The Miners' Journal

POTTSVILLE, PA.

SATURDAY, JAN. 14, 1854.

☞ *THE MINERS' JOURNAL has a larger circulation than any other Newspaper published in Northern Pennsylvania. It circulates among the Coal, Iron and business men, not only in this and the adjoining counties, but in all our cities, and it also circulates largely among the masses in Schuylkill county, which renders it one of the most valuable Advertising mediums in the County. But few papers have so many capitalists enrolled on its subscription list.*

☞ *Clergymen and Public School Teachers will be supplied with The Miners' Journal at $1 per annum in advance.*

AGENTS FOR MINERS' JOURNAL:
COL. JAMES J. CONNOR, Ashland.
FREDERICK LAUDERBACH, Tamaqua;
THOMPSON A. GODFREY, Trefmont;
CHARLES H. HUBBARD, 71 Pine St., New York.
Who are authorized to receive subscriptions, advertisements, &c., for the *Miners' Journal*, and receipts for the same.

WHIG STATE CONVENTION.

At a meeting of the WHIG STATE COMMITTEE, held pursuant to public notice, in Philadelphia, on TUESDAY, the 13th of December, in the absence of the Chairman, A. K. CORNYN, was called to the Chair.

The subject of the meeting having been stated, it was, on motion of Col. Edie, of Somerset, unanimously

Resolved, That a Convention of Delegates of the Whig party be held at Harrisburg, on the 15th day of March, 1854, for the purpose of nominating a candidate for Governor, Canal Commissioner, and Supreme Court.

A. K. CORNYN, *Chairman.*

HENRY S. EVANS, *Secretary.*

STATE TEMPERANCE CONVENTION

A Mass Convention of the friends of Prohibition will be held in Harrisburg, on the 26th and 27th of January, 1854, at 10 o'clock, A. M. We hope every city and town, and Temperance organization in the State, may be fully represented. Never have we been called together under such circumstances as the present. Voters of Pennsylvania, come up to the Metropolis, and greet the good men you have elected to enact a law, to suppress the drinking houses and tippling shops. Distinguished men from other States will be with us to assist in our deliberations.

By order of the State Central Committee,

THOS. WATSON, Chairman.

E. W. JACKSON, Corresponding Sec'ry.

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT.

☞ SEVERAL TRACTS of Coal land for sale by W. G. George, Lebanon.

☞ A BOARDING MASTER wanted at Shamokin.

☞ LEAD, Iron, Paint, Oil, &c., at Lewis & Co.'s, 135 S. Front street, Philadelphia.

☞ CARPETS. See James W. Schrack's advertisement, Norristown.

☞ PROPOSALS for sinking a Slope wanted by Adams & Schollenberger.

☞ SEVERAL important legal notices under the proper heads.

☞ THE COAL FIRM of Jas. Thomas & Co., is now Beatty, Thomas & Co.

☞ THE MAHANOY & SHAMOKIN Improvement Co., at Treverton offer their Coal Mines for lease.

☞ CHARLES WITMAN, Esq., offers at private sale, a dwelling house and lot, with all desirable appurtenances, in Pottsville; also, similar property in Orwigsburg.

☞ WE INVITE attention to the advertisement of Morris Hallowell & Co., 147 Market street, Philadelphia. They offer splendid inducements to customers.

☞ GEORGE H. STICHTER'S property, corner of Centre and E. Market streets, consisting of Store, Stand, Dwelling, Hall, Shops, Offices, &c., with lot, is offered at public sale, 2d prox.

☞ L. AUDENRIED & Co.: An advertisement in another column gives notice of the copartnership of William and Lewis Audenried of Philadelphia, and Geo. H. Potts, of this place, under the above named firm, for the mining and selling of Coal. Mr. P. is one of the oldest miners in this Region—he has been actively engaged in the business for upwards of Twenty-five years; his services cannot fail to be of great value to the firm, as his long term of operations has rendered him intimately acquainted with different qualities of Coal, the geological structure of our Coal basin, the practical business of mining and the minutiae of the Trade in every department. Mr. L. Audenried was, also, formerly a resident of this County, but for a number of years has been engaged in the Coal business at Philadelphia. He was a partner in the House of Newell, Sturdevant & Co., for several years, from which he withdrew about a year ago, with an ample fortune—but like many other active business men, he cannot content himself in idleness, even if he does possess an abundance of this world's goods.

Contents of this No. of Journal.

1st page.—An Interesting Story—Punch's Husband-ry—A puzzle and a variety of miscellaneous reading matter.

4th page.—Table of Coal operations in County (names of collieries, quantity mined, how worked, amount of investments, &c.,—Schuylkill Navigation Report—Judge Hellenstein's Liberality—Shaefer's Map of Altitudes—And other statistical information.

