Miners' Journal.

POTTSVILLE, PA.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1855.

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

☞ THE NEW YEAR AND A NEW VOLUME.—The JOURNAL, to be even with old Time, has likewise turned over a new leaf, and both commenced a new era together, on the 1st of January, 1855. And now for a tight race between them, for the next twelve months! We will bet on the JOURNAL; for, with the Almanac before us, we predict that the XXXIst Volume will be out on the 29th of December next—just two days ahead of its respected competitor! Three cheers for the JOURNAL—ahead, *as usual!!*

What we *have* done for our readers heretofore may give them some idea of what we *can* do, if "we have a mind to," as the expressive Yankee idiom has it; and it may as well be stated here as at any other time, that we "*have* a mind to" make the JOURNAL superior to anything it has ever yet attained. We publish a good paper already—we know it, and have no mock modesty about saying so. It is what we labor for, and what we pay big bills for; and if we were not satisfied that the fruit is somewhat commensurate with the expense and hard work to produce it—we would abandon the business, and take to growing potatoes, or breeding Shanghais, or something else we *might* succeed at. But the JOURNAL flourishes, thanks—many thanks to a liberal public, and we are content. Long may both "wave!"

Prominent among the arrangements we are now making for the further improvement of our paper, are suitable measures for posting the Coal Trade. Throughout the coming year, we shall publish a number of articles—some gratuitous and others paid for—relating to this already important and rapidly growing branch of commerce; and shall, moreover, comprehend a much larger field, in our observations and statistics, than has ever before been attempted or can be found elsewhere.—Those interested will please make a note of this. The position the JOURNAL has heretofore occupied, as *the Organ of the Anthracite Coal Trade of Pennsylvania*, and what it has accomplished in that connexion, are well known throughout the country.

The course of the JOURNAL, morally and politically, and as a faithful chronicler of the times, particularly in its *Local* department, is fully set forth in the Prospectus for the current Volume, under the second head—to which the public are respectfully referred.

☞ THE DUTY OF CONSTABLES.—In answer to the inquiries of our Tremont correspondent touching this matter, we may remark that frequent allusion has already been made to the same subject in the *Journal*.

There appears to be a most culpable indefiniteness about what a Constable shall and what he shall not do—a very wide difference between what most persons think he is chosen for, and therefore what he *ought* to do, and on the other hand what he *does* perform. We do not care, just now, to consult the legal and technical exposition of what Constables' duties are, but common sense and an intuitive perception of the judicial machinery have always set them apart specially, according to our comprehension, as general conservators of the Peace. It is, therefore, clearly their business, not only to report such cases of violation of the laws, as from their grossness fairly thrust themselves under their official noses, nor even to wait till private information directs their attention that way; but the authority of their appointment equally warrants and enjoins the thorough exploration of the districts over which they respectively have jurisdiction, in order that no offender against the peace and well-being of the commonwealth may escape detection. How few of the Constables of Schuylkill County, according to this plain definition of their duties, live up to the spirit and intent of the office!

We do hope, as our correspondent suggests, that the Court will take the first opportunity to set this whole matter out so plainly, that nobody, whether officer or private citizen, can have an excuse for his ignorance on the subject. If we, in behalf of the people, expect and exact too much of Constables, let us know it, and we will release them; but if they are ignorant of their official requirements, or, what is worse, know them but are remiss in their discharge—inform them, or jog their memories by some practical lesson in the law.

☞ THINGS AT HARRISBURG.—For the last three days, we have been anxiously on the *qui vive* for the Governor's Message, but owing to the failure of organizing the Senate, it has not yet been delivered—up to the time we write; perhaps our Postcript may announce a different result.

Our Senator, it will be seen by the Legislative proceedings in full in another column, stands a fair chance for carrying off the honors of the Speakership—a compliment, which whether he is ultimately successful or not, will forever stand on the official records as a "feather in his cap." Messrs. Price and Darsie have been amusing themselves, and a host of lookers-on, besides, with the interesting game of "you tickle me and I'll tickle you," Who will be the lucky aspirant, is more than we can pretend to predict, in the complication and wire-pulling of modern politics. We should like to see Mr. Hendricks elected, both as a compliment to the district, and because we think he deserves the honor—he was certainly a most faithful member, the last session.

Mr. Strong surely cannot complain of any illiberality on the part of the House, in *his* election. In fact, that body seems, judging by the vote on the Speakership, so completely one-sided in its political preferences, that its proceedings generally will most likely be on the wholesale order. The new party not only holds the balance of power, but seems to have the whole thing pretty much their own way.

☞ WHERE ELECTIONS SHOULD BE HELD.—An interesting discussion is now going on in New Castle, in this County, as to where the elections for that township, shall hereafter be held. The Tavern, at which the voting has hertofore been done, has been purchased for a Store, and will shortly be converted to that use. Some of the citizens, therefore, propose removing the ballot boxes to a neighboring school-house, while others, equally bent on keeping near the grog, have selected another Tavern.

