Miners' Journal.

POTTSVILLE, PA.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1855.

KANSAS.

Within the past week, the intelligence from this Territory, has been of an alarming character. Rumors of civil war have sped on the wings of electricity, and the President having been notified by Gov. Shannon, that an armed force was necessary to suppress the turbulent, troops to assist the Governor in the enforcement of laws enacted by the bogus Legislature of Kansas. Full and accurate accounts of the origin of the difficulty, and the difficulty itself, have not been received, consequently we have but a succession of undoubtedly exaggerated reports, principally by telegraph, which cannot be relied upon. It is surmised that the present trouble arises, not out of the issue between slavery and freedom, but out of the practice of "jumping" claims, as it is called in the parlance of the frontier. Some fellow, without a proper regard for the rights of other men, sees an apparently vacant claim, in the midst of a desirable and well settled region, which he covets and forthwith takes possession of, although certain well known marks which he removes, might teach him that the claim was previously occupied by an owner who is temporarily absent.—When the latter returns, a fight is very apt to ensue, because both parties know that possession is a great advantage in the law. From the nature of the case in Kansas, the original fight must have been of this kind. We do not undertake to say which was the original squatter, and which the jumper, but it appears that in the fight which ensued, one man was killed; whereupon the other party gathered a mob, drove off the murderer, burnt the house, and did sundry other acts of violence.

With their customary fai ness, the authorities of the Territory, instead of arresting all the parties concerned in the disturbance, took only the one faction, and allowed the other to go free. Such "law and order" as this, does not exactly suit the rough pioneers of the frontier, and it is not wonderful that they have rebelled against its enforcement. They have hitherto, submitted so quietly to equal, if not greater outrages, that something not yet heard of, must have goaded them to the extremity of burning sixteen houses.

The responsibility of the acts of the possibly too hasty residents of Kansas, rests in a great measure upon the sponsors of the Kansas bill, and upon the weak, truckling, vascillating course of the Administration. No better proof of the mischief which it was predicted would grow out of the passage of this bill is wanting, than the fact, that prominent Southern men have denounced, and still denounce it. For instance, in the course of some remarks made in New York last week, the Hon. J. J. Crittenden, of Kentucky, declared that he was always opposed to the passage of the Kansas Nebraska Bill, and had always denounced it as pregnant with mischief and difficulty. It was madness to trust the future political condition of a great and important territory, to the issue of a collision between factions of hostile squatters.

The character and numerical strength of the present immigrants in Kansas, have materially changed, since the first organization of that Territory. The hardy Western pioneer, who knows his rights, and knowing dares maintain them, cannot be intimidated by hordes of Missouri ruffians, and the Administration is much mistaken, if it imagines that those hardy Free State men, will fail to retaliate for wrongs inflicted month after month upon them, by the rabble of Missouri. We are no apologist for acts of violence or disorder. We condemn if they are reported correctly, the recent acts in Kansas, of the so-called "abolitionists." But so far, the accounts received are so one-sided, that we are almost led to believe, that they have been transmitted East, for political effect in the organization of Congress, and to enable the despicable Pierce administration to bolster itself up by *a coup d'etat*, to have due weight with the ultra pro-slavery party.

What might have been at the outset, a mere squabble about a land claim, a thing not unusual in frontier life, has been magnified into civil war, and is so possibly at this time. The spark of party feeling has been fanned by designing men into a flame, and we fear its suppression will be the work of time alone, if Congress does not act promptly in the matter, and find a remedy. With rebellion in arms—and well armed too—what folly for the President to add fuel to the flame, by ordering troops to the spot, when their presence would only goad to madness, the five thousand men of the Free State party, each man armed with a rifle, and the whole force possessing artillery. It would have been a redeeming feature in the contemptible policy of the Administration, if it had attempted the character of peace maker, in place of arraying troops against free citizens of the United States, who have submitted to indignity and wrong from the Governor and his Missouri allies, with the national government also against them.

But what was anticipated, is now recoiling with fearful force upon the Administration.—Notwithstanding the repeated warnings of Reeder and others, who saw from the beginning, the dangerous issue that was being provoked, the injudicious course has been persevered in. We now see the beginning of the result. A fearful responsibility rests upon the Administration, and the account which it will yet be compelled to render of its stewardship to the people of the United States, will be as strict as humiliating. Even as the Mexican war recoiled upon its projectors, the Polk dynasty, so will this outrageous Kansas matter, send into private life its authors and supporters, "unwept, unhonored and unsung."

