or combination for purposes of violence, is thoroughly vindicated by yesterday's developments."

The plain English of the whole matter is simply this,—public opinion in this country, has determined by an overwhelming voice, in favor of the right of freedom of speech, and all the opposition to it springs from one single source. Now, the best policy for the latter to adopt, seeing they are in the minority, is to stand from under—keep out of the way of this popular current, and say and do as little as possible to provoke its fury; for, if spend upon it, if ever a collision does occur, woe to the weaker party! They will be swept, root and branch, before the avalanche torrent.

This is plain and very uncivil talk, but we believe it true to the letter, and it were useless to disguise it. There is a deep and wide-spread feeling in the great heart of America, on this subject; and the course of the Romish Priesthood and their newspaper organs throughout the country for the last twelve months or more has done nothing to allay it, but rather to inflame this dangerous excitement and force it to a premature growth. For their own sake, therefore, and for the more liberal toleration and general good of the people on whose behalf they assume to speak and act, they should profit by past experience and change their tactics—and, our word for it, the sooner the better.

STUMPTOWN IN THE FIELD.

One of our neighbors lately published, on what was vouched for as "reliable authority," a communication highly derogatory to the intellectual reputation of the inhabitants of the above named quarters—being no less than a slanderous report of a hunt of the good people of that place with dogs, bugles and other paraphernalia of the chase joined by a similar party from Miller-town, after a supposed "Panther" (having several times heard him scream); which ended, not exactly in either "holeing" or "treeing" or even "heading off" the *varmint*, but in discovering the cause of their alarm to be a "steam-wagon" running on the new Road between Pungrave and Auburn. Well, a correspondent of the Lebanon *Courier*, from Fredericksburg (Lebanon Co.) this *alias* of Stumptown, takes down this writer a few pegs, and in the course of his remarks is rather sharp on the newspaper man that printed such "rigmarole." The story, he says, has no foundation in truth whatever, the "reliable authority" to the contrary, notwithstanding—he concludes as follows:

"A greener looking customer than that very writer, I'll wager cannot be scared up in all the adjoining counties. If he will but take an unbiased peep in the glass,—(and I have no doubt he keeps one—most such customers do) and then say that he's not the greenest looking human he has seen for a month, then I'll admit that my eyesight has deceived me. And to think of such a gawky sitting in judgment on the people of Fredericksburg, passing upon their *intelligence*, (as if he really knew, what intelligence is) and then sending his reflections (but I believe it requires brains to reflect—yet he may reflect instinctively) to the Pottsville *Register* for publication, and the *Register* man inserts them! Truly, must "copy" be scarce in Pottsville, and brains should be at a premium. Need I waste more words on *such* a subject?"

THE GENERAL MINING LAW.

We understand it is in contemplation with certain *foreign* members to revive this enactment in the coming Legislature, with reference to its extension to this County. Our members were chosen at the last election, with the tacit understanding, though no positive pledges, we believe, were given to that effect, that they would oppose any such law. The fact therefore that it must originate with and be supported by outside influence, bears upon its face the stamp of unpopularity among the people for whom it is intended.

For the present we have but little to say as the subject—our principal object being now to direct the attention of our citizens to its prospective agitation, in order that they may the better prepare themselves to give it battle, when it does appear.

Our own views and also those of the great body of our people, we believe, have undergone no change since the matter was last up for public discussion. But we learn that some new and more specious arguments will be advanced by its backers this winter. One is that no Companies will be organized under its provisions, and hence its harmless character is to be inferred. If this be true, it only argues the utter uselessness of its passage—at any rate it were better to be on the safe side, and therefore we would prefer having no such enactment, active or inactive, hanging over our heads.

The Mining business of the whole County is in the hands of private individuals, every one of the few companies once in existence, having virtually ceased. Upwards of $30,000,000 are now invested by individuals alone in the Mining business of the County, and in all respects, they have proved themselves competent to the undertaking, and have so far kept pace with the demands of the Trade. All experience proves that Companies and individuals cannot exist together—the one will beat down and eventually swallow up the other. It is natural therefore, under the existing circumstances of the business of the County, that no Mining Company can find favor in our midst. The deduction we have always made between this and other Counties we still maintain, that to where such associations are wanted we have not one word of objection—in some instances they are indispensable—but from similar inflictions we heartily pray to be delivered, now and forever.