This is no new subject. The press has spoken out manfully on different occasions, throughout the Commonwealth, in favor of the school houses; and the example of other states has been cited as the best authority for the change. We rightful or consistent connexion there is between drinking rum and voting we have never discovered; on the contrary, we are decidedly of the opinion that the sooner they are divorced, the sooner will we have good order at the polls and better candidates chosen—and therefore we vote, now and forever, for the school-houses, to hold elections in.

☞ FRIENDS of Temperance, don't forget the Prohibitory State Convention, to be held at Harrisburg, on the 17th, next Wednesday a week, the day after the Gubernatorial Inauguration, so that visitors can kill two birds with one stone—witness as imposing civil ceremonies, in the good

LITERARY TABLE.

THE MINING MAGAZINE for November and December (combined) is before us. We have so frequently called attention to this work, that our readers pretty generally know the high estimate we entertain of its merits. It is devoted to Mining, Mining Operations, Metallurgy, &c., and is mostly as good authority on the many subjects of which it treats as any we are acquainted with.—For correct and comprehensive information relating to Mining, generally, we can commend no other magazine more highly. Edited by Wm. J. Tenney, New York—price, $5 a year; to be had at Bannan's.

BLACKWOOD for December, is a superior number. "The Story of the Campaign—written in a Tent in the Crimea," heads its tempting list of contents; being off-hand sketches of the principal events in the Eastern War. They are written in a clear, easy and interesting style, and are calculated to give the reader a comprehensive view of the whole field of operations, at the same time he may gather therefrom an intimate and thorough knowledge of each particular subject. There are two well-told stories, besides the usual variety on "matter-of-fact" topics. L. Scott & Co., New York, Publishers; as also of the four British Quarterlies. For prices and other particulars of these celebrated periodicals, see adv. under the proper head.—Subscriptions for all these works, received at Bannan's.

PROMINENT in the list of contents of Putnam for the current month, we note the following articles: "Was Napoleon a Dictator?" "Our given names" —a plain article on a plain subject, but full of common sense and useful hints; "Israel Potter" —continued; "Negro Minstrelsy—ancient and modern"; "Are all men descended from Adam?" "Secret Societies—the Know Nothings." Besides which there is much choice reading on a variety of topics of general interest. This monthly still maintains the high standard of literary excellence originally claimed for it. The present (January) number commences its Fifth Volume and Third Year—presenting a most favorable opportunity for subscriptions. Price, $3 a year—to be had at Bannan's.

THE FLAG OF OUR UNION for the New Year comes out with new type, a new dress, throughout, and a new and elegant heading. It will continue to give the same large amount of original and entertaining sketches, stories and novelettes, and fresh spirit will be imparted to its editorial department, which will be as heretofore under the immediate control and care of Mr. Ballou. Several new and popular writers have been engaged for the year, and the *Flag* will be improved in all departments. The same care will be observed in excluding from its columns everything of an immoral or indelicate nature, and no pains or expense will be spared to make the *Flag* an elegant moral and refined family journal. The first number for the New Year, commences a brilliant and taking novelette from the pen of that favorite novelist and admirable writer, Lieutenant Murray, entitled: "The Sea Witch, or the African Quadroon, a tale of the Slave Coast." Terms of the *Flag*, $2 per year. A. Winch, 115 Chestnut street, Philadelphia, publisher's agent.

RUTH HALL.—We recently noticed this new novel by Fanny Fern. It is attracting very general attention, and is the topic of much criticism. The author-ess is accused of having introduced domestic matters into her work; and the description of Mr. Eliet, it is said, answers to the character of her excellent father, who is well known to the newspaper press of Boston and elsewhere. "Hyacinth," it is said, is intended to caricature her brother, N. P. Willis, who unites in his person the functions of poet and man of ton. The description of "Hyacinth's" country place is represented to be the description of "Idlewild." Here "Fanny Fern" is in a veritable "tub of hot water." The N. York *Mirror* has taken up the cudgel in her behalf, to protect her from an assault of a newspaper called *The True Flag*, the Editor whereof is said to be the "Mr. Tibbetts" of Fanny's biography.

The following card from "Fanny," in reply, appeared a few days ago in the *Mirror*:

"*To the Editor of the Evening Mirror*:—The Boston *Olive Branch* states that it 'paid Fanny Fern for her first literary efforts $8 per week, that *The True Flag* paid her $5 per week, making $13 for her weekly labor in these two papers.' I pronounce this statement *false*. FANNY FERN.

NEW-YORK, December 26, 1854."