Inside Form.—Anthracite Coal Trade of the United States—Reading Railroad Report—Returns of shipments over Railroads—Amount of Coal mined by different Operators—Improvements for 1854—Cumberland Coal Trade—General Mining Law—Article on Coal Statistics—Public, Private and Under-ground Railroads, (length, cost &c.)—Foundry and Machine Shop Returns—Forsyth's Rolling Mill—Shamokin Coal Region—New York and Boston Letters, &c., &c.—with a variety of current and local news.

☞ A NUMBER of Advertisements crowded out this week, to make room for our Statistics, will appear as usual in our next.

☞ WE ARE again indebted to the gentlemanly agents of Howard & Co.'s Express for the early delivery of late California papers.

☞ WE ARE indebted to Hon. C. M. Straub, at Washington, and John Hendricks, Esq., Harrisburg, for valuable Public Documents during the week.

☞ WE HAVE struck off an extra number of copies of this week's paper, which can be obtained at our counter, or forwarded to any address. Price 6 cents per copy.

☞ WE INVITE attention to the Reports of the Reading Railroad and Schuylkill Navigation Companies, which we publish entire this week. Both Companies are represented to have done a profitable business during the past year.

☞ WE RETURN our thanks to the different Collectors, and the officers of the different Companies and others, for their promptness and valuable aid in furnishing the necessary information, required to complete our Annual Statistics of the Coal Trade.

☞ OUR PHILA. LETTERS.—We regret to announce that the gentleman who has been for some time past furnishing the wayside items for our columns from the city of "brotherly love," is obliged, from ill health, to discontinue his letters for a short time. We hope he will be able to resume them, according to his expectations, next Spring.

☞ THE meeting of the Soldiers of 1812 took place in Philadelphia on Monday last. Delegates were to be present from all parts of the Union. The design of this Convention is to induce Congress to give to *all* volunteers and militiamen who served in the War of 1812, one hundred and sixty acres of land, and this without reference to length of service.

☞ COPYRIGHT TABLE.—The large Table on the fourth page, it will be observed, is duly copyrighted in the name of the Proprietor of this paper. This was deemed but justice to the parties who labored for its compilation, at the time of its original publication. We now, however, give our exchanges and others full permission to make extracts from it or copy it entire, if desirable; *provided*, in all cases, *due credit be given to the* MINERS' JOURNAL therefore.

☞ FIRE AT READING.—The Machine Shops, Engine House and Boiler Shops of the Railroad Company, at Reading, were destroyed by fire on Sunday night last.—There were some fourteen Engines in the shop at the time, all of which were more or less injured, but a portion of the stationary Engine was saved almost whole. The loss is estimated at $125,000.

The Machine Shops at Palo Alto, (in this vicinity,) Port Carbon, Pottstown and Richmond will be mostly used for the repairs of the damaged locomotives.

The business of the road in all its departments went on next day as usual.

The fire originated from a wood stove carelessly left by a watchman.

☞ MASSACHUSETTS POLITICS.—Dr. Smith, a Native American Whig, was on Monday elected Mayor of Boston. The vacancies in the State Senate being filled, that body now stands 29 Whigs, 8 Coalition and 1 Democrat.

☞ MONS. BEDINI, the Pope's Nuncio, visited Wheeling, last week, but left very soon. Handbills were posted throughout the city, on Saturday, threatening him violence, and his effigy was publicly burnt.—His Reverence's room seems more acceptable than his company, in the West.

☞ DIVINE ORIGIN OF THE BIBLE.—This subject is now being argued before large audiences in Philadelphia, by Mr. Barker of Ohio and Rev. Dr. Berg of that city—the former denying the superhuman authority of the Scriptures and the latter replying in the affirmative. The discourse is to continue for eight, or by mutual consent, twelve evenings. Both gentlemen are heard every evening.

HUNTINGDON & BROAD TOP RAILROAD AND COAL COMPANY.

We have received a recent Report of this Company, made by Messrs. Roberts & Strong, and condense from it a summary of the principal matters of public interest.

Their lands lying in Huntingdon and Bedford counties, comprise from 2500 to 3000 acres. The Coal it contains is of a semi-Bituminous character, or as Messrs. R. & S. term it, semi-Anthracite, somewhat similar to the Cumberland coal, but is represented to be harder, and free from sulphur. It is also recommended as not liable to spontaneous combustion.

The main Railroad and branches of the company now in operation, measure only about 35 miles, which cost, for building and entire equipment, less than One Million of Dollars; but they are now extending a road from their mines to intersect the Pennsylvania Railroad and Canal at Huntingdon, thus opening their coal fields to the Philadelphia, Baltimore and New York markets. After the completion of this and other improvements, the company purpose, it is said, renting their mines to be worked by individual operators—not engaging in the business in their corporate capacity.

The coal from these lands is represented to be of an excellent quality for steam purposes. Perhaps, the best and most conclusive testimony that we can furnish on this point is the annexed certificate from Mr. Baldwin of Philadelphia, after a practical test of its virtues in that respect:

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 24, 1853.

