Miners' Journal.

POTTSVILLE, PA.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1854.

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

☞ ANTHRACITE IN LOCOMOTIVES—ITS ECONOMIC USE FULLY ESTABLISHED BY EXPERIMENT.—The rapid multiplication of Railroads throughout the country, and the increase of their business, together with the growing scarcity of wood in many places, have excited anxious inquiries for some other fuel as a suitable substitute. Experiments have been made with various kinds, but none have been employed with greater, or equal, success than our own Pennsylvania Anthracite Coal. We, in this Region, where the matter has been fully tested before our eyes, have for some years been fully satisfied on this point; but there are those abroad, denied any such positive proof, who are still skeptical. We are accordingly now collecting from various authentic sources certain indisputable evidence, which will establish before the world that *Anthracite Coal is successfully used in Locomotive engines!*

As *facts* are the plainest and most unquestionable kind of argument, we proceed without further preface, to cite our witnesses. The first is a letter from R. A. Wilder, Esq., Superintendent of the Mine Hill and Schuylkill Haven Railroad, which reads thus:

OFFICE OF THE M. H. & S. H. R. R.,
December 8th, 1854.

MR. B. BANNAN—*Dear Sir:*—Your note of the 7th inst. has been received, and as my time may be otherwise occupied next week, I take the present opportunity to reply to your inquiries respecting the use of Anthracite Coal in locomotive engines. The subject is one of great importance to Railroad Companies, and is worthy of more extended remarks than I can give to it at the present time, but my letter may have the effect of eliciting information from others having greater experience and more leisure to prepare the results of their observations for the benefit of the public.

We have eighteen engines in regular service upon this road; in fourteen of which we use Anthracite Coal as fuel. They were built, with two or three exceptions, by M. W. Baldwin of Philadelphia, and have nothing peculiar in their construction to distinguish them from the ordinary wood burning engine, except having rather more grate surface than he formerly gave to his engines of the latter class. It is generally supposed by persons having little acquaintance in using Anthracite Coal as fuel for engines, that there must be, necessarily, some peculiarities in construction to adapt them to its use; but we have found these simple models of Mr. Baldwin's manufacture perfectly successful, and for compactness, strength, and durability, they are not excelled by those of any other builder in the country.

The extent of grate surface is an important feature in Coal burning engines, as the admission of a large quantity of air is essential to the free combustion of this kind of fuel; in view of this, and to prevent the warping and melting of grate bars by the intense heat of a Coal fire, an open space should be left between the ash pan and the bottom of the water box around the furnace—or in other words, the ash pan should be suspended by rods two or three inches below the bottom of the water box so as to admit the passage of the air to cool the grate bars.

Another thing of great importance in the structure of these engines, is the width of water space surrounding the fire, and upon which the durability of the furnace plates mainly depend.

We have a Coal burning engine built by *Norris, Brothers*, of Philadelphia, which has been in use seven years without any material repairs to the fire box, whilst another engine of the same class from their manufactory, has had the furnace renewed twice in the same number of years. The water space in the former is one-fourth wider than in the latter, and to this difference in width we ascribe mainly the difference in the durability of the furnace plates of the two engines.

The rapid destruction of the fire box and grate bars has been a great hindrance to the introduction of Anthracite fuel; but if builders will give a little attention to this, they can readily remove the objection. It is obvious that the lower parts of the furnace plates are the most liable to destruction from direct contact with the fire, and when these parts are destroyed the usual practice is, to renew the entire fire box, which in most cases would not be necessary, if the lower part of the furnace was formed by a sheet extending around it, and joined to the upper portion (above the fire line) by a horizontal, instead of vertical seam; then the affected parts could be removed and other sheets substituted at comparatively little cost.

Since the attention of railroad Managers has been directed to the necessity of substituting some other kind of fuel in place of wood for locomotives, the ingenuity of inventors has been stimulated and many new models of Coal-burning engines have been presented to the public, all of which doubtless possess some meritorious features, but owing to their complication and liability to get out of order, they have not impressed the minds of Managers with a high decree of confidence in their ultimate success.

I am not one who supposes that further improvements cannot be made in Coal burning engines, but from what I have seen of those which have attracted the most recent attention on account of greater differences in structure, I have been led to conclude, that the inventors have had more experience in building machinery than in burning Coal. If they could combine the knowledge of the experienced fireman with their talent for mechanical combinations, which does them great credit, they would without doubt achieve perfect success in their undertaking. From careful observation I have arrived at the conclusion that the successful and economical use of Anthracite Coal in locomotives, depends as much upon the industry and experience of the fireman as upon the structure of the engine. I have known one person to burn out a set of grate bars in a day, whilst another using the same kind of Coal would make them last for months. One man will tend his fire so as to make an abundance of steam, whilst another under as favorable circumstances cannot raise sufficient to move his train, and the difference in these instances, is not in the engine, nor the fuel, but in the men.