If corporations must have a foot-hold in Schuylkill County, there is one species that we think it likely, under proper restrictions, the people would not only tolerate but encourage; and that is, Improvement Companies, to prepare the ground, put up the works &c., but to have no part in the actual business of mining. Such associations might be of great mutual advantage, both to themselves and the individual operators, and would also tend to the more rapid development of the wealth of the Region. All this we may have occasion to discuss at length before the Winter is over.

CHRISTMAS. TO-MORROW.

How well the "City Items" editor of the *New York Tribune* "serves" this notice, in the following timely paragraphs! Acknowledge its receipt, dear readers, and each contribute something towards the sum of "quivende happiness," which is all of heaven entrusted to dwellers on earth.

"Something," he says, "has fallen—fallen unexpectedly, suddenly, wonderfully. Happiness is "down"—down to 'most nothing, and now is every-body's time to buy.—It will be cheap until the Holidays, and then it will go up, up till next year. But, alas for us! it is *yesterday* happiness—not forlorn people like you and us. Adult happiness never comes down; is never below par; is always at a premium. All the children have calculated the weeks and days and hours to the 24th December, 12 o'clock, P. M., the time when St. Nicholas is supposed to bid defiance to narrow throated chimneys, iron gratings and stove-pipes. Ask the first boy you meet, "how long before Christmas," and if he doesn't tell you "like a book, then we are no conjurer—that is, if he's not an orphan or homeless, without a Christmas or New Year, or anything else bright and beautiful in his almanac.

"What a world of little stockings will be suspended, by cook-stoves and grates, in chimney corners and by old fashioned fire places, on that memorable twenty-fourth! Red, blue, black and clouded; new, bold, darned and tattered; ventilated stockings, every hole carefully tied up with towstrings, by the provident little owner, lest something should spill out, of the expected treasures. Some hang by the frail texture of skin; others secured to a big nail, for "who knows how much they may get?" And, others, again, pinned to the back of chairs, or swung from the bed-posts, or what's propped and barking; there will be, from under the bed clothes, that they may catch Santa Claus "at it." By the way, never tell your children, *on anybody's* children, there is no such being as Santa Claus. Let them think so, as long as they can. They'll find things out fast enough, by and by, just as you did, we did, every body does."

☞ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.—We have seen a good many opinions of this document, varied of course according to the political bias of independent honesty of the several writers; but it is following from the Boston *Courier* is far ahead, as far as heard from:

"The message is the poorest thing that ever preceded from a President of the United States, when his duty called upon him to look Congress in the face. And that nobody may mistake our meaning when we pronounce it emphatically *poor*, we proceed to say that it appears to us totally deficient in courage—manly spirit, decision, self-respect, sincerity, straight forwardness, and that honest resolution to follow the path of duty at all hazards, which ought to characterise both the language and the actions of him who occupies the elevated station of President of the United States."

☞ HORRIBLE.—Mrs. Elizabeth Barker was lately tried and sentenced for the murder of her sister. The evidence in the case, it is said, was very plain, and disclosed a fiendish transaction sufficient to make humanity shudder. It appears that the woman poisoned her own sister for the purpose of becoming her successor in the household—at a time, too, when she was verging on sixty years of age! The Judge sentenced her to be hung, and public opinion is so much against her, that probably no effort will be made to have her reprieved.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

See the Prospectus of the *British Quarterlies* and *Blackwood's Magazine* in another Column. These works are extensively read in this country as well as in Europe. They have long been regarded as standards in the periodical literature of the day. Examine the low terms and cheap postage at which American readers can be served with any or all of them. Subscriptions received at Bannan's.

THE SCHUYLKILL COUNTY SCHOOL JOURNAL is now ready for delivery. It is a capital publication, got up in a neat and attractive style and just the thing needed for the purposes to which this devoted. It is to be hoped parents will not be backward in manifesting their appreciation of the enterprise. It ought to find patronage and encouragement all over the County. Price, only 50 cents a year or 4 cents a number—to be had at Bannan's. All communications, literary or on business, should be addressed to E. Schneider, Pottsville, Pa.