HUMANITY IN THE CITY.—The publishers, De Witt & Davenport, 160 Nassau street, New York, have favored us with a book just issued from their establishment, bearing the above title. It consists of a series of Discourses, recently delivered in that city, by Rev. Edwin H. Chapin, on practical, every-day topics, such as "The lessons of the Street," "Man and Machinery," "The symbols of the Republic," "The children of the Poor, &c., &c. The object of the author is plainly expressed in the following extract from the Preface:

This volume aims at applying the highest standard of morality and religion to the phases of every-day life. In order, however, that the view with which these discourses have been prepared may not be misconceived, I wish merely to say that I am far from supposing that these are the only themes to be preached, or that they constitute the highest class of practical subjects, and shall be sorry if in any way they seem to imply a neglect of that interior and holy life, which is the spring not only of right affections, but of clear perception and steady every-day duty. I hope, on the contrary, that the very aspects of this busy city life—the very problems which start out of it—will tend to convince men of the necessity of this inward and regenerating principle. Nevertheless, I maintain that these topics have a place in the circle of the preacher's work, and he need entertain no fear of dissecrating his pulpit with secular themes who seeks to consecrate all things in any way involving the action and welfare of men, by the spirit and the aims of His religion, who, while he preached the Gospel, fed the hungry and healed the sick, and touched the issues of every temporal want. I may have failed in the method, I trust I have not in the purpose.

These sermons are written in a clear, simple and forcible style, and bear throughout the imprint of a strong common sense that is quite refreshing in these days of word-painting and "grand ideas." The work is neatly bound and well printed, in one vol. 12mo. cloth, for $1—to be had at Bannan's.

Local Affairs.

METEOROLOGICAL NOTATIONS.

Reported by Dr. A. Heyer, of Potter. Sci. Associ'n.

JANUARY	THERM'R.		BARM.	GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.
1st mo., 31 days.	Morn.	Lowest	Morn.	*Sky, Wind and Storms.*
Saturd. 30	18	12	29.99	Wind N.; clear.
Sunday 31	24	16	29.92	" " "
Monday 1	23	16	29.25	" " "
Tuesd'y 2	28	21	29.45	" " "
Wed'sday 3	34	28	29.40	Cloudy, wind W. S. W.rain
Thurs'y 4	38	36	29.35	Wind E., foggy a heavy mist
Friday 5	34	31	29.45	" N. E., cl'dy; cl'ed noon

WEEKLY CALENDAR.

	SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Sun ris.	7.25	7.25	7.25	7.24	7.24	7.24	7.23
" sets,	4.48	4.49	4.50	4.51	4.52	4.53	4.54
M. rises	8.57	9.58	10.58	12.00	morn	1.06	2.13

Moon's third quarter—Thursday 11th, 7.18 m.

☞ *The County Bible Society* meets at Port Carbon, next Monday evening.

☞ *The next* (3d) Assembly of the series (the Managers request us to announce) will be given on Thursday evening next.

☞ *Can't tell why*—That when it ought to be moonlight, but isn't, owing to a "stress of weather;" the street-lamps are nevertheless not lighted, though it be dark as Egypt.

☞ *The Literary Society* meets regularly now every Wednesday evening. The subject for the next lecture is an unusually interesting one; so, also the debate—see notice.

☞ *The Presbyterian Church* in Donaldson is offered at Orphans' Court Sale. Rather an unusual description of property to be disposed of in that way.

☞ *We this week* commence the publication of our Meteorological table, to be continued regularly every week. The notations are compiled from the most careful observations, with superior instruments, taken three times a day.

☞ *In conformity* with the characteristic ubiquity of our profession, we dropped in a few moments at the German Ball, on Tuesday evening, at the Town Hall. There was a large company present, and from the least to the greatest, the oldest and youngest, married and single—*all* seemed thoroughly imbued with the spirit of the occasion (an extraordinary one, we may remark *en passant*), and wholly devoted to the hearty enjoyment of the evening. In this respect the Germans, notwithstanding their generally phlegmatic disposition, are superior to all other people, the French only, perhaps, excepted,—in that they appropriate more time to recreation and the lighter amusements, music, dancing &c., (they have no taste for a ball-fight), and enjoy them with a more sincere gusto; a German dances, or rather waltzes, from

☞ *School Election.*—After considerable trouble in collecting the greater part of these, the absence of a few obliges us to defer the publication of the whole till next week, when we hope to have them complete.

☞ *For House Appointments.*—The Directors of the Poor have re-appointed the officers of the County Alms House, for the current year, as follows:

Charles Mullen—*Steward*;
Edward Lebengood—*Clerk*;
Dr. Samuel Shannon—*Attendant Physician*;
Dr. Samuel Bartashy—*Out-door*;
Robert M. Palmer, Esq.,—*Counsel*.