H. D. MOORE, Esq.—*Dear Sir*—The semi-Bituminous Coal from the "Broad Top," sent me for trial, I have used, and find the result as follows:—The weight received was 9180 pounds; and its consumption in two tubular boilers of the locomotive plan, supplied our stationary engine with steam for thirty-three hours, say 277 pounds per hour.

The Anthracite Coal with which I compared the Broad Top, I am using from the Tremont region, slightly resembling the Bituminous in appearance, although in burning it does not clog or show any of its peculiarities. It is a free burning Coal, and I consider it the best for this purpose (making steam) I have ever tried. Of this Coal 250 pounds per hour in the same boilers, is consumed, consumption. The residuum of 13 hours burning with the "Broad Top," weighed 552 pounds, of the Anthracite 542 pounds. The result is more favorable to the Bituminous than I anticipated. I have tried Coals of this nature heretofore, that burned into masses of the grate, the "Broad Top" does not, but burns freely, and the coke readily broken up on the furnace. Coal equal to the sample sent me, compares favorably with the Anthracite.

Yours truly, M. W. BALDWIN.

Per GEO. BLAKISTON.

MORE AID IN FAVOR OF COAL CORPORATIONS!

The Philadelphia *Ledger* then gave, it appears, eschewed all their former views of corporations, and openly and boldly taken ground in favor of a General Mining Law for Schuylkill County. This was hardly expected from that quarter, considering their views heretofore expressed against a General Banking Law; and all other laws calculated to advance the mere interests of speculators, and inflame the stock market—but it appears that even *they*, with all their boasted independence, and *apparent* hatred of all stock gambling, can be influenced by *self-interest* quite as much as those whom they are almost daily condemning. The proprietors of the *Ledger*, in company with Messrs. L. Audenried, F. W. Hughes, General Bickel, Thomas Chambers and others, own a tract of Coal land in Schuylkill county, known as the Valley Furnace tract, and these folks, who, rumor says, have made their hundreds of thousands of dollars within a few years, are, it appears, *too poor* to develope this land, and must needs have an act of incorporation for said purpose. Will a mere act on paper make the expense of development less? or will it add anything to the intrinsic value of the land? Of course not. But if a tract of land, say of 800 or 1000 acres contains, say *one-third* Coal land, and *two-thirds* Red Shale or barren mountain land, it is very convenient to throw the tract, Red Shale and all, into a corporation, and create stock to the value of $1000 per acre for the whole tract, while two-thirds are not worth the taxes—then sell the stock and swindle the *green horns* out of their money. Do not the *Ledger* men know that hundreds of thousands of dollars have been absolutely swindled in this manner out of the innocent and unsuspecting, who were led to believe the wonderful tales of the great value of the stock of the Coal companies in the Cumberland region and elsewhere? Do not the *Ledger* men know that the large mass of the accessible Coal lands in the Schuylkill region, lying comparatively idle, are those owned by Coal corporations, which have become bankrupt by mining Coal, and that many of the holders of those stocks for a number of years past have been *victimized*.

It is not true, as the *Ledger* states, that "the people of Schuylkill county, always heretofore opposed to corporations, on the ground that individual capital was competent, are now changing their views." We do not know a single individual in the county who has changed his views on this subject. And many of those who have heretofore advocated the incorporation of mining companies in Schuylkill county, are by public opinion forced openly to oppose mining companies at home, though advocating *improvement companies*, prohibited directly and indirectly from mining and selling Coal. And we do not know a single individual engaged in mining Coal in Schuylkill county, in favor of extending the General Mining Law to this county, unless he is a lessee of some of the companies existing in this section of the Coal region. The lessees of the Little Schuylkill Company, to a man, we learn, are opposed to its extension to this county.

A large portion of improved Coal land in Schuylkill county cannot be bought for $1000 an acre—and in many instances a much larger value is attached—but Red Shale and Mountain lands are not worth over $2 an acre, and will not sell for a *thousand dollars, except in stock sold to "green uns"*—consequently the value of tracts in Schuylkill county is graded by the quantity of Coal it is likely to possess, and the facilities of mining it. We might also remark that if the value of Coal lands were fixed at $1000 per acre, in Schuylkill county, by *acts of incorporation*, (a strange way of increasing the value of anything), there would be a strong probability that the land lords would desire to receive an income on $1000 per acre, Red Shale and all, which would rather *increase* than *diminish* expenses. We can readily see how acts of incorporation would benefit the speculator, but it will require more powerful reasoning than the *Ledger* men have yet advanced to convince our Operators that increasing the value of mining property, will lessen the rents and expenses to the trade.

There was not a single ton of Coal mined by Coal companies in Schuylkill county in 1853—and if the people are to be overpowered by stock-jobbers and speculators, and a General Law extended to Schuylkill county, in opposition to the views of nine-tenths of the community, we hope it will be stripped of all the privileges of mining or selling Coal, directly or indirectly.

We will probably refer to the *Ledger's* statements again.

