# Miners' Journal.

POTTSVILLE, PA.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 1855.


## KNOW-NOTHINGISM—REPUBLICANISM, &C. OUR VIEWS.

The days of secrecy in the operations of the Know Nothing Order have passed. That plan which was indispensably necessary to perfect its organization, and crush the old and corrupt political bodies of the country, is now obsolete and useless. In every section the doors of the Lodges have been thrown open, and the principles of the Order, are as well known—as familiar to all, as the Constitution of the Union. This is well. It affords those citizens who were heretofore frightened by its reported proscriptive tendencies, to examine closely into the merits of the organization, and appreciate feature hitherto hidden from their view, by the veil of secrecy, now withdrawn. The discerning and intelligent adopted as well as native citizen, cannot but be cognizant of the fact, that the American party, as it exists, welcomes into its ranks every citizen, whether foreign or native born, whatever his religion, if the basis of the citizen's private and political feelings, is love for our institutions, and respect for the laws under which he lives.

Although it has been asserted that we were a member of the Know Nothing organization, in the days of its secrecy, we can truly assert that we have never been a member of, and would not consent to ally ourselves to a secret political body, of any description. We have however, strenuously defended and advocated many of the principles of the Know Nothing organization, believing as we did, and do yet, that they are destined to effect a much desired political revolution in our midst. While we have advocated and still advocate those principles of the American organization which are the life-blood of pure Republicanism, we have ever objected to one feature introduced into the principles of the Know Nothings.—That feature was, proscription without distinction, of good, worthy adopted citizens. There is a marked distinction and we are really glad that it is so generally recognized, between certain classes of adopted citizens in our midst. We must say, in all truth, that we have yet to perceive anti-American combinations as a body, on the part of the mass of the English, German, Scotch, and Welsh citizens of the country. As regards the German population, we of course separate the order-loving, Sabbath observing portion, from the infidel, lawless members of that community, who would disgrace by their presence, any civilized country. But as a mass, we recognize the worth, intelligence and true American sentiments possessed by the peculiar classes of adopted citizens we have named. They acquiesce, generally, with a spirit equal in patriotism and true feeling to that of the native born, in the enforcement of laws, Local, State and National; and reverence those cherished institutions, under the perpetuation of which their children will reap benefits coequal with the offspring of the American born citizen. The proscription of citizens of this character has been the principal reason why we have never allied ourselves to the Know Nothing Order. As the American party now exists, and expresses its sentiments, adopted citizens who occupy the position we allude to, are not proscribed; nor will they lose those inestimable political privileges, dear to every freeman, by allying themselves to that party. Let them unhesitatingly join that organization, and they will readily perceive, that spite of the assertions of political anti-American papers and demagogues, that there is no proscription on the part of Americans towards them, and that their worth will be fully recognized by those whom they are led erroneously to believe are their bitterest political enemies. "*We come here to live—not to rule*" was inscribed upon a banner in conspicuous characters, and carried by a party of Germans recently, in an American procession in a Western city. This is the sentiment of every good adopted citizen, and were all inclined to adopt that motto as their rule here, there would be but little use of Know Nothing organizations to check the flood of Jesuitism, foreign pauperism, and infidelity, which at one time surged upon our shores, threatening to sweep from existence every land-mark of Republicanism.

To the adopted as well as native born citizen, has the era of Know Nothingism proved beneficial, placing each in a position to understand the merits of the other. The American Catholic, owing no allegiance to a foreign potentate, and spurning the insidious wiles of Jesuitism; the English, German, Welsh and Scotch adopted citizens can shoulder to shoulder, join with the native born, in the work which lies before them, of Republicanising America. The time has arrived, and we feel confident that the American party appreciate the fact, when a fraternal feeling should be encouraged between that party, and the worthy adopted citizens who reside in our midst. Their interests are identified; and with the entire absence of proscription in their case, on the part of the American party, we feel assured that the warmest defenders of the institution of our country, and supporters of the principles of Americanism, will be found in the worthy class of adopted citizens referred to.

Limited time forbids further comment on this important matter this week. In our next, we will consider the subject of religious toleration and political rights.

THE NEW GERMAN PAPER:—We are authorized to state that the new German Paper, to be called *The American Republican*, will appear about the first fortnight of the coming month (September) or sooner. It will stand upon the "Republican Platform;" will sustain American laws and Institutions against the encroachments of Religious Despotism on one hand, and German opposition to our Sunday Laws, and Religious Institutions; and against Infidelity in all its phases. It will proscribe no man on account of his place of birth; but will judge him by his conduct.—It will extend the hand of fellowship to all adopted citizens, who assist in the maintenance of American Institutions, and in the defence of those principles which our grandsires founded, believing that adopted citizens who unite with Americans in resisting the encroachments of foreign measures, which if tolerated in our country, would subvert every vestige of those cherished principles, held dear by our forefathers, and for the establishment and maintenance of which, they readily shed their blood.

On all other questions, the new German Paper will be neutral, but independent, and will be faithful in giving news.