☞ *The New Year* with us was ushered in with extraordinary *eclat*, even for Pottsville! Guns commenced firing early on the evening previous, and continued almost uninterruptedly till broad day-light—the only variation from the monotonous 'pop,' 'pop,' 'pop,' all night long (and a transcendently beautiful night it was, too), was the introduction of a military salute, by a whole platoon, every few minutes, and the incessant roll of the drum, with an occasional shout by some patroling crowd of graceless scamps, whose mammas didn't know they were out. To those who had said their prayers and gone to bed like Christians, to enjoy a night's rest, the whole performance was, in plain English, a nuisance; but to the parties interested it was doubtless fine sport. So mote it be!

The day itself was charming—bright, and the mercury at a most comfortable temperature. Everything and everybody seemed to have put on Holiday linen and a face to match. The usual calls were made—the "compliments of the season" exchanged, &c. Altogether it was a very "happy New Year."

☞ *Arcadian Institute.*—We recently announced the proposed connection of Mr. Elias Schneider, of this place, with the above named academic institution, at Orwigsburg. On Monday last, he delivered a public address in that place, introductory to his entering upon his official duties. It is spoken of by those who heard it, as an able and highly interesting effort—such as would be likely to give all present a high estimation of the speaker's abilities, both as a writer and a professional Teacher.

Mr. Schneider for upwards of three years past, has occupied the responsible post of Superintendent of the Public Schools of this Borough; and while we much regret the withdrawal of his services, justice requires that we should add our testimony, from personal knowledge, of his entire competency as a Teacher and Manager of youth. He has at all times been most faithful in the discharge of his official duties, and stood foremost among the active promoters of educational interests, generally; and we know we express but the common sentiment of our School Board, the parents of his late pupils and of the whole community, when we wish him pre-eminent success in the new field of labor in which he is about to engage.

Since the above was in type, we have received the following report of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the above named Institute, relating to the change of Principals just spoken of:

ORWIGSBURG, January 1st, 1854.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Arcadian Institute, the President, Hon. F.S. HUBLEY occupying the chair; the following business was transacted. The meeting having been opened, the President announced that a copy of Mitchell's Universal Atlas had been presented to the Institute by Isaac Hiester, M. D., of Reading.—On motion,

Resolved, That the thanks of the President and Board of Trustees be tendered to Isaac Hiester, M. D., for his valuable gift, and that the same be carefully preserved in the Institute Library in grateful remembrance of the donor.

A letter was then read, offering a proposition to unite a Military School with the Institute. On motion,

Resolved, That it is not considered expedient for the present, to take any action upon the proposal for connecting a Military School with the Institute.

A request was made of the Board that Prof. Burnside be allowed, on account of his health, to sell and transfer his lease of the Institute buildings to Mr. E. Schneider, A. M., and associate that gentleman with himself as Principal of the Institute. On motion,

Resolved, That the Board concur in the sale and transfer of lease made by W. U. Burnside to Elias Schneider. On motion,

Resolved, that the Board recognize in Mr. Schneider an able scholar, an excellent disciplinarian and a gentleman; and that they congratulate themselves in having his ability and talent connected with the Institute.

Hon. F. S. HUBLEY, *Pres't*.
T. L. EBER, *Sec'ty*.

☞ *Remember the Poor!*—According to previous notice, a public meeting was held on Sunday afternoon last (31st ult.), in the 1st Methodist Church, Second street, Pottsville, to devise measures for the relief of the Poor of this Borough and vicinity. A goodly number of both ladies and gentlemen were in attendance.

The meeting was organized by calling Mr. SAMUEL SELTZMAN to the Chair—Mr. C. LITTLE, Secretary.

The Chairman briefly stated the object of the meeting,—to furnish food, fuel and raiment to the destitute in our midst; and further to establish a permanent organization, to provide for their immediate wants throughout the remainder of the Winter.

Prayer was offered by Rev. John C. Thomas, for liberal hearts, and the adoption of effective measures for the benevolent object in view.

Hon. F. W. Hughes, John Bannan, Esq. and Rev. Jas. Neill severally addressed the meeting at some length, stating the extensive and extreme destitution at this time, among the poorer classes throughout the country, and especially in this County, and earnestly appealed to the more fortunate portion of the community for prompt and liberal action, in behalf of the suffering Poor.

It was at first proposed to embrace the whole County in the permanent plan of relief contemplated; but this was re-considered, and a resolution passed for the appointment of a Committee to draft a Constitution and By-Laws for the organization of an association, to be entitled the *Pottsville Benevolent Society*, whose jurisdiction should be confined to the Borough and its immediate vicinity—leaving to other towns and communities, throughout the county, to follow the example.

Frank Pott, Jno. Bannan, Geo. Jennings, F. W. Hughes and D. P. Brown were subsequently appointed said committee, to report at the next meeting.