☞ EXPRESS LINE.—Mr. Earl, of Reading, has withdrawn from the Express firm of Howard, Earl & Co., and we understand the business of the line will hereafter be conducted by Messrs. N. G. Howard of Philadelphia, and R. F. Weaver of this place. This line has entitled itself to the confidence and patronage of the public by its promptness and despatch of business entrusted to it charge.

☞ EXTRAORDINARY FROM AUSTRALIA—*Gold by the pound!*—The latest news says that the peoples' heads are all turned with a recent discovery in the gold diggings. A gold quarry, apparently inexhaustible, has been discovered about 56 miles from Geelong, 100 to 130 feet from the surface of the earth, putting all other 'diggins' in the shade. 18,000 oz. have been taken out in three days by a few persons, and one person got a lump weighing 190 lbs. in one solid piece. This is said to be no exaggeration, and the greatest excitement prevails.

A rebellion has broken out among a portion of the Miners, in consequence of the imposition of a Mining license fee by the British Government.

THE GENERAL MINING LAW.

HON. HENRY K. STRONG IN 1851 AND IN 1853.

We have so often had occasion to advert to the General Mining Law, within the year past, that our readers must be pretty well acquainted with our opposition to its extension to this County, and the reasons therefor. We, therefore, do not propose to repeat our arguments now; but, inasmuch as the friends of the movement in the State Legislature are likely to bring it up at an early day in that body, and will doubtless use every effort, fair or unfair, to extend its provisions to this County, we wish to advise our people of it in time, that they may prepare themselves to defeat it; and we, also, propose to show up the *motives* of one of its principal projectors.

We oppose it first, because it is not wanted. In some places it may be, and doubtless is, necessary—indispensible. In such cases we have no manner of objection to it; but individual enterprise in Schuylkill County has proved itself, *lot more than a quarter* of a century, amply adequate to all the requirements of the trade. It is a remarkable fact that of the two million and a half tons of coal sent to market in the year just closed, not one pound of it was mined by a Company! All the improvements now making in the Region are by individuals, the few Companies in existence among us being content to derive their dividends from other and easier sources.

Again we oppose it, because the movement does not originate with, nor is favored by, our practical Operators—but judging from the general character of most of its backers, the inference is natural that is a matter of mere speculation. We do not believe three men, entirely engaged in the business, can be found throughout the County, who favor or would honestly advise the extension of the Law to it.

And thirdly we oppose it, because Companies and individuals cannot exist together in the same business. Monopoly—gross and usurping monopoly is the prominent and distinguishing character of corporate bodies. If they are allowed a foothold in Schuylkill County, in a few years all our individual Operators must be utterly crushed, and their millions of investments and years of hard labor sacrificed to glut the rapacious maw of Corporations.

Henry K. Strong, Esq., of Philadelphia, is one of the most violent agitators of this subject at Harrisburg. We happen to have by us a pamphlet Report made by him and Mr. William F. Roberts, in 1851, on the Dauphin & Susquehanna Coal Company's lands, from which it will be seen he then held very different views on the subject of incorporated Mining Companies, from what he now urges. He *then* thought, very properly, that Companies owning Coal lands ought to make necessary improvements, but that it was impolitic for them to engage in "the business of mining in their corporate capacity;" *now* he thinks, and we believe said so last winter, that the people of Schuylkill County do not understand their own business, simply because they entertain the same opinion on this subject he expressed in 1851. Here is the extract referred to:

"In reference to future operations, in conducting the mining department of the Dauphin and Susquehanna Coal Company's estate, it may not be out of place here, or considered presumption in us, to advise the owners of our views, especially as our opinions have been formed upon experience in the prosecution of our profession. We believe that it is bad policy for the Company to carry on the business of mining in their corporate capacity. The experience of every corporation in Pennsylvania, that has attempted it, furnishes abundant proof, that the complicated machinery of a Company, with its expenses for salaries, agencies and contingencies, cannot compete with individual enterprise. To make this estate a profitable investment to the Stockholders, the Company should open the mines, drive the necessary tunnels, erect the machinery for preparing the coal for market, build the lateral Railroads, and then invite individual enterprise and energy to fill the beautiful valleys, through which the Railroad passes, with an industrious, and thriving population. Then there will be no difficulty in renting the several collieries, at the different gaps, at an average price of at least 50 cents per ton. The collieries on the large vein of splendid coal lately opened on the North Mountain, within the bounds of the estate, will be eagerly sought for at a much higher rent. This will place the credit of the Company upon a sure foundation, and insure a constantly increasing revenue."

EDITOR'S TABLE.

"TOM TOUSLY," is on file for early insertion—we have no room for it this week.

We have not yet had time to examine the Enigma sent in, at our earliest leisure, and, if deserving, publish it next week.

Hartlie Secretary of the Beacon Star Section, U. of T., read the *Journal* of last week, he might have saved himself some trouble.

Miss S. B. C.'s communication contains excellent sentiments, but we would respectfully suggest that Poetry is not *her* most forcible way of expressing them.