The Prospectus and the names of the publishers will be promulgated in a few days.—In the meantime, subscriptions may be handed in at the *Miners' Journal* establishment, where the paper will be printed for the publishers, at first, until other arrangements are perfected.

Advertisements for it can be handed in at once. A large edition of the first number will be printed for distribution, which fact holds out a great inducement for advertisers to send in liberally their favors.

From the well known ability and energy of those who have undertaken this publication, we feel confident that the public will receive one of the neatest and best German papers published in the United States. Go to work, and send in subscribers names at once.

☞ The Paper will go on—that's a fixed fact. Let it start with a fine list of subscribers and advertisers.

THE LOUISVILLE RIOTS.—It is a notable fact that quite a number of papers, in different parts of the country, have been remarkably careful to publish accounts of the Louisville Election Riots, taken from the *Courier*, *Times* and *Demokrat*, (German) all of which are Anti-American in their sentiments; but the aforesaid journals have confined their notice of the accounts given by the Louisville *Journal*, (American Whig), to attacks of the most violent kind on its editors. They forget that the origin of the Riots cannot be pointed out with certainty until the matter is judicially investigated, and in the meantime they shower personal abuse upon Mr. Prentice, and accuse the *Journal* of being the cause of the difficulties, without giving their readers an *idea* of what may be said on the other side. For instance, the fact that numbers of foreigners armed themselves openly several days before the election, has never been mentioned by the papers spoken of. The *Journal* of the 11th gives some idea of the first cause of the riot, which rests with the Sag-Nichts organs, and proves conclusively, that it had no hand whatever in promoting disorder. It merely called upon Americans to do their duty at the polls, in such language as is tolerated on the occasion of every election in this country.—Mr. Prentice says:

The editors responsible for the riots here, so far as *any* are responsible for them, are those, who by their atrocious and infernal calumnies against the American party, made every ignorant foreigner think that Americans should be killed like wild beasts, and who thus incited that shedding of American blood which fired American hearts with vengeance. Uniformly in our paper, from the beginning to the end of the canvass, we were the advocates of peace, and it is our consolation and our pride to know, that, on the day of election, we did quite as much as any man in the city, if not more, to allay the roused fury of the multitude and stay the work of demolition and blood.

The Editor of the Evansville *Journal*, was in Louisville on election day, and has given a detailed account of the events as they occurred, from which the following is taken:

Last Monday, about noon, we visited the polls of four wards, all of which, *we had learned at the Courier office* were in possession of the Know Nothings, and that nothing but Know Nothings could vote there, &c. We found everything peaceable at these polls.—Foreign-born citizens came up in our presence and voted, and voted white tickets openly, while all the American tickets were yellow. There were a few drunken men about, but otherwise we never saw any more peaceable voting. During the entire morning there had been probably half a dozen fights, but nothing approaching a riot, nor were they on account of Sag-Nichts voting. Everything promised to pass off comparatively peaceably, and good citizens were anxiously watching to quell disturbances. When we returned, the *Courier* had issued an extra, which was headed with the following inflammatory paragraph:

"*Infamous Outrages.*—As was anticipated, the Know Nothing bullies took possession of the polls early this morning, and have kept them up to this hour. They have brutally knocked down and maltreated hundreds of voters, among them many of our best citizens. Those opposed to them are beaten and driven from the polls. Mob law is triumphant, and Louisville is dishonored and disgraced."

We have not language to express the feelings of those acquainted with the *facts*, who read this utterly uncalled for, unfounded statement, and so much calculated to arouse the feelings of those opposed to the American party on that day. The polls were *not* in the possession of the Know Nothings, and there had only been about the usual number of election fights. We mention this one subject to prove that even when the election was half over, the basest arts were used by the opposite party to arouse the worst passions. But we let this pass for the present.

About 3 o'clock there were reports of a mob in the First Ward, the extreme upper part of the city. At once, with many others, we went to that Ward. There were assembled a large number of native-born citizens, among whom were several slightly wounded. They had riddled several houses occupied by Germans, but, so far as we could learn, had destroyed no life, though they had badly beaten several Germans and Irish who had fired upon Americans. *The account given by the Louisville Journal agrees almost exactly with the particulars as gathered by us after as thorough investigation as circumstances would admit.* The first attack was made by *Germans*. They fired upon innocent persons who were offering them no insult, but were quietly walking or riding along the streets.—A baser outrage was never committed than this act of the Germans, utterly without provocation as it was, and committed upon respectable and quiet citizens, who were committing no wrong and suspecting no wrong. There were five American citizens lying in a doctor shop at one time, severely wounded by these cowardly miscreants, and a sixth one, an officer, waiting for his turn.

DON'T DOUBT IT.—A pauper writing from the Philadelphia alms-house to the *Ledger*, denies that all the paupers sent to the poor-house, owe their position to rum. Very probable. There are isolated instances of unfortunate want disconnected with the rum traffic, but it is undeniable that a fearful preponderance of paupers is caused by intoxicating liquors.