In connection with this matter, and for the purpose of showing what the Free State party of Kansas have, in the course of its experience, endured from the government and its ruffian allies, we annex the following important statement, made by ex-Governor Reeder, in the course of a lecture, delivered at Trenton, N. J., last week:

"He proceeded to state that after his appointment as Governor, and previous to his leaving home, he received numerous intimations that a plot was concerted to overwhelm the ballot-box by Missouri votes, and to prevent the people of Kansas from governing themselves. He thought it most judicious to preserve silence concerning this matter, and he communicated it only to him to whom it was his duty to commit it, (meaning the National Executive). In St Louis he was approached and the plot was avowed, and he was asked if he would sanction the proceeding. He treated the matter as gently and courteously as possible, determined to avoid exciting, if he could, any disorder, and hoping the plot would not be put into execution.

But he soon found that it was no chimer. A secret society had been organized in Missouri, for sending voters into Kansas. Entoming the ballot box as the guardian of freedom, he determined to guard it as sacredly as possible. He had no alternative but to neglect his duty, forfeit his responsibility, lose his self-respect, and damn himself to everlasting obloquy, or to perform his duty in a storm of proscription, intolerance, and menace, such as he had not expected. There was but one course for an honest man—to protect the ballot box, to prescribe careful forms of election, and stringent oaths. This he did, and from that time to this the storm has not ceased. Before the March election, 1854, he was again approached and promised forgiveness and many other things, if he would throw off responsibility upon the judges of election, and accept their returns as valid without examining or deciding on them. He again refused, but courteously, although irrevocably. He had previously announced to his southern colleagues his intended course of action, and he defied them to assert that it was not correct. In November, 1854, Whitfield was undoubtedly elected Congressional delegate, even after deducting illegal votes, the Free State party being then in a minority, and their strength being divided.

The census was taken in the winter and the election for members of the Legislature ordered for March. The Missourians and pro-slavery men then determined to make their grand struggle. Several weeks previous to the election, companies of armed men numbering from 50 to 1000 each, all having weapons, and one of them a couple of field pieces, began marching into the territory, boasting that they would carry every election district.—They encamped around the polls on the night previous to the election; in the morning they took possession of the polls in some instances; in others, they intimidated the judges, in others drove them away, and in numerous instances used violence. When they presented themselves to vote, the judges declared they must take the prescribed oath—they swore they would have scalps, and in one place a man drew his knife, and threatened to kill the first man that took an oath; in another a free state voter was set up to take the oath, was thrown from the wind-

A PROSCRIPTIVE HOTEL.—It has surprised us that the Girard House, in Philadelphia, the conduct of which is illiberal and anti-American in the extreme, can be patronized by an observing, intelligent public. We had the fact recently, of the proprietors being arraigned before Mayor Conrad, for a violation of the Sunday liquor law, and now testimony is adduced to show that the Roman Catholic lessees of the Girard exclude from sale on their premises all papers except those which advocate their peculiar views. For instance, a reader of the New York *Tribune*, writing to that paper, says:

"Within the last two or three years I have had frequent occasion to visit Philadelphia, and have usually stopped at the Girard House. In one of the halls at the foot of the main stairway stands, every morning, one of the waiters with copies of the leading daily papers of their city, and *The New York Herald*. On inquiring for *The Tribune*, I was told they did not keep it. Meeting the same reply every morning for a week, and finally hearing several others inquiring for it, I asked the waiter if the demand for *Tribunes* was not sufficient to warrant his keeping a few copies: "Oh, yes," he replied, "I have a great many calls for it, *but the proprietors will not allow it to be sold in the house.*" No man who has the slightest self-respect, should patronize a hotel where proprietors thus attempt to interfere with the "Liberty of Speech and of the Press"—and who while opposing the "Maine Law" are guilty of attempting a *prohibition* far more odious than it is even in the eyes of its most bitter opponents.

It is hardly necessary to add that I have since patronized a house where other papers beside the *Richmond Enquirer, Washington Union*, &c., are allowed to be sold."

ANOTHER STEAMBOAT ON THE SUSQUEHANNA.—A second steam ferry-boat will be put upon the waters of the Susquehanna, at Sunbury, in about a fortnight. The Coal trade is increasing in that quarter at a rapid rate; hence the many additional improvements for transportation.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

"FRANKLIN HOUSE" and "One who Knows," are respectfully informed that our columns are so occupied with matters of importance, that we cannot insert their favors. The subject of their communications is purely personal, which of course, to the general reader, is uninteresting. Any local communication containing news or information of public interest, is always welcome, and we will be happy at any time to hear from our Donaldson friends, when they have such matter to communicate.