GRAHAM for the New Year appears in a new and hand-some outside dress, and with other usually attractive features—engravings, fashion plates, embroidery patterns, &c., &c. Graham makes large promises for the coming volume, and judging from the number in which he has fulfilled former ones, we may confidently look for a "star" Magazine in 1854. A year's subscription to such periodicals makes a capital Holiday present—will the reader make a note of this? Terms of Graham $3 a year; or Clubs supplied at two copies for $5; five copies and one to Agent, for $10; eight copies and one to Agent for $15, &c.

APPLETONS' MECHANICS' MAGAZINE, New York, is an excellent work for Engineers, Mechanists, Machinists, &c. Its list of contents comprises articles on all subjects relating to the Mechanic arts, the latest inventions, improvements, &c., accompanied with numerous superior illustrations. As an instance, we note the following in the number before us, for December.—"Bristol's Rotary Engine," "Corrugated Steam Boilers," "Evaporation of water in Steam Boilers?" "Outside and Inside Connected Locomotives," "Warming and Ventilating houses," &c. &c. The Fourth Volume commences with the beginning of the new year—a favorable time to subscribe. Price $2 a year, to be had at Bannan's

Calendar for 1854.

1854.	Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
Jan.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30	31				
Feb.				1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28				
March.				1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31	
April.							1
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30						
May.		1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30	31			
June.					1	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30	
July.							1
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30	31					
Aug.			1	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30	31		
Sept.						1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Oct.							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30	31				
Nov.				1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30		
Dec.						1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31						

Local Affairs.

☞ *The Ladies* of the Episcopal Church have displayed excellent taste in their annual decoration of the service room.

☞ *Almost any one* in Pottsville this week, could have told that Christmas was at hand, without the aid of an Almanac—our streets were fairly lined with poultry.

☞ *Literary Society.*—Rev. Mr. Wythes, M. D., of Port Carbon, lectured on Wednesday evening last—subject, Poetry. It is represented to have been a very beautiful production. The subsequent debate was unusually interesting—the latter exercises have improved very much of late.

☞ *Ladies' Fair.*—A Fair will be held at the Exchange Hotel on Monday and Tuesday next, for the benefit of the Baptist Church. Extensive preparations, we learn, have been made to render the affair in every way attractive. We hope it will be liberally patronized by our generous people—the object is a worthy one

☞ *At the Annual* Election of Swatara Lodge, No 247, A. Y. M., at Tremont, held on Monday evening Dec. 12, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—John B. McCreary, W. M.; John Barnet, S. W.; Frederick Worthemeer, J. W.; John E. Lehman, Treasurer, John R. Fursnler, Secretary.

☞ *A Compliment.*—The Philada. Sun's Bennizer, the best in all newspaperdoms notes one of our Locals, in his peculiar, curt style, thus:

"Daniel Washburn, a young gentleman already known as a scholar, and one of the most correct readers of this or any other city, lectured to a decently crowded audience in Pottsville, on the evening of the 14th."

☞ *Snow commenced* falling in this place, on Monday morning last, and continued, gently, throughout the day and part of the night. The ground was covered next morning to the depth of three or four inches; and [illegible] sleighs turned out, but the parts generally glad innocent of any enjoyment beyond the mere novelty of their trips—the snow was too slight and the ground too rough.

☞ *The Boys have had* merry times for the last few days, sliding down the smooth-worn streets; but without meaning to curtail their enjoyment, we must remind them of what the frog in the fable said—it may be all very fine sport for you, but other folks suffer for it. The main sidewalk of Mahantongo street, for instance, is so slippery that pedestrians, unless rough-shod, have much difficulty to keep their feet, besides the constant danger of being run into by some little sleigh-load of Young America "Clear the track," and if you don't, you find yourself sprawling before you can say Jack Robinson. Boys be boys, and they will have fun—and with all our heart we say, let them have it; but there is a limit to this enjoyment, of first-rate sledding around, where they can enjoy themselves equally well, without infringing upon the sidewalks or encroaching those who are not so partial to that kind of amusement.

☞ *Our Hospital.*—According to previous notice a meeting of the citizens of the County called by the committee, was held at the Court House, on Monday, 19th inst.