### EDITOR'S TABLE.

THE PENNSYLVANIA FARM JOURNAL for August, has been received. The contents of the number are varied and interesting to the general reader, and to the farmer invaluable. It is decidedly, one of the best agricultural journals published in this country.

## Local Affairs.

### METEOROLOGICAL NOTATIONS.

*Reported by Dr. A. Heger, of Pottsv. Sci. Associ'n.*

| AUGUST. | THERM'T. | | BAR. | GENERAL OBSERVATIONS. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7th mo., 31 days. | Mean. | Highest. | Mean. | Topograph. & Geographical. |
| Saturd. 11 | 84 | 71 | 29.95 | Height of Pottsville (corner |
| Sunday 12 | 83 | 75 | 29.16 | of Market & 2d. sts.) above |
| Monday 13 | 96 | 74 | 29.98 | mean tide, 633.957 ft.—Dis- |
| Tuesdy 14 | 77 | 72 | 29.09 | tance from Philadelphia, 95 |
| Wedn'y 15 | 81 | 73 | 29.05 | miles.—Latitude, 40° 44 |
| Thurs'y 16 | 92 | 77 | 29.01 | 15".—Population in 1850, |
| Friday 17 | 81 | 71 | 28.88 | 7,800. |

11—S. W. light; clear all day.
12—S. light; rather cloudy.
13—N. W. " morn. cloudy, aft. slightly clear; sultry.
14—N. W. " slightly cloudy, cool, pleasant.
15—W. S. W. fresh; rather cloudy, aft. showery.
16—W. " morn. cloudy, aft. clear; sultry shower at night.
17—N. W. rather clear; cool, pleasant.

☞ *Mine Hill and Schuylkill Haven Railroad.*—This corporation has just made a semi-annual dividend of six per cent., payable on and after the 20th inst.

☞ *Large Stalk.*—A potatoe stalk, 8 feet, 2 inches in length, grown by Daniel Koch, of Middleport, was left in our *sanctum* yesterday. If the candidate for the Sheriffalty runs as well as his potatoe vines, his success is certain.

☞ *Theatrical.*—We understand that Mr. D. S. Palmer with a competent dramatic corps, will visit our Borough next week, for the purpose of giving a series of theatrical performances. The *corps dramatique* under the management of Mr. Palmer, are well spoken of, and a series of chaste, unexceptionable performances are promised our "play-goers." A preliminary advertisement of the corps, will be found in another column.

☞ *Gardner's Rock Drill.*—A day or two since, we had the satisfaction of witnessing the operation at Ellet's Tunnel, on the road to Port Carbon, a mile from this Borough, of one of Mr. Gardner's rock drilling machines. It is certainly most effective in operation, and its simplicity must commend it to those interested in mining operations. The machine is 24 inches long, by 3½ inches in diameter; weighs 80 pounds; is made entirely of iron, and is worked by a single man turning a crank. Forty revolutions per minute are made, the drill striking 120 blows per minute. The blow is obtained by the compression of an india rubber spring, which expanding, throws the drill with great force. One man can drill in conglomerate rock, at the rate of 6 inches, of 1½ inch hole per hour. In ordinary sand stone rock, it can perforate at the rate of 2 to 3 feet per hour. An important feature of this machine, we observe, is its ability to drill at any angle with equal force. We would advise those who feel interested in rock drilling operations, and desire to witness every improvement made in this species of work, to pay a visit to Ellet's Tunnel, and see Mr. Gardner's machine operate. The machine will be in operation the first two days of the coming week. In the meantime, Mr. Gardner, the patentee, can be seen at the American House.

☞ *Philadelphia and Reading Railroad.*—For the month of July just passed, the following is a statement of the business of this Road:

| | 1855. | 1854. |
|---|---|---|
| Received from Coal, | $355,724 75 | 347,243 66 |
| " Merchandise, | 21,514 17 | 14,929 97 |
| " Travel, &c., | 31,036 28 | 27,900 59 |
| | $408,275 20 | 390,174 22 |
| Transportation, Renewal Fund and all charges, | 162,089 89 | 156,674 16 |
| Net profit for the month, | $246,285 31 | 233,500 06 |
| " " for 7 months, | 1,189,292 89 | 713,983 86 |

To'l net profit for 8 mos. $1,434,578 20 947,483 92

This is a great business, when we consider that the net profit of a single month is little less than a quarter of a million of dollars, and for eight consecutive months only a few thousand short of a million and a half. Yet in spite of the result which this has on the common and preferred stock, this stock remarks the Money writer of the *Ledger* is heavy at about 3 per cent. below par, and comparatively a small proportion of its stock is held by citizens of our own State at this price.—The owners of Reading Railroad are to be found, to a large extent, among the capitalists of Boston and bankers of Europe.