On motion, Committees, consisting of two ladies and two gentlemen, for each Ward in the Borough, were selected to investigate the cases of destitution in the Wards for which they are respectively appointed, and to report the same to the Treasurer of the proposed Society; and also to confer with the County Directors of the Poor as to such objects as they may discover worthy of out-door official relief—as follows:

For South Ward:

Mrs. Andrew Russel;	Mr. Geo. Jennings;
" James M. Beatty;	" Jas. M. Beatty.
For Middle Ward:	
Mrs. Wm. Wolff;	Mr. D. P. Brown;
" Elisah Thompson;	Capt. F. Pott.
For N. W. Ward:	
Mrs. Jno. H. Hill;	Mr. Chas. Bushnan;
" Henry Shelley;	" Dan'l Shartle.
For N. E. Ward:	
Mrs. Daniel Shartle;	N. M. Wilson, Esq.;
" John L. Mennig;	S. W. Roseberry, Esq.

In order, further, to render the action of the meeting effective *immediately*; it was, on motion of Hon. F. W. Hughes, agreed that the officers of the present meeting, together with Andrew Russel, Esq., for Treasurer, be constituted the officers of the permanent Society to be organised hereafter.

A collection was then taken up, followed by a subscription (several gentlemen present heading the list with $50 each), when the Collectors reported,—

Cash collected,	$40 29
By subscription (including $20 cash),	531 50
To which was added a contribution (collected the same day) from the Sunday School of the 1st M. E. Church,	11 53
Making a total of	$589 82

All of which was at once deposited with the Treasurer, to be by him disbursed as the several Ward Committees may direct.

Mr. B. Bannan moved to the effect that the meeting, by resolution, request the Schuylkill Navigation and Reading Railroad Companies to fix their tolls for the transportation of Coal, the coming season, so as to appropriate a portion of the funds so collected, to the erection and endowment of a Miners' Asylum for this County; but several objections being made, on account of the alleged irrelevancy of the motion to the immediate object for which the meeting had been called, it was withdrawn.

Resolved, That the Pastors of *all* the churches in this Borough, be requested to take up collections in their respective congregations; and also to direct the same to be done in the Sabbath Schools under their charge, on the first Sabbath that may be convenient—to aid the efforts of this meeting for the relief of the Poor; and that the Secretary be instructed to forward a notice to this effect to each of the said Pastors.

Resolved, That all the Borough papers be requested to publish the proceedings of this meeting.

On motion, the meeting adjourned to convene again in the same place, next Sunday afternoon, 7th inst., at 2½ o'clock.

TREASURY REPORT.

MESSRS. EDS.—Enclosed I send you the report of our Sabbath school in this place:

Methodist Episcopal S. S. of Pottsville.

Number of Pupils,	190
Male—84; Female—56;	
Average attendance,	140
Number of Teachers,	14
Male—8; Female—10;	
No. of Vols in Library,	400
Superintendents, C. L. Pinkerton, Emma Wright.	

I am happy to say to you that our school is in a prosperous condition, additions being almost daily made, both teachers and pupils; and furthermore I am happy to say that during the last year, several of our teachers and scholars have sought and obtained the pardon and remission of their sins, to the joy and consolation of their souls. May the God of Grace grant that the coming year may be more prosperous than the one that is now about to leave us never again to return; and may our school with all other Sabbath schools, be indeed a nursery to the church militant, from which many plants may finally be transplanted into the Church Triumphant above. Methinks, while I am penning these lines, I have the response Amen, from thousands that are engaged in the Sabbath School enterprise. O, let us never weary in well doing, knowing that in due season we shall reap if we faint not!

WILLIAM LACEY, *Sec'ry*.

Tremont, Dec. 30th, 1854.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Nothing of great importance has happened since last week. Christmas was celebrated in various ways by our citizens, but to many, I am sorry to say, it was anything but a holiday.

Services were held in the German Reformed, Methodist and Catholic churches during the day, and were pretty well attended. In the evening His Satanic Majesty had *his* services in those abominable dens of iniquity, the grog shops, which curse our community, and are absolutely getting to be intolerable nuisances. These pits of destruction were the scenes of drunkenness and debauchery indescribable. One fellow was stabbed during a drunken waltz, which came off in one of them.

There seems to exist a considerable diversity of opinion among our public officers with regard to their respective duties in such cases. It strikes me, our worthy Judge would render the public a service if he would deliver a lecture at the next session explanatory of constabulary duties, &c. The Constable shoves the duty of preserving the peace upon the 'Squires, and they in turn upon the good citizens—and it's always the case, what's everybody's business is nobody's business; and so rioting, drunkenness and selling liquor in large and small quantities, without license, are practised with impunity. Our Constable excuses himself with the plea that he is bound to report nothing but what comes under his personal notice; but it seems to me, when citizens call his attention to such violations of law, it is *his* duty to be on the lookout and ascertain the truth. Am I mistaken, Messrs. Editors? CORRESPONDENT.

Tremont, Dec. 28th 1854.

ASHLAND AFFAIRS.