Although a preference is given to some particular veins on account of greater purity, we use all kinds of Coal that are free from "bone" and "slate," in our engines. Our practice is to select the purest lump Coal, and break it with a hammer into the rank to about the size of steamboat Coal; we prefer this mode of breaking on account of preserving the sharp angles and brighter surfaces caused by this mode of fracture. Coal that is broken by rollers and passed through screens has the sharp angles and surfaces destroyed by crushing and abrasion and will not ignite so readily.—When the wood used in kindling the fire is burned out the Coal that has been ignited by it is spread evenly over the grate, and care is taken to keep it in that condition. The fire should never be more than six or eight inches in depth, and the experienced fireman will be careful not to throw in too much Coal at a time so as to chill the surface or increase the quantity faster than it is consumed. A little skill is requisite to spread the Coal evenly over the surface of the fire as it is thrown in.

In some instances, the engines in charge of our best firemen have been in service sixteen hours without renewing the fire, and from the nature of our trade it becomes necessary to wait sometimes an hour for cars to be loaded. In such cases when the engine is ready to move, the surface of the fire is stirred and a very small quantity of Coal thrown in which is ignited by the blast from the exhausted steam, and gradually the fire, under this careful management, is caused to burn as well as ever.

It has been doubted if Coal could be as effectually used on long roads as upon short ones; but what reason can there be for such doubts, if engines can be worked sixteen hours with Anthracite Coal upon such a road as this without the necessity of renewing the fire? I believe that a uniform rate of speed, whether fast or slow, on a long road would be more favorable for burning Anthracite Coal, than is such a road as this, where the grades change so much, and where the engine must necessarily stop so frequently and wait for cars. Another great objection to the change of fuel is, that most of the roads are stocked with wood burning engines; but a wood engine having a fair extent of grate area can be changed to a Coal burner by simply raising the grate, and placing upon it a smoke stack so constructed as to offer no obstruction to the passage of the exhaust steam, a thing very easily done.

I consider Coal a far cheaper article of fuel than wood for locomotives. In the first place it absorbs no moisture, and hence there is no waste of heat to evaporate it. In wet or dry weather it is in fit condition to make steam. It requires less stoppages for loading: it is in no danger of being destroyed by accidental fires; it requires no extensive buildings for housing. Careful attention to such conditions in the construction of the fire box as I have pointed out in these remarks, will tend very much to reduce the cost of repairs, and then there can be no doubt as to its greater economy. There has been so much gained by experience in firing with Coal, that the destruction of the fire box is much less rapid now than formerly, and no doubt these improvements will continue to be made. In many of the states wood is yet abundant, and the price is so low that no necessity exists for seeking a substitute; but on the older states the forests have nearly disappeared, and great difficulty is experienced in procuring sufficient wood for the use of railroads. Why then delay the introduction of Coal as a substitute for wood in locomotives?

Let the experiment be made by an experienced fireman on any of the Eastern roads, for instance, and I have no doubt but it would be perfectly successful. I have seen many of their engines and am satisfied they could be altered with trifling expense to burn Anthracite Coal. We have altered some of our wood burning engines in this way, and the grate area is more limited than many of the engines I have examined in New England.

Yours with respect,
R. A. WILDER.

Here the question is set at rest, so far as the experience of the M. H. & S. H. Road is concerned—the proof is positive and complete. Those who would try the matter for themselves elsewhere, should carefully examine Mr. Wilder's directions for the construction of the necessary machinery, and the mode of building and keeping up the fire. It is ignorance or inattention to these matters, and not the character of the fuel itself, that have heretofore created and perpetuated prejudice against its use.

Again, we have the testimony of a most competent judge, in the following communication by Septimus Norris, Esq., civil and mechanical Engineer of Philadelphia, in a late number of the *Ledger* of that city. Mr. Phleger, the patentee referred to, is a resident of Tamaqua in this county:

For many years past experiments have been made by many locomotive builders, also by railroad companies, to build a locomotive that would burn, successfully, Anthracite coal. I have never seen it successfully done until I witnessed the performance of the locomotive "George Washington," built after the plans and designs, and under the immediate direction of Mr. Phleger, at the shops of the Little Schuylkill and Navigation Railroad Company at Tamaqua, Pa. I visited Tamaqua a few days since, in order to satisfy myself of the correctness of the accounts I had received, and from what I saw in the actual performance of the engine, I am prepared to say that the difficulties heretofore encountered in burning coal have been most successfully overcome by Mr. Phleger, and he certainly deserves great credit for his untiring industry in experimenting for so long a time and now to be successful. He has been practically engaged as a designer of locomotives for the last twenty years, and I know of no man so perfectly familiar with the requirements of an engine as Mr. Phleger, and feel great interest now that his improvement should come into general use, as it eventually must. I now give the general dimensions of the locomotive. Cylinder 15 inches diameter, stroke 24 inches, weight 25 tons; 4 driving wheels, 6 feet diameter; truck wheels, 30 inches diameter; furnace 44 inches long by 33 inches wide: boiler contains 657 square feet of fire surface, 125 tubes, 9 feet long by 2 inches diameter. The fire is blown by a fan which is driven by the exhaust steam, and can be used at pleasure while the engine is standing still. The bottom of the furnace is formed by a water bottom with no opening, which is a great feature in his improvement; a projecting water way which protects the tubes, (the coal never coming in contact with the tubes,) forms an air-chamber in which the gases are consumed.