☞ *The Democratic County Nominations.*—The delegates of the Democratic Convention met at Schuylkill Haven on Monday, and nominated the following ticket for County officers:

*For Senator*—C. M. Straub.
*For Sheriff*—William Matz.
*For Assembly*—S. R. Dickson, J. G. Frick.
*For Treasurer*—S. K. M. Kepner.
*For Commissioner*—Paul Lengel.
*For Director of the Poor*—H. Dieffenburger.
*For Auditors*—Michael Beard, 3 years, J. H. Guertler, 1 year.

Much dissatisfaction was expressed at a portion of the ticket selected, and loud threats of rebellion were heard. Whether they will have the courage to rebel, remains to be seen. It seems evident that Straub holds the Democracy of Schuylkill county, in his grasp, and spite of their wriggling, they cannot extricate themselves from the digits of this inveterate office seeker. What a pitiable spectacle! Previous to adjournment the Convention passed a series of resolutions "down on" the Know Nothings; the "Jug Law;" building Pierce, &c. The Convention was quite a *spirited* affair, as far as our observation extended; the disappointed candidates drowning their sorrows in shocking whiskey and water-melons.

☞ *Improvements in the Borough.*—There are a great many new buildings going up in different parts of the town at the present time, and buildings of that character which will add materially to its beauty and finish. Indeed, every year adds some new graces to the features of our Borough, and materially increases the number of her inhabitants. Pottsville is fast growing in size and importance, and filling up in proportion as she extends. That scattered appearance which characterizes nearly every young town, has long since disappeared from our streets, and strangers not acquainted with its history might judge it to be many years older than it really is.

In Morris' Addition, the Orchard, Coal street, and the vicinity of Lawton's hill, in Minersville, Market and Mahantongo streets, and in Schuylkill avenue—in fact, almost every part of town, the clank of the bricklayer's trowel and the carpenter's hammer is heard almost incessantly.

Mrs. Thompson's new house in Market street between Third and Fourth, intended for a private residence, is a beautiful and elegant building, which will not cost less when finished, than ten thousand dollars. This house is 22 feet front by 75 feet in depth, and three stories in height; pressed brick in front, with bracket cornish in imitation of marble, circle head marble lintels and marble sills for windows, with marble base on pavement, and marble door steps.

Col. P. B. Brown's new house on the corner of Market and Wolcott streets, is three stories in height, 23½ feet front on Market street, and 78 feet on Wolcott street. The front is built of press brick with marble window and door sills, lentels, steps and base on pavement. This building will also be adorned with bracket cornish in imitation of marble, and otherwise ornamented. It will be one of the best private residences in town.

The house which Thomas P. Johns, Esq., of St. Clair is building in Market Square, will also be one of the first class buildings, and inferior in style and convenience to none of our private residences. It is a three story building, 20 feet in front by 80 feet in depth, and will be finished in the same style as those formerly described.

In the upper end of this street there are several small buildings being erected; but those we have mentioned are the principal ones. In Mahantongo street there are four splendid buildings newly erected and in course of erection, belonging to Samuel Sillyman, E. T. Taylor, Danl. Stall, Esqrs., and the Catholic Priest. Samuel Sillyman's house is on the corner of Mahantongo and Second streets, and will be when finished the most elegant house in Pottsville. It is in a pleasant locality, and commands from the upper windows some of the finest views in different directions over the town. The building is three stories high—the first story being 12 feet, the second 11 feet, and the third 10 feet. It is 27 feet 7 inches front on Mahantongo street, and 72 feet front on Second street. This building which is built of brick, on a red granite base, with the same kind of stone for door steps, sills and lintels, is mastiched in a smooth and beautiful manner, which gives it an air of refinement and beauty that other styles do not often possess. There will be a veranda, or light balcony of iron, which was cast from patterns made expressly for this building by Robert Wood of Philadelphia, in front, and which will add materially both to its finish and usefulness. But what is most admirable in this house is its inside arrangement for ventilation, comfort and convenience.

The next house, on the same side of Mahantongo street, is that now nearly finished by E. T. Taylor, in the cottage style. It is built of brick, two stories high, and 37 feet front by 40 feet in depth. It is situated on the corner of Sixth or Courtland street, 30 feet back and 15 feet above the pavement on Mahantongo street. When finished it will be a very beautiful house, and we should think from present appearance, as convenient as admirable. There is to be anobservatory on top which will command a fine view.

Daniel Stall's new house, likewise for a private residence, is nearly opposite to Mr. Taylor's, and we should judge by the plan submitted, that it will be equal in beauty and finish, to any of those before described, with the exception of Mr. Saml. Sillyman's. It is to be three stories high, and 25½ feet front on Mahantongo street, by 96 feet deep on Courtland or Sixth street. It is built on a marble base course, with marble door steps, window and door sills, and lentils, and ornamented with a beautiful bracket cornish in imitation of marble.

The next house above, is that in which the Catholic priest lives, but which, it is rumored, was built by the church for the residence of a Bishop! and it is possible that we may have a Bishop among us yet. It is a splendid house and just finished; but we *know nothing* about its size except from its outside appearance; and certainly that is imposing and rather prepossessing.