DEAR JOURNAL:—Since my last, the Old Year laden with its burden of events, political, public and private, its disasters, distresses and "hair breadth 'scapes," has been superseded by the New Year, young and unladen as yet by any great number of events. In the *future*, this New Year has long been waiting the death of '54, to give to the world its quota of events which the succeeding hours will unfold to us. Well, now that it is fairly started, may it smoothly glide on and bring peace, and plenty, and happiness to the many left destitute, in sorrow, and discouraged by the Old Year. The succession of years reminds me of the primitive way of traveling by relays of horses.—We are hooked for the other world; we mount the car of life—to fall from which is death—the stood, the year, mounted by Father Time, the postilion, who with the spur of moments hurries his New Year stood over the rough way, through the towns and villages of weeks and years. The incessant jolts the while precipitating some unlucky traveller into the arms of pursuing death, until the station reached at "noon of night," the steed exhausted drops down. But the untiring rider mounts another New Year steed, and, "all aboard" again, is off! We have no time allowed us to snatch from the "Old Year" a memento, and were it not that attendant memory had plucked some sweets as we were hurried along, in whose treasury we find them, we would have nothing to remind us of the past. Happy those who only find sweets in the treasury of memory, without a bad act to embitter them.

The first day of the New Year passed off quite pleasantly here, and with but one or two exceptions quite properly. Some, as though the New Year were fast locked in sleep, commenced firing guns on Sunday afternoon as if to awaken it for a start in good time. This and a finale (indulged in by some) to the opening ceremonies attendant upon the New Year, were about the number of exceptions to good order. At twelve o'clock all being ready, the New Year started in Ashland, without, I think, being in the least hastened by the noise so prematurely indulged in. The start was enlivened by the booming of a cannon (which cannon by the way caused a slight demand for window glass,) and by music performed by bands of Serenaders. The music sounded well, as it swelled out upon the still night air. Business throughout the day was mostly suspended, though many taking advantage of the almost "May day," to sun and air themselves, caused the streets to appear lively, there was an entire absence of disorder.—*I did not see a drunken man in the streets during the day!* A good start truly for a New Year.—May it so continue.

Two men while at work in a Gangway of Col. J. J. Connor's Mines, last week, were injured by a fall from the top of, the timber or slate. Patrick McGraw was very seriously injured. The other's name I did not learn—he was not very seriously hurt.

Mr. Hines, who was so badly hurt a short time ago, is slowly recovering.

The "Ashland Lyceum" started some time since and is going on finely. Subjects of general and particular interest are there discussed. Those having leisure and inclination to spend an evening or two each week, from business or the pleasures of home, may do so with profit by attending the "Lyceum." An Institution of this kind should be a permanent winter fixture in every place. It has a direct tendency to lead the mind into the avenues of knowledge and general intelligence, and to direct the mind from a course leading into vice. Success then to the "Ashland Lyceum!"

Yours truly, BACH.

Ashland, January 2, 1855.

NEW YORK LETTER.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

The New Year—Its suggestions and lessons—Old Fifty-Four—Celebration of the day—No dying out—The Ladies—The Flowers—"Ellis," of Tamaqua—Sentimentalism in Society—Our respects—New City Government—The Executive Lamps—Sudden Disappearance—Aid for the Poor—Grand Ball.

NEW YORK, January 2, 1854.

DEAR JOURNAL:—A Happy New Year, is the phrase upon every lip, from peer to peasant, and with a hearty good will, we are fain to believe, is it said. So to be in the fashion, and at the same time to express our hearty feelings, we say to our esteemed friend, the *Journal*, and his myriad readers,—Happy New Year; and surmising that we bear our congratulations returned, respond with an emphatic Amen!

A Happy New Year may it be truly! Welcome to young Fifty-five, the infant year; may he bear upon his wings blessings, and come fraught with good! Ah, thou grim Fifty-four, young and innocent didst thou come among us twelve months since—yet how much of suffering and misery didst thou entail upon us. Like Pandora thou hast opened thy box, and all evils have flown forth, leaving naught but poor Hope, timid and shy, remaining. Heavily hast thou laid thy hand upon us—over sea and land didst thou outstretch thy arm, and desolation by fire and flood have swept the earth. Thou hast touched princely fortunes and they have flown away—thou hast pointed at the manly forms of the noble and the beloved, and they

"Have wrapped the mantle of their couch around them,
And laid them down to pleasant dreams."

So to the benison: "A Happy New Year," we say Amen! Happier may it be in the homes of those whose whitening bones old ocean's surges toss—or whose blackened corses lie

"Full many a fathom deep,"

Of "whose bones are coral made," as in the dim caverns of the deep, the hulks of noble ships, wrecked, lie rotting. Happier may it be around the hearthstone, when the vacant chair notes the inroads of the pestilence. Happier may be the burden of its mission than bore old Fifty-four, whose pestilence and disease, fire and flood, shipwreck and tempest, disaster on sea and land, had marked to do their bidding. So may it be, and let us all join the universal cry—Amen!