On motion of Mr. Washburn, the meeting was organized by the appointment of ANDREW RUSSEL, Esq., as Chairman, and JAMES M. BEATTY, Esq., as Secretary.

The Hon. F. W. Hughes briefly stated the object of the meeting—spoke of the encouragement of the enterprise, the conditional certainty of its accomplishment, and closed by moving that a committee be appointed to make application to the Legislature for an act authorizing the establishment, and for a charter providing for the maintenance of the institution proposed.

The Chairman named as this committee, Samuel Sillyman, Benjamin Bannan, Dr. Jas. S. Carpenter, Chas. W. Clemens, Judge Donaldson, Pottsville; Daniel R. Leaser, Minersville; John Anderson, Tamaqua, Edward C. Warner, Schuylkill Haven, Wm. Meredith, St. Clair; Henry Muhlenberg, Esq., Orwigsburg, and Dr. Jacob Gilbert, Port Carbon.

At the request of Mr. Sillyman it was moved by Rev. Mr. Washburn, and unanimously resolved, that the Attorney General F. W. Hughes, Esq., be added to the committee as Chairman of it. On motion, adjourned.

☞ *Clerks' Meeting.*—At an adjourned meeting of the Clerks of the Borough, in Womelsdorf's Hall, on Wednesday evening last, THOMAS A. NICHOLS, President, in the chair; WILLIAM L. YODER was appointed Secretary *pro tem.* Minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted

The Committee on Resolutions reported the following which was adopted and the Committee discharged:

WHEREAS, It has been the custom heretofore for merchants to keep their stores open until 9 and 10 o'clock P. M., and the Clerks employed therein doing feeling the necessity of a change, which would secure them time and opportunity for such mental improvement as they are desirous of obtaining, petitioned their employers to close their place of business at 8 o'clock P. M., Saturday evening excepted, and a majority of them having signed a written agreement to that effect, therefore

Resolved, That we the subscribers, Clerks in the employment of the several Merchants and Storekeepers of the Borough of Pottsville, do hereby agree to close our respective places of business at 8 o'clock P. M., on and after the first day of January, 1854, Saturday evening excepted.

Resolved, That we request of our employers the privilege of locking the doors at the time of closing.

Resolved, That we believe the 8 o'clock system adopted as a general rule would be of great advantage to both Merchants and Clerks.

Resolved, That on consideration of the many advantages secured to Clerks and Salesmen by the adoption of this system, we respectfully call upon our personal friends and the citizens generally, to co-operate with us by making their purchases at such time as to remove the necessity of Clerks being detained at their duties later than 8 o'clock P. M.

The Committee appointed to confer with a similar Committee of the Apprentices' and Young Men's Library Association, relative to forming a connexion with them reported progress, were continued and instructed to accept the proposition made by the Apprentices' and Young Men's Association

On motion, a Committee consisting of J. Addison McCool, H. Hautzinger and Joseph L. Ostler, was appointed to wait personally on the clerks and obtain signatures to an agreement to aid in establishing the 8 o'clock system as a finality.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the *Miners' Journal* and *Mining Register*.

On motion, adjourned to meet in the same place on Wednesday evening, Dec. 28, at 8 o'clock P. M.

THOMAS A. NICHOLS, *President*.
WILLIAM L. YODER, Secretary, *Protem.*

TAMAQUA AFFAIRS.

☞ *A Police* organization, similar to our own, is about being effected in Tamaqua.

☞ *A new* Company of Musicians, under the title of the "Citizens' Band of Tamaqua," has been organized. The members are nearly all young men.

☞ *Important Railroad Connexion.*—We are informed by one of the Engineers of the Little Schuylkill Railroad Company, that a survey has been completed, of one mile in length, connecting the Buckwalle branch of their road with the Schuylkill Valley Railroad at Tuscarora. It is supposed that these roads will be connected some time during the coming summer.—*Gazette.*

☞ *Tamaqua Lodge.*—At a regular meeting of Tamaqua Lodge, No 278, A. Y. M., held on Friday, Dec. 9, 1853, the following members were elected officers of said Lodge for the ensuing year:—H. B. Greaff, W. M.; Wm. Price, S. W.; E. A. Dennison, J. W.; E. J. Fry, Treasurer; F. F. Kolb, Secretary.