Mr. Martin Weaver, of Branchdale, is building a very beautiful and elegant cottage up on the side of the Sharp Mountain among the evergreen trees, which are continually waving in the cool airs always passing there. It is situated near the the Academy at the upper end of Schuylkill Avenue. The front is built of brick, and the back and sides of stone. It is three stories high, including the basement, which is finished the same as the upper stories. The eves are furnished with massive bracket cornish, the front with a cool and delightful veranda, and the sides with porticoes. There is to be an observatory on the top, from which a varied and extensive view is obtained of Pottsville and the surrounding country.

Benjamin Christian, is building a large and substantial stone cottage in the vicinity of Weaver's, on the corner of Schuylkill Avenue and Courtland street. It is 21 feet front and two stories high on Schuylkill; 50 feet deep and three stories high on Courtland street. This cottage is to be built in the English style.

Wm. Milnes, A. Silyman, C. Little, and other gentlemen in both Mahantongo and Market streets, and also in other parts of town, have made additions to their residences, adding much to their appearance and utility.

Those streets have improved almost incredibly within the last three or four years, and promise in a short time to be in no way inferior to the most elegant streets of our older towns or cities. They are well shaded with young and thrifty trees—indeed, the citizens are beginning to pay more attention to our streets and dwellings, and to evince a cultivated and refined taste in their embellishment. We have often reminded them of the beauty and importance of shade trees in all our public streets, the advantage of which we have been enjoying in one vicinity of town, in warm weather for many years.

On Monument Hill, John Bannan, Esq., is building a good and substantial stone cottage near the elegant one in which he now resides, which has been but lately finished.

This is our classic part of town. Here are our sacred groves, and here is our proud and beautiful Monument to Henry Clay, of which a great part of the world has heard, and which, in itself is an ornament that would grace the old and pompous cities of monumental Europe.

In the upper part of town, (or now, or comparatively new Court House and Jail, stand out conspicuous and imposing on a bold and commanding eminence, surrounded by dark clusters of evergreen pines. On the opposite side is Lawton's Hill, destined at no distant period to be covered with cottages nestling amongst the green bowers and waving groves; and indeed, we know of no better locality than it for such a purpose.

Hon. F. W. Hughes and Wm. Pollock, Esq., have already began to build on the upper portion of it, in the vicinity of the grove which surrounds the "Blue Tavern."

They are building what we may term a double cottage, intended as the private residences of two families. It is 40 feet fronting East Market street, on the upper end of which it stands, and 66 feet fronting Pottsville, or in depth. It is pleasantly situated and also commands an extensive view.—Lower down, on East Market, and a short distance above George street, the Schuylkill Lumber Company is building a large frame house, which will be divided into dwellings for some of the hands. It is two stories high, and 30 by 32 feet in size.

The next house below on the same street is a new brick one now being built by John Derr, Esq. It is to be two stories high and about 14 feet front by 40 feet in depth.

Mr. J. B. Olewine, is building a fine brick house in the same vicinity, facing George street. It is three stories high, and 22 feet in front by 71 feet in depth. This is also a private residence, and will cost Mr. Olewine when finished, over three thousand dollars, besides the ground on which it stands.

Mr. Philip Nagle has just finished a frame house close by, which, though not large, has a very neat appearance.

In Coal street, Mr. Zimmerman, one of our enterprising carpenters and master builders is building a new brick house, which is intended for his own private residence. It is to be three stories high and 20 feet in front by 60 feet in depth.—This building is in the vicinity of G. W. Snyder's new and extensive work-shop, which we took notice of a few weeks ago; and a short distance above is the establishment of the Schuylkill County Lumber Co., which we described in our last paper.

In Morris' Addition, a short distance below Messr. Yardley & Son's iron ware house, Mr. Jas. Russel is finishing his new brick house which was put up last year, and which is in character with the elegant private residences which we described in Mahantongo and Market streets. It is built of brick and finished inside—viz:—The washboards, windows, door-frames &c., with chesnut, which when varnished will present a tasty appearance. We believe the idea is new. This building is three stories in height, and 20 feet front on Centre street, and 70 feet deep towards the Railroad.

In the Orchard there are also several new buildings going up. One of which; that being built by Mr. Schollenberger, will be an elegant and substantial house. Messrs. Stine & DeFrehn are building a block of brick houses, but of their character we cannot say much; it appears that they are to be rented for family residences.

Col. Lauer of the Orchard Brewery, is building, and has nearly finished some extensive new works on the site of the old ones which were burned down some time ago. We believe they are built in such a style, that they can be easily converted into other purposes! So mote it be.