PENNSYLVANIA FARM JOURNAL.—With the January number of this able agricultural journal, a change is to be made in the editorial department. J. L. Darlington, Esq., for four years the editor of the *Journal*, retires, and will be succeeded by David A. Wells, A. M., and A. M. Spangler, the original editor and proprietor of the *Journal*. The *Farm Journal* always has been a useful and instructive publication, and we heartily wish it in the future an increased measure of public influence and success. The publishers are Samuel Emlen & Co., N. E. corner of Seventh and Market streets, Philadelphia.

"CHAPMAN'S PRINCIPIA."—This work treats of Nature's first principles, and contains a simplified theory of Universal Electro-Magnetism. The author, L. L. Chapman, explains the elements of the important discovery of the laws of Nature, which regulates the changes of the elements; exposes the numerous discrepancies of the popular (erroneously so called) Newtonian theory of gravitation alone without repulsion, and demonstrates the existence and operation of repulsive force, co-extensively with gravitation. Mr. Chapman has labored faithfully, and without adequate reward, we know, for several years in an endeavor to impress the importance of his discoveries upon the citizens and government of the United States.—He is, withal, an unobtrusive gentleman, and we trust that his claims to attention will be recognized by Congress this winter. The publishers of "Chapman's Principia" are Campbell & Co., 83 Dock street, Philadelphia.

Local Affairs.

METEOROLOGICAL NOTATIONS.

Reported by Dr. A. Heger, of Potter. Sci. Assoc'n, at Ashland.

DECEMBER.		THERM'R. Morn.	Noon.	Lowest.	BAR. Mean.	GENERAL OBSERVATIONS
12th mo.	31 days.					*Topograph. & Geographical.*
Saturd.	1	31	19	19	29.15	Height of Pottsville (corner
Sunday	2	33	29	28	28.78	of Market & 2d. sts.) above
Monday	3	29	17	17	29.07	mean tide, 632.951 ft.—Dis-
Tuesdy	4	20	20	20	29.35	tance from Philadelph. 95
Tuesdy	5	32	18	18	29.37	miles.—Latitude, 40° 41'
Thurs'y	6	34	22	22	29.30	15".—Population in 1850
Friday	7	30	19	19	29.47	7,800.—

1—S. W. light; nearly clear.
2—S. W. strong; clear—noon, cloudy.
3—N. W. do.; slightly cloudy—eve. clear.
4—N. W. fresh; nearly clear—eve. cloudy.
5—N. W. light; clear.
6—Do.; morn. cloudy, noon clear.
7—N. N. W. strong; rather clear.

☞ *Railroad Accident*—On Tuesday, a train of passenger cars ran off the track, on the Catawissa Road, near Rupert. The baggage car was completely demolished and the locomotive slightly damaged. No one was injured.

☞ *True Bills Found.*—The Grand Jury have found true bills against Mr. Lauer, in every instance charging him with violation of the existing Liquor Law. His trial, however, has ben postponed, in consequence of Dr. Carpenter stating that Mr. Lauer was ill, and threatened with an attack of typhoid fever.

☞ *Old Soldiers.*—The following list of Delegates to the Old Soldiers' National Convention, to be held at Washington City, on the 8th of January, was omitted in the published proceedings:

Daniel Umberhauer,	Jacob Spankuchen,
Peter Filbert,	Jacob Lehman,
Adam Rith,	John Reim,
	Peter Wolf.

☞ *The Second Assembly.*—This *reunion* took place at the Town Hall on Thursday evening. It was a brilliant and pleasant society. A sprinkling of Philadelphia faces was observable in the throng; the beaux and belles appeared resolved to enjoy themselves to the top of their bent, and all went merry as a marriage bell. The third will we doubt not be yet more brilliant if possible, than the one of Thursday evening.

☞ *Correction.*—We stated last week that a riot took place recently at a military parade in Ashland. We were misinformed. A narration of the particulars of the difficulty which gave rise to the exaggerated report will be found in a letter from Ashland, in another column. We make the correction promptly and with pleasure, as far as the military of Ashland are concerned. We cannot believe that they would stain their escutcheon by acts of violence and bloodshed.

☞ *Pottsville Literary Society.*—The meetings of this society are held in the lecture room of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Market street. There appears to be a desire on the part of most of the members to do what they can in making the meetings interesting and instructive, and if the ladies generally will but grace the meetings with their presence, we feel confident that the exercises will be conducted with spirit. There is no reason why the large lecture room should not be filled with an appreciating and intelligent audience, and the meetings become one of the popular institutions of the place. We hope to see them well attended hereafter and feel certain that our call will not be disregarded.