The *Mahanoy* newspaper is now under the charge of Mr. John Robins, formerly of this place. In the number of last week, the first of the year, the new Proprietor introduces himself to the public, and makes very liberal promises for the future benefit of the patrons of the establishment. The *Mahanoy* is among the oldest papers in the State, and heretofore has been well conducted. It was originally started by Gen. HENRY FRICK, in 1816, and has been an heir-loom in the family down to the present time. We wish the present Proprietor honor and profit of his new position.

Local Affairs.

☞ *Our Carriers* request us to return their thanks to the friends who so promptly and liberally responded to their New Year's calls, last week.

☞ *John Dyer*, forme rly employed by Wm. Delhaven of Minersville, was much injured by an accident at West Haven last week. He was riding upon a truck laden with pig iron, when the axle broke, and by the fall one of his thighs was broken and his leg badly crushed.

TAMAQUA AFFAIRS.

☞ *Rev. J. Oram*, of the Methodist Church, is holding a series of religious meetings in Tamaqua. They are said to be largely attended.

☞ *Fire and Three Men Burnt up.*—John Bolton, Daniel Cannon and John McCastling, Irishmen, represented to be of sober and steady habits, were the unfortunate victims of the fire in the shanty of James Tuggert, Esq., at the tunnel on the Little Schuylkill R. R. Extension, on the 1st inst. There were nine men asleep in the garret at the time, and the fire watch was first discovered near the stairway, spread so rapidly, that those who were saved jumped out of the window.

Religious Intelligence.

[Under this head we propose collating a weekly summary of religious matters, foreign and domestic. Communications for this department are particularly solicited from our Ministers and other interested parties in this County.—*Eds. Journal.*]

☞ BAPTIST CHURCH, Mahantongo Street, Rev. J. HARVARD CASTLE, Pastor. Service every Sabbath at 10½ o'clock A. M., and 7 P. M.

☞ TRINITY CHURCH (EPISCOPAL).—Rev. DANIEL WASHBURN, Rector. Service held regularly in this Church every Sunday:

Morning, at 10½ o'clock.
Evening, at 7 "

☞ THERE WILL be preaching in the English Lutheran Church, Market street, every Sunday morning and evening.

☞ *The County Commissioners* have appointed S. K. M. Kepner, of West Penn, their Clerk, in the place of F. B. Koercher, lately resigned. The selection will doubtless be acceptable to both the Commissioners and the public, as Mr. K. is in every way qualified to discharge the duties of the office.

☞ *Schuylkill County Medical Society.*—At the Annual meeting of the Society, on Wednesday evening last, (11th,) the following gentlemen were chosen officers for the ensuing year:—

President—J. G. Koehler.
Vice President—A. Heger.
Recording Secretary—A. H. Halberstadt.
Corresponding Sec'ry—Geo. Halberstadt.
Treasurer—James S. Carpenter.

☞ *Water for the Borough.*—This subject is still exciting much attention among our citizens, and several plans have been suggested for producing an adequate supply. We have no room at present to mention much less to discuss them; but one thing is very certain, *Pottsville must have more water.*

We are glad to notice that the heavy rains of the few days past have filled the basins to a considerable extent, and the town, we believe, is now pretty generally supplied with water (such as it is.) But this temporary relief should not divert public attention from securing a certain and permanent guaranty against the similar inconvenience and danger we have been exposed to for the last five or six months.

☞ *Schuylkill County Officers.*—For convenient reference, we annex a list of the present officers, by election and appointment, of this County:—

Judges of Court—
Hon. C. W. Hegins, President;
Solomon Foster, Associate;
F. S. Hubley, "
Prothonotary—John Harlen
Register & Recorder—Lewis Reeser
Treasurer—Isaac Ward
Commissioners—
George Hartlein,
Isaac Strauch,
Jacob Kline.
Clerk to do—S. K. M. Kepner.
Directors of Poor—
Daniel B. Koercher.
Charles Shappel,
John Schwalm,
Poor House Steward—Charles Mullen.
Coroner—Dr. J. G. Koehler.
Surveyor—Tobias Kreider.
Auditors—
Michael Brechbill,
Charles A. Rahn.
Sheriff—James Nagle.
Deputy Sheriff—John T. Werner.
Regular Terms of Court—First, Monday in March, June, September and December—Sessions, three weeks each.

☞ *Pottsville Rolling Mill.*—This establishment was opened about two years ago, under the business firm of Harris, Burnish & Co. It is located in Fishbach, at the upper end of our Borough. During the Summer past, it was found necessary to enlarge the building and put up additional machinery, in order to supply the home market, which has been steadily increasing since the opening of the Mill—there are now in the establishment,

2—Puddling Furnaces,
2—Heating "
1—Trains of Rolls.

The motive power consists of two Engines—of 60 horse-power and the other of 30, both built in this place.