The cylinders are placed midway of the cylindrical part of the boiler. The height of the top of the boiler is only 54 inches from the rail; in all other engines with a 6 feet wheel, the boiler stands about 8 feet above the rail. The low boiler is of great advantage when running at high speed, as the centre of gravity is thrown below the axle.

Another advantage in his arrangement is that his exhaust nozzles are open to 3 inches diameter, which relieves the cylinder in exhausting the steam, avoiding the loss of power from the resistance occasioned by small exhaust nozzles, which are usually 1¼ inches diameter.

The engine is capable of hauling, at a speed of 40 miles per hour, 8 long passenger cars, with 480 passengers.

This same locomotive, the George Washington, was tried on the Philadelphia and Baltimore Railroad, and was perfectly successful, as I understand from Mr. Phleger.

The trial trips were made between Gray's Ferry and the Susquehanna River; and in making the round trip to the Susquehanna and back to Gray's Ferry, 125 miles, only consumed 4000 lbs. of coal.

To haul the same load the same distance, it required four cords of wood in the ordinary locomotive.

Four cords of wood,	$24
4000 lbs of coal,	10

Making a difference in favor of coal of $14 in a trip of 125 miles. Now, to take 300 trips in a year would be a saving of $4200 a year for each engine. This is conclusive evidence of the advantages, as far as economy is concerned.

I have been called upon for this statement, in justice to Mr. Phleger, as reports had been circulated that the engine was a failure; and from what I have seen, I challenge any Railroad Company to produce an engine that shall be equal to it in power, simplified speed, and economy of fuel.

In addition to the above, we may also mention that this same fuel is employed with eminent success on the Reading Road. During the last year, that company has procured of Ross Winans of Baltimore, seventeen of his Coal-burning engines, besides several manufactured by the Machinist-in-chief of the Road, Mr. Mulholland of Reading. From 65 to 70 per cent. of the fuel used on this Road during the year just closed, was Anthracite Coal. We hope to lay the result in detail before our readers shortly—perhaps next week. We moreover published, two weeks ago, a full statement of similar experiments on the Beaver Meadow Railroad, where Anthracite has been employed as fuel with complete success since 1838. There are eight of such engines in use on that road—three built by Eastwick & Harrison, one by M. W. Baldwin and four at the Company's Shops at Hazleton.

With the limited data before us, we are hardly capable of determining the superiority of any particular make of engine: each kind seems to have its admirers, but competent judges assert that Baldwin's is the most simple, and will do the most work.

☞ NEW YORK—OFFICIAL.—The State Canvassers completed their labors last Saturday, and report the official vote for Governor as follows:

Myron H. Clark (Whig)	156,804
Horatio Seymour (Soft Dem.)	156,156
Daniel Ullman (Know Nothing)	122,282
Greene C. Bronson (Hard Dem.)	33,800

Making Clark's plurality over Seymour, For. eignism and Rum combined, 309 votes!

Clark had also the formal nomination of the Temperance party, though doubtless a large number of Ullman's friends were Maine Law men. Seymour, on the contrary, was the embodiment of the Rum party, and upon him their whole strength was concentrated.

Putting together the Whig and Know Nothing vote, and the Hard and Soft Locofoco, the figures stand thus:

Whig and Know Nothing,	279,086
Hard and Soft Democrats,	190,345
Locofoco minority,	88,741

From the full returns on the several State officers—Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Canal Commissioner and Prison Inspector—we have calculated the *average vote* of the several parties as follows:

Whig,	157,231
Know Nothing,	119,509
Hard Locofoco,	133,781
Soft Locofoco,	44,037

☞ MORE K. N. VICTORIES.—Boston elected a Know Nothing Mayor—Dr. Smith—on Monday, by 1253 majority over all competitors! The Whigs have probably elected some of their Councilmen. The Know Nothings had a grand procession in the evening in honor of their triumph.

In Worcester, the same day, the entire Know Nothing ticket for municipal officers was elected.

George W. Richardson, the Know Nothing candidate for Mayor, has nearly 1000 majority.

In Roxbury, Ritchie, the Know Nothing candidate for Mayor, is elected over Sleeper, formerly editor of the Boston *Journal*, by 300 majority.

The entire Know Nothing ticket for municipal officers in Lowell was elected the same day, by a tremendous majority. The vote for Mayor stood—Lawrence, Know Nothing, 3651; all others 469.