☞ *Musical Educational Society.*—According to previous notice, the members of Professors Johnson and Frost's Musical Convention, met on Monday evening, in the Vestry of the English Lutheran Church, for the purpose of organizing the convention on a more permanent basis.

On motion of Dr. Miller, Henry Strauch was called to the chair, and C. H. Dengler chosen Secretary.

The chairman stated the purpose of the meeting, and remarks were made by others, urging the importance of the object

On motion of A. K. Whitner it was

Resolved, That the members of the late Musical Convention and others who may associate with them, are hereby formed into a society to be called "The Pottsville Musical Educational Society."

On motion of J. J. Miller, M. D., it was voted that a committee of three be appointed to prepare and report a Constitution and By-Laws for the government of the Society. Whereupon the chair appointed J. J. Miller, S. F. Penfield and C. H. Dengler.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That when the Society adjourn it will adjourn to meet in this place on Saturday evening, the 8th inst., at 7 o'clock, to adopt a Constitution, and that all persons interested in music are hereby invited to be present.

On motion, adjourned.

C. H. DENGLER, *Secretary.*

☞ *Difficulty at the Mines—Men Shot.*—We learn that on Thursday a difficulty took place at the mines of Mr. Frank Spencer, at New Castle, this County, between Mr. S. and some miners in the employ of an operation he had recently purchased. It appears that wages to a considerable amount are due the men, and they resisted in consequence, an attempt which was being made to remove some property from the mines in question. In the course of the contest which was becoming quite heated on both sides, Joseph Spencer, son of Frank was knocked down by Hugh Durkin. Police officer Levi C. Leib being present, was ordered by Mr. Spencer to arrest the assailant. Durkin swore that he would not submit to an arrest, and commenced running from the spot. Mr. Spencer cried out to him to stop or he would shoot him, at the same instant drawing a revolver from his pocket. Durkin not stopping, Spencer fired, wounding him in the thigh, severely. Mr. Spencer was then prevented from using another barrel of the pistol by John Humphries, one of the operatives, who seized it by the barrel, while still in Mr. S.'s hands and wrenched the barrel completely from the stock.

Word was sent into Pottsville on Thursday night for a force to arrest the disaffected and turbulent, and early yesterday morning, a detachment of the Scott Rifles, numbering twenty, started for New Castle, and arrested John Humphries, Michael Agan, Michael Wells, James and Peter Corfield. The Rifles reached Pottsville about 8 o'clock in the morning, and the prisoners were taken before Esquire Conrad, for examination. The result was that Peter Humphries was committed in default of bail to answer at Court, while Agan, Wells and the Corfields were admitted to bail in the sum of $200, to answer if necessary, the charge of assault and battery and riot. Frank Spencer and John Kennedy are held to appear as witnesses. John Cassidy, charged with being concerned in the affair, has not been arrested.

Hugh Durkin, the wounded man remains in New Castle.

☞ *The Home and Tomb of Washington.*—Agreeably to public notice, a meeting of Ladies was held on Monday, December 3, in the upper room of Mr. Russel's office building, for the purpose of forming an Association to co-operate with their sisters throughout the Union, in the contemplated purchase of the Home and Tomb of Washington. On motion, Mrs. George W. Snyder was called to the chair, and Mrs. C. B. Housel appointed Secretary of the meeting.

An Association was then organized, to be recognised as the "Mount Vernon Association of Schuylkill County."

Mrs. J. P. Hobart, Mrs. C. Little and Miss F. Washburn were appointed a committee to nominate officers.

The following list was returned and unanimously adopted:—

President—MRS. GEORGE W. SNYDER.

Vice Precidents—Mrs. John Shippen, Mrs. Benj. T. Taylor, Mrs. Burd Patterson, Mrs. Wm. Donaldson, Mrs. B. W. Cumming, Mrs. F. W. Hughes, Mrs. Andrew Russell, Mrs. Edward Yardley, Mrs. F. J. Parvin, Mrs. John Y. Wren and Mrs. C. B. Housel.

Corresponding Secretaries—Mrs. John Hughes, Mrs. T. I. Atwood, Miss Amanda Silliman.

Recording Secretaries—Mrs. C. Little, Mrs. D. Washburn, Mrs. T. W. Shafer.