With the present machines, the establishment is capable of manufacturing 350 tons of finished iron, per month, varying from 22lbs up to 6lbs. per yard. The Mill is also supplied with a large assortment of Rolls adapted to the manufacture of all sizes of Merchant Bar Iron, Car Axles and T Railroad Iron.

It is estimated that the establishment will require, in the course of the current year, about 3000 tons of Pig metal, and from 8,000 to 10,000 tons of Coal.

The number of hands, including men and boys, now employed in the various departments of the establishment is 74, but an additional force will be required for the increasing work of this year.

This Mill is one of the most important enterprises in our vicinity. It is yet in its infancy, but judging from the reputation it has already acquired, it is doubtless destined to play a conspicuous part in the business of our Region, in the course of a few years. The Proprietors are men practically acquainted with the business, and their work, wherever tested, has given general satisfaction.

☞ *Wire Coal Screens.*—Those of our readers conversant with Mining operations know the value of good Screens, seeing they perform so important a part of the business; and they can accordingly, appreciate an improvement in their manufacture, tending either to cheapen their cost or make them more serviceable. To others unacquainted with the implements of the "craft," we may simply say in explanation, that Screens are used for separating the fine Coal dirt and refuse from good Coal, and also for assorting the latter into different sizes, according to the measure of the mesh of the Screen through which it passes.—Screens are therefore indispensible at every Colliery, and good clean Coal and its proper assortment will very much depend upon the quality of the Screens used in preparing it for market. They are made of iron wire of various size, according to the size of the mesh required.

The business of manufacturing Coal Screens, it will naturally be inferred, is a thrifty one—the proprietors being kept constantly employed, as new Collieries are put in operation, or old Screens wear out. Heretofore it has been a complete monopoly in this County—all the Screens for this, and many for the neighboring Regions being manufactured in a process patented by one Henry Jenkins. Lately, however, D. L. Esterly & Co. have established a Factory in this place, for the weaving of Screens, as they claim, in a different way from that employed by the lessees of Jenkins' patent—We visited their establishment some days ago, and inspected its operations with much interest.

The main difference between the two manufactories consists in this,—that by Jenkins' plan the wire is first crimped by a separate process, before it is put together, and by the new the crisping is done in the act of weaving. Esterly & Co. claiming in their application for a patent that "the wool bends the warp, and the warp bends the wool."—In the latter's establishment the wires constituting the "chain," fixed permanently at one end only, are stretched over, and attached at the other end to a long moveable carriage, similar to that of a sawmill; and the "filling" wires are inserted straight, between alternate strands of the "chain," in the same way a carpet weaver sends his "filling" through the "chain." Each "filling" wire is separately driven up by several blows of the loom to within a certain distance of the last, according to the size of the mesh required—the cross wires, before straight, now bending one another, and thus forming a tight and well-adjusted web. The advantage claimed in this is that the wire, both warp and woof, is allowed to shrink in length just as much as the crimping requires, so as not to impair its texture by over-stretching, and that the warp and woof exactly fit one another, neither being over crimped too much, thus making a perfectly tight mesh.

We have no disposition to interfere in the rivalry between the two manufacturing establishments in our Borough, but we simply call attention to the subject as a matter of interest and importance to the business of Mining, to which our columns are specially devoted.

SCHUYLKILL HAVEN AFFAIRS.

☞ *Edwin Robinson*, a young lad, slipped from the roof of a house in Schuylkill Haven some days ago, and fell to the ground, on his head. He was much stunned, but no bones were broken.

☞ *John Dyer*, forme rly employed by Wm. Delhaven of Minersville, was much injured by an accident at West Haven last week. He was riding upon a truck laden with pig iron, when the axle broke, and by the fall one of his thighs was broken and his leg badly crushed.

☞ *Military.*—The Continentals, Capt. Pott, and Scott Rifles, Capt. M. E. Richards, paraded on Monday last, in commemoration of the triumph of American arms on the 8th of January, 1815. The occasion was not as generally celebrated by our military as usual.

☞ *Woman*, the celebrated Magician, has been entertaining large audiences for several evenings past at the Town Hall. He invites the public again this (Saturday) evening. His performances are well worth seeing—we advise the investment of at least a quarter, just for the fun of it.

☞ *T'under.*—After a continuous and hard *rain for two days*, the weather cleared beautifully on Thursday evening, about 6 o'clock, with several vivid flashes of lightning accompanied with loud thunder. The temperature during the week has been seasonably mild.

☞ *Fire.*—An unusual number of fires are reported in different parts of the country, during the week past, one at Portland, Me., two in New York, one at Louisville, one at Reading, close at home, &c.—let them be as few as many timely admonitions to our citizens to exercise renewed watchfulness and care against the destroying element in our midst.

☞ *At a noted meeting* of the Pottsville Section, No. 41, C. of T., held at Schuylkill Hall, on Monday evening, Jan. 9, 1854, the following officers were duly elected:—William J. Parvin, W. A.; David Wolcot, V. A.; Francis U. Farquhar, S.; Charles Boabyshell, A. S.; George Parvin, T.; Samuel R. Whitney, A. T.; Samuel Russel, G.; William Meredith, U.; Thomas Riley W.; Daniel W. Bland, A. W.; Bros. R. C. Green and John O. Beck, of the Pilaski Division, were elected first and second Dep. W. P's.