## TAMAQUA AFFAIRS.

FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Your pardon, kind sirs, I beg, and that of the dear public too, especially the temperance portion. I was very much surprised to find that my last letter conveyed the idea *that increased drinking is the consequence of the operation of the Sunday liquor law*, which I did not perceive until your remarks opened my eyes to the fact. When I penned that letter, my thoughts were running on the sympathy that has of late years been expressed for the drunkard, and the anathemas heaped upon the heads of rumsellers; and it appeared to me that men *will have liquor* as long as it remains in the country, even if there is no open tavern door inviting them to enter.—The fact is, a man can't stagger along the streets now on the Sabbath, without every one taking particular notice of him, and the first question that presents itself to the mind is, where did he get the liquor? while there was no restraint upon the sale of liquor, a drunken man created no surprise, and half a dozen would not have been noticed as much as one is now. This has no doubt, given rise to the erroneous opinion that there is more dissipation now on the Sabbath, than there was before the law went into operation.

Dr. Hyde has been delivering a course of lectures in Boyer's Hall, on Electrical Psychology. His experiments were entertaining, and some of them very amusing. Indeed, the greatest misanthrope could not have witnessed some of his experiments without enjoying a hearty laugh. He closed his lectures last evening.

That pic-nic, that came off last Thursday, according to "Uncle Toby's" account, was a grand affair. Since our revered Uncle published his *defeat* in the attempt to obtain a kiss from those ruby lips, the question among the young bloods who attended, has been, "Am I To-bee, or not Toby?"

E.

*Tamaqua, August 16th, 1855.*

## UNDERGROUND WALKS IN ENGLAND.
### No. 2.

FROM OUR FOREIGN MINING CORRESPONDENT.

WIGAN, LANCASHIRE, July 17, 1855.

DEAR EDITOR:—I left you in my last when on the point of attending a Collier's meeting, assembled in Bolton, to redress some grievances which they conceived themselves to have suffered from the illiberality or carelessness of the masters.—The assemblage appeared to be composed of deputies from the various mines of Lancashire, who desired to take some means to ensure themselves against the effects of accidents which proper expense and pains taken on the part of the masters, to ventilate the works thoroughly, might easily render of rare occurrence. They also proposed to consider the much mooted subject of wages, and the loss or benefit that would accrue to them from "holding out" against those employers who would not pay the higher figure. The degree of talent manifested by the speakers in their calm dispassionate appeals to their fellow workmen on a subject of so much importance to them, gave me a high opinion of the intelligence and acuteness of the mining population. One young man in particular, stating in a cool, dispassionate manner, the various "points" in their life of hardship which were susceptible of improvement, and illustrating his position by apt selections from the laws and census reports, referring to, or the facts attending the prosecution of Coal mining in foreign countries, France and other parts of the Continent, was, I thought, a model for a public speaker on such usually exciting occasions. He described to them the fatherly care exercised by the French Government over those who pierced the earth for her mineral treasures, and the strict responsibility for the lives of the employees to which the employers are held—and then in contrast instanced a terrible accident from fire-damp which had not long since taken place in his neighborhood, for which the masters were held to no account, and into which only a Night investigation was made by Government. The bath and change of dress which the French Collier receives immediately on emerging from the mine was also favorably contrasted with the walk home in the dirty pit clothes, tired as their wearers must be, with the severe labors of the day, which is the English practice.—He wanted the proprietors to take more interest in the lives and conditions of those who were hourly perilling themselves for his advantage. "In Belgium" he said, "the rate of mortality amongst Coal miners is but 1 in 282, whilst out of every 177 of you in England, one man must be killed annually."

I gathered from the proceedings which were marked by a degree of forbearance and intelligence unusual, that two of their number have been sent as deputies to Parliament, to endeavor to get such provisions for their well being as they considered necessary, made into a stringent law, and that they were likely to be entirely successful. I was pleased to see the introduction of Lancaster miners, such a loud testimony to the peculiar hardships and unhealthiness of the life which earns for them their daily bread, in the bad shapes, sallow, pale complexions, and deformed, worn-out look, which they almost universally exhibited.—These all spoke of the cronching, confined position which their labor necessitated; of the breathing air exhausted of oxygen, by a circuit of miles thro' galleries where others worked and breathed, and contaminated by contact with gas which it was necessary to dilute to render harmless; of the want of wholesome sunshine and the light of Heaven; and regarding them one could understand the distressing fact which the army-enlisting sheets have recently disclosed, that in the neighborhood of Liege, out of every 100 Colliers drawn for the militia, no less than 42.5 were rejected for physical reasons—this proportion being double that of the weavers, and 16.6 per cent. above the average of all trades. Really, knowing this, something ought to be done by Government to render their life of toil and hazard, as little hazardous and as little toilsome as it is in the nature of Coal-mine service to be.