☞ *New Presbyterian Church.*—The pews of this church (Rev. Mr. Glenn's) were disposed of to the highest bidders, one day last week. The *Gazette* says a crowd of persons, ladies and gentlemen, were present to make selections. Nearly all the pews were sold, at prices varying from $10 to $30, making an aggregate of nearly $1,000, which is to be appropriated to the support of the Pastor.

The annexed communication will be found interesting, in this connection:

MR. EDITOR:—It was our pleasure to attend the dedicatory services of the new Presbyterian Church at Tamaqua, last Sabbath, which were of a highly interesting character. Rev. John Ferries, of Scotland, Rev. David McKinney, D. D., of Philadelphia, and Rev. Wm. R. Glenn, (the present Pastor) officiated. The edifice is unique and beautiful. It is undoubtedly, the finest display of architectural skill in the County, and will compare favorably, in point of taste and utility, with any in the State.

The amounts raised during the day towards defraying the expenses of building, were Two Thousand Two Hundred and Forty Dollars ($2,240.—The remainder of the whole debt, it is expected, will soon be liquidated. The lot upon which the Church stands, also the lot and Parsonage near by, is a donation of the Little Schuylkill Company.—The furniture was earned chiefly by the needles of the ladies of Tamaqua.

The history of the Church in that place—its rise and progress, was read on the occasion of the dedication, from which we condense the following:

"The first Presbyterian service was held Dec. 24th, 1837, by Rev. R. Webster, of Mauch Chunk. The Church was organized in May 1840, with ten members. From 1837 to Feb. 1852, the Church was served by stated supplies. In March, 1852, the first and present pastor, Rev. Wm. R. Glenn, entered upon his labors. From this period the Church, which before had been feeble, began to strength and increase. The commencement of his ministry 56 members have been added. The membership is now 90.

Mr. G. is an able expounder of the Gospel—a faithful and devoted servant; and has endeared himself to the members of his congregation, by whom he is greatly beloved, and to all who have the pleasure of his acquaintance.

We speak from positive knowledge, having listened often to his soul-stirring eloquence.

Pottsville, Dec. 20th, 1853. OBSERVER.

MINERSVILLE AFFAIRS.

☞ *No Bulletin* will be issued next week, in order to give the hands a holiday.

☞ *A Concert* was given last Wednesday evening, by the Choral Society of Minersville, and the Jones family, in the Minersville Library Association.

Similar entertainments by the same parties will be given in Tamaqua next Monday and Tuesday evenings, and also in Pottsville about New Year's.

☞ *A valuable* horse of Mr. Thomas Petherick, of Forestville, dropped dead, in Minersville, on Saturday evening last.

☞ *A new Channel* for the West Branch at Minersville was finished, and the water let in last week. A new bridge has also been thrown across it. The old channel will be filled up, and converted into building lots—the *Bulletin* says, it will eventually make be most convenient portion of the town

NEW YORK LETTER

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Weather and its Influence—Street Preaching—Almost a Riot—Immense Congregation—Filthy Streets—Epidemic—Common Council—Ideal Verdicts—New Theatres—White Slaves—Mercantile Intelligence—Trade Dull and Mercantile Library—Cooper Institute—New Style of Breakfast—Mitchell Banquet—Fowls Lost—Henry Ingersoll Bowers and his Wonderful Group—Progress—Electricity—Robbery of a Rich President—Suicide.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20, 1853.

DEAR JOURNAL:—A sudden change from the warm and sunny weather of the opening to the cheerless days of Northern Winter presaged with snow storms and icicles, has just occurred in Gotham, and as we write the blood goes coursing through our veins at a brisk, neck pace, and with the true American go-a-headiveness. The last two or three evenings are just those on which all the romance in human nature is sure to be developed—with the bright full moon, calmly surveying every nook and corner with a noon day radiance and her fairy sisters, the modest little stars, twinkling away as if for very me riment, with the frosty pavements re-echoing back the tread, and the elasticity of frame that seems to say—"now catch me if you can." Such is the influence of the season within, above the grosser demands of business and the petty cares of dollars and cents.