The Yankees *seem to make* the right sort of Know Nothings—they go the whole figure, straight through.

☞ A NEW REPUBLIC.—Some thirty millions of acres in the Mosquito Kingdom, Central America, and extending several hundred miles on the coast, are about to be taken possession of and partially settled by a company of Americans, with Col. Kinney of Texas as their general agent and leader in this bold enterprise. A number of Senators and Representatives in Congress and many other eminent citizens are said to be interested. Senator Cooper, we have seen it stated, is one of the parties. The title to the territory is vested in a company of about thirty American gentlemen, derived from a grant made several years ago by the Mosquito King to Samuel Shepard and two associates for a valuable consideration, and by the original grantees regularly assigned and transferred to the present company. Their object is represented to be not only pacific, but in all other respects worthy.

☞ A WORLD'S FAIR is to be held in Paris, next May, at which articles from the four quarters of the globe are expected to be on exhibition. Gov. Bigler has already appointed several Commissioners in different parts of the State to take charge of the contributions from the old Keystone.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

FRANK LESLIE'S GAZETTE of Fashions for the current month is the most saleable number yet issued. This is a monthly that all the ladies, who want to keep fully posted in the latest fashions and the most beautiful styles of dress, should take regularly. There is a profusion of plates and all got up handsomely, besides various patterns on a large scale for cutting out certain articles of dress. Price of this magazine, $3 a year; or, 25 cents a number. For sale at *Bannan's*.

THE MINING MAGAZINE.—Wm. J. Tenney, Editor.—is a monthly that we can cordially recommend to all in any way connected with the business to which it is more particularly devoted—mining, generally. Its statistics are highly valuable as a matter of reference, and interesting as showing the mineral wealth and industry of the world. Gold, Silver, Lead, Copper, Coal, &c., &c. —all are treated of. Price $5 a year—subscriptions taken at Bannan's.

THE MOST valuable publication of the kind we know of is *Colton's Atlas of the World*. It is issued in parts semi-monthly, at $1 each, containing at least four sheets of maps and the accompanying letter-press. The work will be complete in Twenty-seven parts. It is got up in splendid style—the maps are beautifully colored and the typographical execution altogether of superior character. The correctness of the maps is amply vouched for. A specimen of this publication can be seen at Bannan's, where subscriptions will also be received.

THE PORTRAIT OF JOHN TUCKER, ESQ.—The scarcity of room last week prevented us from making more than a brief allusion to this magnificent print, which will be ready for delivery to subscribers, at the Book Store of B. Bannan, on Monday next. Mr. Tucker is represented in a graceful sitting position, by the side of a writing table; in the distance is afforded a view of the Schuylkill, and the great stone viaduct now being constructed, upon which is an immense train of Coal cars. The likeness is admirable, if not perfect, and exhibits that peculiar gravity and brilliance of expression for which Mr. Tucker is distinguished. But the greatest merit of this picture lies more in its artistic execution, than in mere effect. Mr. Sartain, who unquestionably is the first artist on this continent, in this branch of the fine arts, was engaged to produce a work that would achieve the *ne plus ultra*, and he was instructed to proceed without regard to cost. The result, therefore, is that we have before us probably the best effort of the combined styles of stipple, line and mezzotinto, ever executed in the United States. It occupied his exclusive attention, we are informed, for a period of over five months; and during a large portion of the time, so entirely was he devoted to his work, that he closed the door of his studio upon his friends and visitors.

The publisher proposes to issue two or three other pictures, of similar style and dimensions, under the title of the COAL TRADE PORTRAIT GALLERY. It is probable that the next portrait will embrace a selection from some of the prominent names identified with the Coal Region, as Burd Patterson, Esq., Henry C. Carey, Esq., Frederick Fraley, Esq., Samuel Sillyman, Esq., &c., either and all of whom would be readily and warmly received by the public. We regard the publication as of decided interest. No class of men, in this country, have ever engaged in a loftier and more important work, than the development of the great Mineral resources of this State. While mere political adventurers have achieved distinction and prominence, without conferring any bona fide benefit upon the community:—the pioneers and leading spirits of the Anthracite Coal Trade have accomplished stupendous practical results, which, under ordinary circumstances of favor, would furnish enduring monuments of their boldness, sagacity and public spirit. Is it right that such a class of men should disappear, one after the other, without an effort to preserve the familiar form and features that characterized them in life? Twenty years hence the great fathers of the trade and of the extraordinary Railway system, which it originated, will, in all probability, be called away. As the trade advances in its career, and pushes forward all the varied interests with which it is associated, they will be looked upon in the light of public benefactors, and these portraits will be treasured as precious family heirlooms. The Prospectus for this work will be found among our advertisements.

Local Affairs.

WEEKLY CALENDAR.