Graduated in the Collieries of England, a number of famous men known to the world for their writings or works, are noticeable. Doctor Hutton, the mathematical genius, whose books everybody used to begin the study of mathematics and mechanics with, spent his childhood in old Long Benton Colliery, of the New Castle district. George Stephenson, the renowned Civil Engineer, who is justly considered the father of the Rail Road system in England, and who has studded his native country with the brilliant works that distinguish her above the world, commenced his career as a Coal-miner in Lancashire. Thomas Bewick, the celebrated Illustrator of Nature, graduated as a Collier, and the remotest recollection of his powerful memory was that of lying for hours on his side, between dismal strata of Coal, by a glimmering and dirty candle plying the pick with his little hands. "Those hands," says a Biographer, "afterwards destined to elevate the arts, illustrate nature, and promulgate her truths to the delight and instruction of the moral and intellectual world." It will thus be seen that the Coal-miners of Britain have been well represented in the higher walks of literature and science, and though it is undoubtedly true that a large majority of them at this day are, like sailors prone to low indulgences when off work, and the fortnightly pay-day is sadly enough followed by disgraceful spree, yet that there exists among them such earnest, intelligent, hard-reasoning minds as represented them in the Bolton meeting, is to me an assurance that the times is leavened with a leaven of reform that will not cease working until the whole be raised in the scale of moral and accountable beings.

The Incehill "Coal and Cannel" Company, whose mines are located near the town of Wigan, on a line that extends for a long distance between two upthrows or dikes of over a thousand feet in perpendicular extent, and who employ no less than twelve hundred and eighty-eight men in all, at mining the Coal in their various Collieries, is without doubt, the largest single establishment of the kind south of the New Castle district. When we learn that this Company sends the product of its mines by rail nearly 300 miles, over the heads of all the intermediate Staffordshire and Cheshire proprietaries, to London, and again by vessel above 3000 miles at the rate of 150 tons every day to the city of New York, we can appreciate the magnitude of its operations, and the superior quality of the fuel which can enable them to warm the firesides of the English, and light up with gas the American metropolis, against the opposition with which they must compete on the part of Companies which have so greatly the advantage as respects distance. I found the operations at Incehall conducted even in the minor details, on a scale of completeness which could only have been suggested by long experience, and brought about by the most careful attention directed to the subject, by a well-constituted corps of officers.—Many of the mines being very "fiery" as they term it, and subject to accidents by explosions, the strictest discipline prevails, not a man being allowed to go to work in the morning without having his "Davy-lamp" examined by a commission of officers appointed for that purpose, who after satisfying themselves that all is right, lock up the lamp which is numbered, and the party is allowed to proceed. While I was down the Cannel mine, a Collier came to report himself to the Underlooker, saying that while at work, he had unwittingly struck the lamp with his pick and made a hole in the wire-gauze. The Underlooker was obliged to take the man's name and number of his lamp, and report the circumstance to the Superintendent, and though the affair was purely accidental, and the fracture almost too small to be seen, yet the mishap would most likely lose the poor Collier his situation. It is only by resting the severest responsibility on each and every individual who descends the mines, that the occurrence of dangerous accidents is ensured against. Rules and notices to the workmen, infringement of which to the smallest extent, renders the careless one liable to fines, instant discharge, or even judicial penalties, are posted up throughout the works.—These rules are twenty-seven in number, and one, or two of them it may be interesting to specify.—Rule 23, runs thus: "That every miner or workman shall, out of his earnings, leave in the hands of the Company, as his contribution to the Miners' Accident Society, established on the works, three pence per fortnight for himself, and three pence (6 cts.) for each drawer employed by him. The Society shall be conducted by a Committee, consisting of the Underlookers of the Company, and an equal number of miners appointed by the Pitmen, to which Committee the Company shall hand over the money so left in their hands. The Committee shall have the sole distribution of the funds, and the Company shall subscribe five per cent. on the amount contributed by the workmen." Though somewhat arbitrary and Maine-law-like in its provisions, this rule has been found to prove extremely beneficial. Should any workmen be injured, $1 50 per week is paid him whilst unable to work, for the time of one year: after that it is discretionary with the Society whether or not to continue the benefit. Rule 18 is very much complained of by the Colliers, and does seem rather unjust. It provides that if any miner sends up a cart of Coal or Cannel, containing stone or dirt in it, or short of measure, (6 cwt.) he shall receive no wages for the same. A rule, relating to safety lamps, may contain news for those who are laboring under the impression that Sir Humphrey Davy's great invention is a complete safeguard against accidents from explosions: "That as the Davy lamp is a source of danger, if used in a strong explosive current, wherever any danger is apprehended from fire-damp, the safety lamp shall not be exposed to such a current, neither shall it be suddenly removed in the presence of explosive gas, but gently and prudently extinguished by turning down the wicks." Most of the minor offenses are punishable by fines, which are added to the funds of the Provident Society before referred to. The rank offenders, such for instance as are found smoking in the mine, or exposing a naked light by taking off the lamp top, or entering the mine without having their lamp-gauze examined by the firemen, are discharged and taken before the Magistrates. Such are the regulations by which over one thousand, two hundred men are worked, in the midst of gas, which a bare spark may render as fatal to them as it would were they over a powder magazine—a gas rendered harmless, only by a complicated process of ventilation, which the carelessness of a little trapper, neglecting to shut his gate, may entirely disarrange.—Unfortunately, in spite of all the excellent provisions against the occurrences of these accidents, casualties that are painful to record have many times taken place. It was only two years ago, that in the "Arley mine," of great depth and extent, a terrible explosion of fire-damp occurred, which scorched to cinders many of the workmen, whose bodies could hardly be recognized on being taken out, whilst a greater number were suffocated by the still more fearful choke-damp or carbonic acid gas, which fills up the mine after an explosion has ridden it of the atmospheric air. Between fifty and sixty lives were lost, mostly young men in the prime of life, or boys. Parliament immediately instituted a Commission to inquire into the causes of the accident, but nothing was elicited, I believe, further than the supposition of some of the workmen that a sudden burst of gas had ignited from a shot or blast, which was being set off at the spot where the accident occurred.—None of those directly concerned had lived to tell the tale. The result of the House of Commons inquiry, however, is seen in the greater stringency of the rules and discipline, as well here as in all the English Collieries since its appointment.