I observe in your last issue that mention is made of Mr. Parker and his street preaching, which came within an ace of producing a violent collision between the Catholic portion of our community and the true Native Americans. In fact nothing but the judicious proclamation of the Mayor, and the sensible advice of the high Catholic authority, cautioning the people to abstain from any participation therein, prevented the outbreak of a feeling which needed only a brush to fan it into a flame of a most disastrous character. According to notice, Mr. Parsons repeated his address at the same place on Sunday afternoon last. The audience was tremendous, consisting of at least 20,000 people, who seemed to like the services with perfect propriety and decorum. It is calculated that not less than 100,000 persons visited the ground during the day. The orator has become noted by the force of circumstances, and his small hands very much in the limelight as the man "who awoke one morning and found himself famous."

One good effect of the cold weather will be to dry up the accumulated masses of dirt and filth that heap our streets. Never before was such a state of things known, in vain have our City press urged upon the Common Council the necessity of action—but all in vain, and especially now when with the cholera marching through Europe, and even now knocking at our very doors, awaiting the return of Summer to make our city one vast lazar-house, and our streets the avenues for funeral processions! Cases both loud and deep fall thick from our citizens, of every shade and creed, and the present assortment of municipal offices will vaporate their dishonored sway with a wail that will ring with execration and opprobrium, with a character for villainy and recklessness greater than that which ever hung to the skirts of any assembled that ever swung from the gallows. May God grant us better things from the new occupants!

Quite a little excitement has been caused in literary and operatic circles by the recent bequest of $10,000 given against the New York *Herald*, and in favour of Ury, the opera manager. The case has been in court for five years, and was brought to recover damages for the publication of a series of the most libellous and scurrilous articles against Ury and his enterprise, and which succeeded in breaking him down, and running his operatic performances. The justice of the verdict is universally recognized, and all the people say Amen! In bright letters has such abominable slanders should been that there is a law, and a limit to the forbearance of a peaceably indulgent public.

Apropos of Theatricals—the plans are now out for a new Theatre, to be erected on Broadway, next door to Grace Church. The edifice is to be of white marble and of immense dimensions, to seat five thousand persons. The opening is the first of the opera season at Niblo's, after which that house will be unpinned and converted to a great degree. At the rate we are likely to experience no dearth of edifices for theatrical and operatic exhibitions at least for several years to come.

The Astor Place Opera House is fast being converted into a far different building, under the transforming hand of the mason and carpenter. It has been purchased by the Mercantile Library, and will be occupied by them on the 1st of May next. The edifice has been much improved and will be one of the finest Libraries in the country. The exterior has been ornamented with many classical illusions; around the cornice at the top runs a series of decorative wreaths, consisting of the leaves of the laurel and oak, alternating with the helmeted head of Minerva, white between the first and second story windows are panels, each adorned with vines, and a huge owl, the bird sacred to the goddess of learning.

On the opposite corner of the street stands a much smaller, but more elegant edifice, the Cooper Institute, a noble charity, where the scientific observer may see a new improvement in the shape of wrought iron floor beams said to be superior in both price and efficiency for first class buildings.

Resolved, That to those of our employers who so cheerfully complied with our request, we render our sincere thanks.

Resolved, That we request of our employers the privilege of locking the doors at the time of closing.

Resolved, That we believe the 8 o'clock system adopted as a general rule would be of great advantage to both Merchants and Clerks.

Resolved, That on consideration of the many advantages secured to Clerks and Salesmen by the adoption of this system, we respectfully call upon our personal friends and the citizens generally, to co-operate with us by making their purchases at such time as to remove the necessity of Clerks being detained at their duties later than 8 o'clock P. M.

The Committee appointed to confer with a similar Committee of the Apprentices' and Young Men's Library Association, relative to forming a connexion with them reported progress, were continued and instructed to accept the proposition made by the Apprentices' and Young Men's Association

On motion, a Committee consisting of J. Addison McCool, H. Hautzinger and Joseph L. Ostler, was appointed to wait personally on the clerks and obtain signatures to an agreement to aid in establishing the 8 o'clock system as a finality.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the *Miners' Journal* and *Mining Register*.

On motion, adjourned to meet in the same place on Wednesday evening, Dec. 28, at 8 o'clock P. M.

THOMAS A. NICHOLS, *President*.