Twelfth Month, December—31 *Days.*

	SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Sun ris.	7.18	7.19	7.20	7.20	7.21	7.21	7.22
" sets.	4.33	4.34	4.34	4.35	4.35	4.36	4.36
Moon ris.	4.36	5.52	sets	5.22	6.38	7.56	9.14

New Moon—Tuesday, 19th., 4.51e.

Saturday, 9th.—Clear and pleasant in morn.—hazy in afternoon.

Sunday, 10th.—Slight hail about 9 o'clock in morn. Dark and threatening all day, with occasional rain—continued during night.

Monday, 11th.—Sun out bright after 8–9 o'clock. Snow melting—roads slushy and side-walks slippery. Freezing toward evening. Night pleasant.

Tuesday, 12th.—Sun out pleasant. Cold toward evening.

Wednesday, 13th.—Clear and pleasant.

Thursday, 14th.—Cloudy and mild. Slight rain at noon.

Friday, 15th.—Cloudy and threatening—mild.

☞ *The second* of the Assemblies came off most pleasantly at the Town Hall, on Thursday night.

☞ *John P. Bertram, Esq.*, of the *Freikeits Freund*, of this place, has been appointed Mercantile Appraiser for this year, by the County Commissioners. A capital selection.

☞ *If you want* to know where to purchase the handsomest and at the same time the cheapest Holiday presents, examine our advertising columns.

☞ *A handsome* Gold-headed cane was recently presented to Mr. David P. Brown, Coal operator, of this place, by several of his friends, as a tribute of respect for his many virtues, public and private.

☞ *The Literary Society* was much better attended on Wednesday evening than any previous meeting. A growing interest in its proceedings is manifest in the community. Mr. Angell lectures next week.

☞ *The present* session of the Courts has given opportunity to test in some measure the qualifications of the several new County officers. We are happy to state, so far, they seem to give very general satisfaction.

☞ *We have been favored with a card, mournfully inscribed,*—"Broken-hearted Club Practising, at Town Hall, Friday evening, December 22, 1854." Hope the wounded will be made whole on that solemncholy occasion.

☞ *We are desired* to say that Teachers, holding certificates of membership of the State Teachers' Association, and presenting the same at Auburn, will be ticketed thence to Lewistown, Mifflin county, where the next meeting of that Association will be held on he 26th inst., at half fare.

☞ *Clay Monument Benefit.*—Arrangements have been completed for a grand Concert by Prof. Becker and several amateurs, in aid of the Clay Monument Fund—to be given at the Court House next Thursday evening, 21st. We take it for granted that everybody will be there. Readers will please examine the announcement under the proper head.

☞ *Arcadian Institute.*—Mr. Elias Schneider, the present efficient Superintendent of the Common Schools of this Borough, has associated with Prof. Burbside in the management of the above-named Academy, at Orwigsburg, and will enter upon his duties after the 1st of January next.

We are informed that a Normal department, for the benefit of Public School Teachers, will be established as soon as Mr. Schneider's connection with the Institute commences.

☞ *Sleighing.*—Everybody and his wife hereabouts have been sleighing this week. The roads are in capital condition, and if old Sol is not too exorciating, the fun is but begun. A small party of ladies and gentlemen visited Tuscarora in sleighs, on Tuesday evening, had a splendid supper and a dance to match, and returned somewhere in the "wee hours" of the morning. On Wednesday evening the members of the Brass Band with their wives and sweet-hearts, and a number of our citizens with similar accompaniments—making in all upwards of twenty to twenty-five couples—went over to Tamaqua and had a delightful jollification. They came back—well, no matter when. On leaving town, such a number of sleighs in line, and the Band in full blast, presented quite an imposing processional array. To all such parties we say,—"Go it while you're young!"

☞ *Several* benevolent gentlemen of our Borough have been engaged during the week, in arranging some general plan for supplying the neighboring poor with Coal and other necessaries.

☞ *A Native of Ashland.*—A very unique work of art has been placed in Col. Johnson's mineralogical collections, at the Pennsylvania Hall. It consists of the head of an African, very dexterously wrought from a lump of Anthracite Coal. It was executed by way of pastime, by Mr. James McAndrews, the out-side foreman at Mr. James Conner's Colliery, at Ashland. The whole thing is "nigger," and reflects no little credit upon the unpractised genius of the artist, who must be regarded as a second Thorn, in his way. He is now engaged upon other works of a similar character—one of which, at least, is to be forwarded to the great International Exhibition at Paris, in May next.

☞ *Bible Convention—(Correction).*—Rev. Mr. Washburn has called our attention to a typographical error in the last *Journal*, viz: "the matter of holding a Bible *Committee*," which should read "the matter of holding a *Bible Convention*"—which Convention, open to all the friends of the Holy Scriptures in Schuylkill County, is expected, according to the public resolution, to take place at the County Seat, *the first Monday* (5th) *of February*. The late Committee and all active friends will try to arrange other engagements so as to attend this *County Convention*.