Apropos of New Year—I was much surprised to notice the remarkable *fact* instanced by the New York Correspondent of the Philadelphia *Ledger*, and quoted by the last *Journal*. Of a verity he is a wise man, with his nose concerning the celebration of our time-honored day. Why, dear *Journal*, the opening of the New Year was never welcomed with more gusto, or kept with more elegance and luxury than was yesterday. The weather was all that could have been wished; the ladies were fascinating, and Society generally charming; and let me assure you that we of the *gens d'un jour* did the day ample justice. From about ten in the morning until midnight, there was one steady pull at door bells; while couches of every description that have ever pulled or man over roads in, lined our avenues and streets in countless throngs. New York did full justice to her own peculiar day, and the "upper ten," of whom your friend speaks, were in no way behind the age, as far as we could judge, and we pretend to frequent in fact the outskirts at least of fashionable society. As the gentlemen strokings of the prophet were remarked in bunting. As long as New York is so long must New Year's day be celebrated; we should as soon part with our Hudson River as our New Year's.

I am delighted with your correspondent of "Ella," of Tamaqua. She writes down the fashionable twaddle of society with a vengeance; she must be that rara avis of the community—a sensible woman. Pray give our respects, friend *Journal*, and tell her that when we come to Pottsville, we shall be tempted to extend a little and take a trip to her domicil, if for nothing else than to tell our Gotham demoiselles, what we have seen. Any person who has listened to the fashionable small talk of society till utterly disgusted, can appreciate anything that borders upon the literary and intellectual. Our respects then to "Ella," of Tamaqua—we adopt you as our fair friend, and should be pleased to hear from you often.

The demand for flowers yesterday, was unprecedented, and the day is said to have been the busiest ever known by New York florists. All the flowers that could be procured from other cities, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston, were pressed into requisition by our belles for New Year's day.

Our new City government were yesterday sworn into office—the Mayor receiving the congratulations of his friends at the City Hall, for a couple of hours. We passed his house in the evening and noticed the two lamps—the insignia of office, were blazing away in grand style. They were, we thought, as the sporting men would say, "up to time." The custom here is (your readers may not all know it) to place before the residences of the Mayor, at city expense, two elegant street lamps, surmounted with the American Eagle.—Wherever you see these lamps in the city, you may look for a Mayor, or ex-chief Magistrate, as common courtesy causes them to be left after the term of office has expired. They are quite beautiful and illuminate the front of a fine mansion very brilliantly.

The story of this morning is that Mr. Leggett, of the firm of Sloan & Leggett, proprietors of the Empire Iron Works, of this city, is missing. He is said to have written a note to his brother, stating that before it reached him, he would be no more. Financial embarrassment is said to be the cause. His brother, we believe, sunk a quarter of a million in the same establishment, and became almost a beggar.

Innumerable plans are now on foot for the relief of the poor—the most notable of which is one by the ladies of New York, being a grand Ball to be held during the month, at the New Opera House. One hundred of our first names constitute the board of managers. It will be a superb affair. Our places of amusement, and artists generally, have all volunteered their aid, each in their respective spheres. Something substantial will be the result. You shall be posted up on some grand Balls, soon to come off.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE MINERS' JOURNAL.]

THE HELFENSTEIN DONATION.

[We have already published an account of this munificent affair, but the following letter throws out some commendable suggestions on the subject, that will doubtless strike our readers favorably.—*Eds. Jour.*]

SHAMOKIN, December 29th, 1854.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Some time ago I saw an invitation in your valuable paper, requesting persons in the different sections of the Coal Regions to give you some idea of the doings in their respective neighborhoods; considering that a few lines from this Coal basin to be within the limits of your request, I purpose letting you know what has lately transpired here. Friday, the 22nd inst., was a day that I think will be remembered by the poor and philanthropic for ages to come; it was, I may say, a new era in philanthropy; it was the bequeathing of a large and very valuable Coal estate by the Hon. Wm. L. Helfenstein, to charitable purposes; I said a new era in philanthropy, because I think and hope that it will induce the rich and benevolent of this country to follow the example. We frequently hear of large fortunes being bequeathed to this same object, and after the death of the individual, we find a large amount of it wasted or squandered away by avaricious executors, agents, &c.; we have a prominent example of this in the fate of a large portion of money bequeathed to this purpose some years ago by a distinguished rich man in Philadelphia. But here the donor is in the prime of life, and we, I hope will live to a good old age and much good proceed from this generous act, and that in his old age it may gladden his heart when on his road to that happy place where all are rich, and meet his Saviour who will pronounce to him those beautiful words recorded in the Book deposited in the corner stone of a free College:—"Well done thou good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of thy Lord."