☞ *Wire Coal Screens.*—Those of our readers conversant with Mining operations know the value of good Screens, seeing they perform so important a part of the business; and they can accordingly, appreciate an improvement in their manufacture, tending either to cheapen their cost or make them more serviceable. To others unacquainted with the implements of the "craft," we may simply say in explanation, that Screens are used for separating the fine Coal dirt and refuse from good Coal, and also for assorting the latter into different sizes, according to the measure of the mesh of the Screen through which it passes.—Screens are therefore indispensible at every Colliery, and good clean Coal and its proper assortment will very much depend upon the quality of the Screens used in preparing it for market. They are made of iron wire of various size, according to the size of the mesh required.

The business of manufacturing Coal Screens, it will naturally be inferred, is a thrifty one—the proprietors being kept constantly employed, as new Collieries are put in operation, or old Screens wear out. Heretofore it has been a complete monopoly in this County—all the Screens for this, and many for the neighboring Regions being manufactured in a process patented by one Henry Jenkins. Lately, however, D. L. Esterly & Co. have established a Factory in this place, for the weaving of Screens, as they claim, in a different way from that employed by the lessees of Jenkins' patent—We visited their establishment some days ago, and inspected its operations with much interest.

The main difference between the two manufactories consists in this,—that by Jenkins' plan the wire is first crimped by a separate process, before it is put together, and by the new the crisping is done in the act of weaving. Esterly & Co. claiming in their application for a patent that "the wool bends the warp, and the warp bends the woof."—In the latter's establishment the wires constituting the "chain," fixed permanently at one end only, are stretched over, and attached at the other end to a long moveable carriage, similar to that of a sawmill; and the "filling" wires are inserted straight, between alternate strands of the "chain," in the same way a carpet weaver sends his "filling" through the "chain." Each "filling" wire is separately driven up by several blows of the loom to within a certain distance of the last, according to the size of the mesh required—the cross wires, before straight, now bending one another, and thus forming a tight and well-adjusted web. The advantage claimed in this is that the wire, both warp and woof, is allowed to shrink in length just as much as the crimping requires, so as not to impair its texture by over-stretching, and that the warp and woof exactly fit one another, neither being over crimped too much, thus making a perfectly tight mesh.

We have no disposition to interfere in the rivalry between the two manufacturing establishments in our Borough, but we simply call attention to the subject as a matter of interest and importance to the business of Mining, to which our columns are specially devoted.

BOSTON LETTER.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE MINERS' JOURNAL.

B. BANNAN, Esq.—*Dear Sir*—Stimulated by the example of your New York and other Correspondents, I send you the news from "down East," although the term is hard to define. Where is "down East?" Come to Boston, they refer you to New Hampshire, thence to Maine, and by taking the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad, it will bring you within the neighborhood of "down East." The Holidays were accompanied by successive storms of rain and snow, until they all merged in one great snow storm, blockading all the highways, Railroads, and even the streets of the City. Some funny things occurred by the detention of the cars in the huge snow-drifts, requiring some 15 to 20 hours to dig themselves out. One anticipated state of felicity was spoiled, and the weeping damsel in hysterics of despair, consigned herself to everlasting seclusion (till the next chance); while the snow-buried lovers pledged eternal fidelity, got out of the cars and plodded some 20 miles "to home."

But the tales of woe reaching us from the "Stafford-hire," and the *scow* of other wrecks makes the heart bleed and feel for those "that go down to the sea in ships." One poor fellow I saw, the only one saved from a crew of eight, he with a comrade, was tossed about in their little boat 8 long days, subsisting on the body of a dead mess-mate; weak and emaciated did he appear, but humane hearts met and relieved his woes.

You are aware of the narrow streets of this wealthy metropolis; looking upward you can see the snow piled upon the roofs of the buildings 3, 4 and 5 feet; with the first thaw these bodies of snow are apt to slide, and woe betide the poor pedestrian below; to guard against these accidents, he good practice is generally adopted, with new buildings, of a rail or guard on the eaves of the roof.

The cold weather of last week is succeeded by a thaw. Boston used to be considered in the State of Massachusetts, but in the last few days she is geographically led astray; in a perfect state of *Squash*. Your New York correspondent refers to the style of dresses and bonnets of the New York ladies; but I can assure you it is no beginning to the Boston ladies. "I have heard of gentlemen setting the world 'on edge' by an attractive foot and ankle—the opportunity here is very abundant.

Feeling interested in everything relating to Schuylkill county, I rejoice to hear of your efforts in the erection of a Miners' Hospital, and after many years thinking and taking it is good to know you have begun to act, a praiseworty object. Every one interested in the mining business should, and certainly will, contribute to the success; amid all the casualtys of the Miners' life, it would be a solace to think of the "Miner's Hospital," where all his wants would be kindly cared for, and his uncouth home exchanged for the civilized quarters of a good Hospital.