P. S.—The meeting of the County Society, which is to be held in Port Carbon, next month, we are told, is not on the first, as stated, but on the *second Monday evening*, January 8th.

☞ *Court Proceedings, continued.*—The few remaining cases on the Criminal calendar were disposed of as follows:

Richard McNaman—attempt at Arson. Not guilty. James Karlin convicted of Larceny, and sentenced to 15 days' imprisonment. Richard McNamar—Larceny of a coat. Not guilty.—Michael Finnegan, Morris Holloran, Francis Carroll and Patrick Igo convicted of Riot at St. Clair in September last. First three imprisoned for 4 months; the last, 3 months. John Martin and William Titus—Breach of the Peace. Discharged. Margaret Adams—Disorderly house. Discharged. Wm. Katon—Riot. Not guilty, and County for costs. Christian Baddorf—Fornication and Bastardy. Guilty, but a motion for a new trial. James Leahy—Assault and Battery. Guilty—4 mos.' imprisonment. Daniel Downey—Tippling house. Not Guilty, and Prosecutor for costs. Catherine Canfield—two indictments:—Tippling house, and Disorderly and Gambling house. Plead Guilty, and fined $20 and costs, with 2 months imprisonment. Peter K. Fisher—Larceny. Not Guilty.

Since Tuesday last the Court has been occupied with the Civil list.

The Grand Jury Report will be found among our advertisements.

☞ *Soldiers of 1812.*—A meeting was held at the Court House, on Monday last (11th), by the survivors of those who participated in the war of 1812, and now resident within the County of Schuylkill, for the appointment of delegates to represent the said County in the proposed meeting to be held in the City of Washington on the 8th of January next.

C. LOESER, Esq., was appointed Chairman, and JOHN BANNAN, Esq., Secretary of said meeting.

On motion, the following named persons were duly appointed delegates, to wit:

Honorable James Cooper,
" C. M. Straub,
" James H. Campbell,
" Charles Frailey.

Of the *surviving soldiers*, as follows:

C. Loeser,	Isaac Meyers,
John C. Lessig;	John Bannan,
John Hipple,	Thomas Sillyman,
Peter Filbert,	Benj. Pott,
Jacob R. Bright,	John Bonawitz,
Daniel Schlocker,	Henry Zimmerman,
Jacob Minnich,	James Craig,
Michael Fritz,	Peter Aurand,
John Dager,	D. H. Goodwin,
Wm. Nice,	Isaac Hinkley,
Peter Dinger,	Peter Wolf,
Benj. Bartzo,	Jacob Auldenbach,
John Hanley,	Henry Reinoehl,
Daniel Christian,	Jacob Spatzkuchen,
Henry Shoemaker,	Henry Auman,
John Davis,	Jacob Lehman,
Adam Reed.	John Hill,
Peter Ginder.	Wm. Graeff.

Sons of soldiers, as follows, to wit:

John P. Hobart, Esq.,	John W. Roseberry,
James H. Graeff,	Franklin Kaercher,
Frederick Kulp,	

On motion it was *Resolved*, That C. Loeser, Benjamin Pott, John C. Lessig and John Bannan be a Committee to make the necessary arrangements with the several Railroad Companies for the conveyance of those of the said delegates as may be able to attend the said Convention.

On motion it was *Resolved*, That this meeting approve of the object of the proposed meeting to be held at the city of Washington, on the 8th of January next; and however it may be supposed that the members of this meeting are interested in the question, still they will not refrain from the expression of a belief, that nothing better can be done with a large portion of the public domain than to present it as a small token of regard to those who have shown willingness at least, to shed their blood for their country in a just cause.

C. LOESER, *Pres't.*
JOHN BANNAN, *Secty.*

PINEGROVE AFFAIRS.

MESSRS. EDS.:—In your last *Journal* is a request to your readers to let you know occasionally what is going on in the neighboring towns. Now, there is "most always *something* happening" in our place, and among other things a wedding happened lately. A gentleman from a neighboring County and his lady-love concluded to kill *three* birds with one stone, namely,—take a sleigh-ride, visit friends, and get married. Shortly after their arrival here, they sent for one of the ministers of the town to tie the knot. Finding him absent from home they applied to another, who started forthwith and soon made of the twain one. Before the business was quite concluded, the clergyman must needs terminate their session—while at Nib lo's and the Broadway we have had an excellent English opera, and at every theatre in the city new productions and sterling old pieces have been the order of the day. The new *Metropolitan* theatre is undoubtedly one of the finest in the country, and admirably located for a first class elegant establishment: but, *unfortunately*, the management have thought *proper* to draw largely upon the blood and thunder drama, and rely more upon spectacle and show for the senses than upon the intrinsic appeals of *fine plays* to the heart and feelings. Their management would have been eminently successful at the Bowery or *National*, but in the Metropolitan it is sadly out of place, as they have no audience in that part of the city to appreciate their efforts in the "huge way."