This is no ordinary gift it is a large, permanent and lucrative one, and must last for ages to come; it is one that cannot be stolen or plundered; it is the proceeds of about 666 acres of prime Coal land which will take ages to exhaust it, for it contains 70,000,000 tons of Coal, worth in the ground 25 cents per ton, making the enormous amount of $17,500,000, which at an annual product of 300,000 tons per year at the above price per ton, will bring $75,000 a year and will take 233 years to exhaust. This calculation appears to be extravagant, but I have the opinion of some practical Geologists who are well acquainted with the property and fully coincide with the above estimate; but suppose we deduct one third for contingencies, we still have the enormous amount of 46,666,666 tons, which at 25 cents per ton amounts to $11,666,666 and taken out as above at 300,000 tons a year, will require 155 years to exhaust this property. Taking this in all its bearings, it may well be considered as one of the most noble ideas in this country since the formation of our free and noble constitution, and future generations will look back to it with joy. CHARITY.

☞ PENNA. STATE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.—The Philadelphia *Ledger* gives the following notice of the proceedings of this body, convened at Lewistown on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of last week. A large number of members were present; and the session throughout was characterized by remarkable unanimity, zeal and earnestness.

Carefully prepared reports were presented by committees, on the following subjects:—"On the importance of the study of the Ancient Languages, as a discipline for the mind," by Mr. O. C. Davies, of Lancaster; "on Physiology, as a branch of Common School education," and "on the Ventilation of School Houses," by Mr. J. N. Loughlin, of Mifflin; "on the Co-education of the Sexes," by Mr. J. H. Brown, of Philadelphia; "on Normal Schools," by Hon. Thos. H. Burrowes, of Lancaster. Several of these reports elicited animated and prolonged discussion.

Evening addresses on various important educational topics were delivered by speakers from Philadelphia, Pittsburg, and other towns in the State, and the session closed with a complimentary entertainment, given in honor of the occasion, by the ladies of Lewistown.

Among the resolutions adopted, was one recognizing the necessity of enlisting the local press of every county in the cause of education, and requesting editors to provide an "educational column," to be devoted to the subject. The following preamble and resolutions, offered by Mr. A. K. Browne, of Schuylkill, and relating to a rising and valuable institution in Philadelphia were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, The principal nations of Europe have wisely provided Schools of Arts and of Mines, wherein to educate the youth in these important departments of national industry; and, *Whereas*, Such institutions are equally demanded in America, and especially demanded in Pennsylvania, in order that our vast mining, agricultural and manufacturing resources may be readily and profitably developed; therefore,

Resolved, That this Association has learned with the highest satisfaction, of the establishment in Philadelphia, of the "Polytechnic College of the State of Pennsylvania," which comprises in its organization, a School of Mining, of Engineering, of Chemistry and Mechanics, and in which these arts, and the sciences which bear upon them, are systematically and practically taught to the students.

The Association adjourned to hold its next session in Pittsburg, in August next.

☞ READING RAILROAD.—In the money articles, of the *Ledger*, some days ago, we find the following in relation to this road:

The advance in Reading Railroad shares for the last two or three days, has been as decided as that of any stock on the list. It is intimated that a stock dividend will probably be declared in the coming month of January to the amount of the profits of the past year. There is no doubt, we suppose, of the fact that the road has earned a very handsome profit over current expenditures. But the money is understood not to be on hand. It has been used in absorbing the floating debt of the Company, which was very large, and to carry which, at the very highest rates of paper, current for the last half year or more, made sad inroads on the profits of the business of the road. The last semi-annual dividend was passed, and all the revenues of the Company were applied to taking up these expensive floating claims. Eight hundred thousand to a million of dollars, we understand, have been liquidated, leaving a million or more still outstanding. In July last it was expected that a dividend could be made the coming January. That, however, it is now settled, cannot be. The only question to determine is, between a stock dividend and no dividend at all. The stockholders at the annual meeting will probably have the matter submitted to them in a carefully prepared report, and as they shall decide the managers will no doubt act. If it has been found necessary to make heavy and extraordinary purchases, for which the Company's receipts have been used, it seems not unreasonable that the stockholders should ask some equivalent, acknowledging the fact. It is true the making of stock dividends does not amount to much. The issuing of ten per cent. in stock adds nothing to the value of the road. The property of the Company is neither more nor less valuable whether represented by a hundred thousand or a hundred and ten thousand shares. As the number of shares is increased the value of each is lessened. In favor of a proposition of a stock dividend, however, this is urged; the value of the Company's property has been increased by the use of the stockholder's withheld profits, and if no acknowledgement is made to him of that fact, when the Company, relieved from her liabilities has reached regular cash dividends, the individual who shall then become possessed of the stock will stand as favorably, and will receive as much of the annual profits as will the original stockholder, whom may have for years been subjected to the loss of half his interest.—Whether there is much or little in this, it will no doubt prevail if left to the stockhol