By the following figures you and your Coal readers can judge of the Coal trade of this place for the year 1853:

	Tons.	Chaldrons.
1852—Foreign Coal.	9,343	40,704
1853— " "	5,242	46,098
1852—Domestic Coal from Philadelphia and elsewhere.	Tons. 431,270	
1853—Dom. Coal " "	272,360	
Alexandria,	18,112	
Baltimore,	46,281	
Elsewhere,	25,053	
	362,006	
Deficiency for 1853,	69,264	

With the usual increase of 20 per cent, it would show a deficiency of nearly 150,000 tons, though the overstocks of last Spring would somewhat reduce this heavy amount. The stocks on hand are light, and every promise of a good year, for both Miners and Shippers. All the productions of Schuylkill county, capable of transportation, will be wanted; only save the market from being run down with underbidding, and disposition to start the trade in advance of the demand—it injures the dealers here, and at home.

Retail price, 9 Dollars per chaldron.
Parmel Coal, 20 " "
Sydney " 14 " "

Yours so ever, W.

NEW YORK LETTER

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Great Fire—Metropolitan Hall and La Farge House totally consumed—Full Particulars—Another Fire—Meeting of Assistance—Julian's Last—Arrest of Bank Teller—Loss of Steamship Sea Bird—Passengers—Wreck of Steamer Empire City—Capture of a Slaver—Ocean Postage—Soiree at the St. Nicholas—National Poultry Society—Gas Explosion—Singular Accident—Opening of the Astor Library, &c.

NEW YORK, Jan. 10, 1854.

DEAR JOURNAL—Your readers will imagine in course of time, that Gotham can furnish no other news than that of conflagrations, or else that our goodly city must be the well nigh totally consumed, but inform them that though fire has burned many millions, we have still a house or two left, and that they will still find something to see, which commodity has never been scarce since the memorable day when "the three wise men of Gotham, went to sea in a bowl." True, our elephant has grown somewhat stiffened of late, yet he is still *around* to amuse and enlighten verdant visitors from the rural districts.

But a truce to joking, and let us come to facts. On Sunday morning last, New York was deprived by fire of two of its choicest ornaments—Metropolitan Hall, the scene of many a festivity, where the voices of the matchless Swede, and others of the best music of the country have charmed the hearts of untold thousands, and the LaFarge Hotel, superior in its appliances and ornaments, especially in the interior, to anything in the world.

Fire was first discovered under the stage of the concert room, at about one o'clock, and so rapidly did it spread, that in just twenty minutes the roof and walls fell in, and nothing was left of Metropolitan Hall, but a heap of smouldering ruins.

From the Hall the fire was carried directly into the rear windows of the Hotel, which stood immediately in Front on Broadway; the two in fact, being one and the same building. The flames spread with fearful rapidity, and it was apparent in a few moments that total destruction was inevitable.—The firemen and police then applied themselves to saving whatever of furniture could be reached—from every window there descended into the street, the costliest carpets torn from floors, and the richest curtains jerked from the windows, enormous mirrors were lowered by ropes to be demolished in the street, while showers of mattresses and bedding were flying from every story.—The raging flames, however, soon drove all from the building, and what was saved amounted to nothing, and in less than three hours the whole vast edifice was level with the ground.

One of the most fortunate circumstances connected with this lamentable fire, is that it did not occur three days later, as the Hotel was to have been thrown open this day to the public, when it would have been immediately filled by the hundreds who were waiting for rooms. Had it turned after its opening, an appalling loss of life must have resulted from the great number of persons who were in it at the time, barely saved their lives.

The loss cannot yet be clearly ascertained, though said to amount to a Million of Dollars, the furniture of the Hotel alone, being worth One Hundred and Thirty thousand. Compared with the loss, the insurance was very trifling.

Universal regret has been expressed by all classes of the community, and last evening a meeting of Hotel proprietors and citizens generally, was held at the Metropolitan Hotel, to devise ways and means to relieve the sufferers. A committee was appointed to raise "material aid," and to call a general meeting for a like purpose. New York, with her accustomed liberality will do something handsome, and commensurate with her own greatness and abilities.

Another destructive fire occurred yesterday in Franklin street, consuming a large six story Pianoforte manufactory, a church, and several dwelling houses. The workmen narrowly escaped with lives, jumping themselves from the roof by ropes. The loss was about Thirty Thousand Dollars, though our recent numerous great fires have so enlarged our ideas in such matters, that such losses as this, scarce seem worth mentioning.

Monsieur Julien has lost by the large fire, some Four Thousand Dollars in musical instrument and decorations, besides having all the arrangements for his grand ball overthrown. The ball is announced for the same evening, in some other house—where, is not yet specified.

Our police, yesterday, arrested, at the