Among the last *in date* in the shipping interest is the *offer* by more than one of the belligerent European powers of *large sums* of money for the Collins line of *steamers, for vessels of war.* As high as $900,000 each has been mentioned, and the tender has doubtless been actually made to the Liverpool agents, Brown, Shipley & Co., and by them laid before the New York owners for consideration.

The "Great Republic" destroyed by fire last Fall, at her wharf in this city, has been rebuilt and is again ready for sea.

The political tempest however, has swept the country more suddenly and entirely than any that has visited commercial or financial circles. In our own State out of an aggregate of about a half million of votes, a Governor has been elected by a majority of three hundred and nine, while a new and obscure party, unheralded, unmarshalled and unknown, polled a vote that almost elected their nominee. In our next we have more to say of the political whirlwind.

☞ GEN. TOM THUMB has taken up his residence with Mr. Barnum, at Iranistan, Conn.

Religious Intelligence.

☞ A WRITER in the Edinburgh *Review*, collects a mass of testimony to show that Mohammedanism is *not* on the decline. This is contrary to the received opinion of Christendom.

☞ DECLINE OF POPERY.—What more manifest evidence of decline could be given, than the attempt to revive the worst features of miraculous displays, under forms which not only science, but common sense and the deepest instincts of a religious fitness, must class with the lowest types of Fetichism and the most impotent deceptions of an expiring Polytheism? Winking eyes, bleeding hearts, charmed beads, consecrated images of the Holy Virgin, and exorcising formulæ, are poor appeals to the earnest soul of the nineteenth century. It is by an irresistible law, that, in the declining period of a religion, its defenders are compelled to fall back upon what is peculiar to it, and thus most offensive to the rising opposite tendency.—*North American Quarterly.*

NOTICES.

[Under this head we will *insert gratuitously* standing notices of Religious service in the several churches of our Borough, together with all special notices for that purpose; provided they are furnished to us in proper time.—*Eds. Jour.*]

☞ TRINITY CHURCH, Centre street, Pottsville, Rev DANIEL WASHBURN, Rector. A. D. 1854. Service regularly in this Church every Sunday. Morning at 10½ o'clock; evening, at 7 o'clock.

☞ ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH, Market Square, Pottsville, Rev. DANIEL STECK, *Pastor*. Divine service in this Church regularly *every* Sunday. Morning, at 10½ o'clock; evening, at 7 *o'clock*. Weekly Prayer Meeting, Thursday evening, at 7½ o'clock.

☞ DIVINE SERVICE, in the Methodist Episcopal Churches of this place, to-morrow, the 17th inst., will be conducted as follows:

FIRST CHURCH.

10 A. M., by Rev. *F. Hodgson*, D. D., of Philadelphia.
7 P. M., by Rev. *James Cunningham*, Conf. Tract Agent.

SECOND CHURCH.

10½ A. M., by Rev. *James Cunningham*.
7 P. M., by Rev. *F. Hodgson*, D. D.

[FROM OUR VIRGINIA CORRESPONDENT.]

PIEDMONT, Dec. 4, 1854.

MESSRS. EDITORS JOURNAL:—In a former letter in referring to "Fort Cumberland," I omitted to mention a fact that may be of interest to you, and worthy of record. On the western side of Will's Creek, on a prominent bluff, overlooking the valley of the Potomac, is erected a handsome Episcopal Church—the materials are of Stone, and the design of the building is a Cross, emblematical of a Savior crucified. The ground upon which it is situated was once "Fort Cumberland." On this hallowed spot, consecrated by the prayers of our beloved Washington, first germinated those principles of liberty which are now spreading so rapidly over the world—teaching man his accountability to the most High God alone, and trampling under foot the despots who have for ages endeavored to bind and trammel the *immortal mind*. Is it not a beautiful idea to contemplate, that upon that sacred spot—sacred to Liberty—now towers towards *High Heaven* an emblem of the Almighty, where *all* may assemble with contrite hearts and kneel before *His* footstool, and "not be afraid."

May all who love liberty and hate intolerance, appreciate the blessings we now enjoy. May the last injunction of Washington, "beware of Foreign influence," and the prophetic words of the good Lafayette, that "if our liberties are ever destroyed, it will be by priestcraft," sink deeply into the hearts of true Americans, whom, I believe, Providence has placed upon the citadel of liberty as sentinels to protect *His Kingdom* upon earth.

The *hills* and valleys of the "Old Dominion" contain much to interest the seekers of hidden treasures. The bottom lands are very level and are profitably cultivated. The mountains rise very abruptly to high elevations, and are covered with a luxurious growth of hard-wood timber.—Excellent land is found upon the highest summits —and many valuable farms are there cultivated. The *Cereal grains* grow well. As a grazing country it cannot be surpassed. The "Glades" commence about 17 miles above Piedmont, on the very summit of the Appallachian chain, where thousands of acres are seen at a single view, destitute of timber, and covered in Summer with a carpet of green, similar to the prairies of the West —where thousands of cattle roam during the Summer, with herdsmen to look after them.