The 'Camel' mine which was the first of the Incehall Collieries I descended, is 600 feet in depth and occupies an underground area of nearly 800 acres, extending in round numbers two miles in length North and South, and three-fourths of a mile in breadth East and West. There are three shafts; two for the raising of Coal which is effected by a 60 horse power engine on top and for the descent of fresh air—the third is an upcast one for the purposes of ventilation alone.

This ventilation is effected as usual by the rarefaction of air, produced by a large furnace burning five or six tons of Coal per day of 24 hours, and situated under the upcast shaft. From 110 to 120,000 cubic feet of air per minute, are by this means supplied to the mine, and the current travels from where it enters fresh at the foot of the two downcast shafts through the passages and windings at the rate of four miles an hour to the place of its exit at the furnace. A steam jet is also constructed near the furnace to be used in case of danger, when a supply of fresh air is required or required or when the furnace is out. The jet is supplied with steam from large boilers close by, which work two 40 horse power engines located near the bottom of the pits and engaged in dragging up by ropes the loaded Coal trains from the lower workings (the bed of Coal having a dip of about 1 in 7). The rope which leads from the windlass wheel of the engine to the bottom of these 'brougbs' where it is attached to the loaded cars, is over three-fourths of a mile in length.—The relative effect of ventilating by steam jet or furnace, was stated before the Parliamentary Committee to be in favor of the former; and as regards cost, the first can produce an exhaustion of 168,000 cubic feet per minute with an original outlay of $1500, and an annual expense of $1000: whilst the last, to produce an equal effect, necessitates an outlay of only $900, but a cost per annum of over $1200. Of course, the labor of the two boilers aids the furnace in its duty of supplying the mine under consideration with air to a considerable extent. This is a very fiery mine, and it is only by the utmost care and watchfulness on the part of the manager that explosions are guarded against. One should see the men descending to their morning work and passing under the strict surveillance of the firemen, who sit as if in judgment on benches near the foot of the pits, and before whom every man undergoes as severe a scrutiny as though being detailed off on a forlorn hope in some military expedition, before we can appreciate the extent to which it here becomes necessary to carry precautionary measures. During the day none are allowed to descend or ascend except by gaining the express permission of one of the officers.

For a few hundred yards from the bottom of the pit, the chambers are lighted with gas, which is manufactured above by the company and forced down. The underground stables, which are handsomely scooped out of the solid rock and contain accommodations for forty horses, are thus lighted. We fancy there are not many stables outside of a Coal mine that can boast of being lit up with gas and provided with a railroad to aid in conveying their tenants provender from one stall to another; yet such is the case in "Cannelopine." Some of these horses have been eight years under-ground without ever going up to the light of day, and some have been born here. They possess a notably fine complexion, being sleek and smooth coated above what it is the privilege of common horses to attain. None of them have become blind, though such is said to be the case with the horses employed in some of the great New Castle Mines.

The drainage of a mine of this extent, and no deeper than 600 feet, becomes a problem of great intricacy and its solution is attended by no little difficulty. It is effected by a water-lodge or canal, cut across the mine as deep down as the lowest point of the workings, out of which the water that finds its way into it by tunnel and otherwise from every quarter, is pumped out by a 100 horse power low pressure engine, working at the surface. It is obliged to pump about five hours each day to keep the mine dry.

In the Cannel mine, between six and seven hundred men and boys are employed below ground alone; the forty or fifty other persons engaged at the surface are mostly women, dressed in pantaloons and requiring a second look to assure one that they are not in reality what they seem to be, men.

The Bloomer movement possesses an antiquity more respectable even than its adherents have asserted for it. No doubt, they never expected to search for its original manifestation in the English Coal fields, but it has long been about the Lancaster mines an approved and patriarchal custom.

From 500 to 600 tons of Coal and Cannel of excellent quality are quarried out of this mine daily; an amount which is not excelled by any single Colliery in England. Most of the Cannel is sent abroad to London or New York.

CANNON.

## NEW YORK LETTER.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

*Cool Weather—Returning Migration—Excitement in Wall Street—Pocket Money—City Chamberlain—His Emoluments—New Banks—The Contrast—Its Errors—Castle Garden and the Emigrants—Indignations of the Runners—Its Arrangement—Yellow Fever—Health of the City.*

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