The productiveness of this mountainous region appears to me to be explained, when the stratification of the rock is noticed. Being horizontal, the debris of ages has been accumulating, and the moisture is retained to sustain vegetation. Virginia has large deposits of iron. The fossiliferous *ores of the Juniata and Danville* do not surpass ours in quality, nor equal ours in quantity. The carboniferous ores of the Coal-field are much greater than I have seen elsewhere, and used together in a furnace, produce an excellent quality of iron for all manufacturing purposes. Lime and hydraulic cement abound—fire clay is found in every part of the Coal-field.

Gas-Coal is found in abundance in a Coal-field further west, and in close proximity to the B. & O. R. R. Cannel Coal is also found equal to any other, and 4 feet in thickness. This section of country is just being developed. Much time will not elapse before the hills and the vallies will contain a large and thriving population, and American industry will be protected in the place of paupier labor—when Virginia and Pennsylvania with one accord will exclaim of their mineral and agricultural wealth—"a rough outside, but solid stuff within—plenty of Coal to warm our friends, and plenty of iron to cool our enemies."

HAMPSHIRE.

NEW YORK LETTER.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Embarrassments—Commercial, Financial and Political Difficulties—Run of Stocks and Effects—Stagnation of Business—Reduction of Wages—Opera and Theatricals—Proposed Purchase of the Collins Line—Great Republic—Politics.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12th, 1854.

DEAR JOURNAL:—Since the untoward catastrophe which some weeks since laid the establishment of the paper in ruins, we have been deprived of the pleasure of coming face to face or rather pen to face with our esteemed friends, the readers. We have thought that amid the confusion and difficulties of re-establishing the *Journal*, the old adage of a man's room better than his company, &c., was eminently true. We are pleased, however, to see that you are once again straight, and looming out stronger than ever, and will again resume the Correspondent's quill, and strive to post you up on matters and things in the Empire City.

"Tis an ill wind that blows nobody good," and one of the effects of the blast, commercial, financial and *political*, that is now overhanging our land, is to furnish distressed correspondents with a morsel news than the insatiate maw of a penny-a-liner could receive or digest. Defalcations are rife in every corner, and the tight times are developing some rich exposes of the ways of life of fast Bank clerks and officers. We can now see into the hitherto unfathomable myth of young gentlemen on fifteen hundred or two thousand a year, living in twenty-five thousand dollar houses—giving extravagant parties and living generally in a manner *Corinthian style*. Candles, defaulting cashiers, the American Exchange: or modest clerks driving fast teams of grey horses with all the appliances—*ride* Sackets, defaulting clerk of the Market Bank. No day passes over that some delectable transactions of this sort do not come to light. This very day, we have one of five thousand dollars, (small, truly, but still straws show, &c., you know), in Wall street Trust Company: while to back it up we have the failure of the Empire City Bank, and the mysterious burning of their premises on the same day. Truly, there is something rotten in Denmark.

So goes the system of purging and cleansing, till the community is sifted of the *major part* of the scamps, for the present at least, until high speculative times again brood a batch, when we shall touch bottom in our financial troubles and slowly once more recover our accustomed tone and habit. Liquidation, however, has been severe and extensive, and the main object of our merchants has been retrenchment and the cancelling of obligations.

In commercial affairs we are of course reaping the fruits of what we have sown. Many kinds of business are at a stand still, especially those connected with shipping interests, which have of late wonderfully depreciated. The Novelty Works have reduced their working force from fifteen hundred to one hundred men; and one of our largest ship-building firms employing some four or five hundred men, have cut down to only fifty. These instances show the extent and practical results of the evil—and the reduction of wages in some quarters, is a symptom of what is coming. We are only seeing the beginning of the end.

The universal cry is "hard times"—yet to visit our dry goods palaces and fancy stores generally, one would be induced to belie the *tale*—when one dealer tells of frequent sales of fur capes at three thousand dollars each, are inclined to doubt the story and believe that all the goods are not sold yet. So with our places of amusement—our theatres, operas and concerts are in full tide and draw each their respective crowds.

For a long season we have been enjoying the treat of the Grisi & Mario troupe, though one more night terminates their season—while at Niblo's and the Broadway we have had an excellent English opera, and at every theatre in the city new productions and sterling old pieces have been the order of the day. The new *Metropolitan* theatre is undoubtedly one of the finest in the country, and admirably located for a first class elegant establishment: but, *unfortunately*, the management have thought *proper* to draw largely upon the blood and thunder drama, and rely more upon spectacle and show for the senses than upon the intrinsic appeals of *fine plays* to the heart and feelings. Their management would have been eminently successful at the Bowery or *National*, but in the Metropolitan it is sadly out of place, as they have no audience in that part of the city