Treasurer—Mrs. Andrew Russell.

Mrs James Cooper, Mrs. James H. Campbell, Mrs. George H. Potts, Mrs. T. Dallas and Mrs. W. A. Nichols, were elected honorary members of the Association.

On motion, *Resolved*, That a public meeting be held in the Court House of this Borough, at early as the requisite arrangements can be made.

Mrs. Andrew Russell, Mrs. B. W. Cumming and Mrs. C. B. Housel, were appointed a committee to arrange the necessary preliminaries for such meeting, and to invite the Hon. James H. Campbell and other gentlemen of acknowledged ability, to be present, and address the meeting.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the thanks of the meeting be tendered to the Rev. Mr. Washburn, for the kind and courtous aid extended on this occasion, and to Andrew Russell, Esq., for the gratuitous use of his pleasant and well warmed room.

By order of the Secretary.

C. B. HOUSEL, *Secretary.*

☞ *Court Proceedings.*—Court met on Monday, and continued during the week. Quite a large number of persons from various sections of the County, were in attendance; our streets presented quite a lively appearance, and our hotels were thronged with guests. The following is a list of the cases disposed of which we continue from those published in the *Wednesday Dollar Journal*:

Com. vs. Dennis Brislane—Assault and battery. Plea of not guilty, withdrawn. Fined $5 and costs of prosecution. Marsden for Com.; Lyburn for defendant.

Com. vs. William and Mary Smith—Larceny.—William was convicted, and Mary acquitted. Sentence, 6 cents fine, costs of prosecution, and 6 months imprisonment. Tower for Com.; Clay for defendant.

Com. vs. Wilson and Gibson—Assault and battery. Verdict, guilty. Gibson was sentenced to pay a fine of $20, and costs of prosecution, and Wilson $10 and costs of prosecution. Palmer for Com.; Roseberry and Strouse for defendant.

Com. vs. Thomas M'Glone—Assault and battery. Plead guilty. Sentenced to 30 days imprisonment. *Tower for Com.*

Com. vs. John Hewit—Larceny. Not guilty. Bancroft for Com.; Hughes and Palmer for defendant.

Com. vs. Owen Flannagan—Assault and battery. Verdict, guilty. Sentence, 6 cents fine, costs of prosecution and 10 days imprisonment. Tower for Com.; Clymer and Strauss for defendant.

Com. vs. Mary Hughes—Assault and battery.—Verdict, not guilty, and prosecution to pay costs. Tower for Com.; Clay for defendant.

Com. vs. Elizabeth Welsh—Larceny. Plead guilty. Sentence, 3 months and 15 days. Tower for Com.; Walker for defendant.

Com. vs. William Boil—Assault and battery with intent to ravish. The particulars of this affair which took place at Palo Alto, our readers will remember we published at the time. They were unusually shocking. The Jury in this case could not agree and were discharged. The counsel for the prisoner, then plead guilty of assault and battery. Strause for Com.; Palmer for Boil.

Com. vs. Daniel Kline and Christian Kapp—Malicious mischief. Verdict, not guilty, and prosecution for costs. Clymer for Com.; Roseberry for defendant.

Com. vs. John W. Ozrider—Larceny. Being a young boy, the evidence in the case was withdrawn and a verdict of not guilty rendered. Tower for Com.; Lyburn for defendant.

Com. vs. James Saude—Assault and battery, with intent to kill. Verdict, guilty. Sentence, 6 cents fine; costs of prosecution, and 6 months imprisonment. Tower for Com.; Palmer for defendant.

Com. vs. Thomas Rannah and James M'Gann—Surety of the Peace. Each for costs. Palmer for Com.; Hughes for defendant.

Com. vs. Jadey Kelly—Mayhem. This case was the one reported recently, in which this woman bit off the lip of her antagonist during a drunken fight. Verdict not guilty. Marsden for Com.; Clay for defendant.

Com. vs. Thomas Welsh and Family—Larceny. Verdict, not guilty. Tower for Com.; Strouse for defendant.

Com. vs. James Kelly—Larceny. Verdict, guilty. Sentence, 6 cents fine, costs of prosecution and six months imprisonment. Marsden for Com.; Palmer for defendant.

Com. vs. Arthur M'Guighey—Robbery. Not guilty. Tower for the Com.; Thos. R. Bannan for defendant.

Com. vs. John Sauer—Assault and battery with intent to ravish. Guilty of assault and battery. One dollar fine and costs. Strouse for Com.; Palmer for defendant.

Com. vs. Patrick Develin—Surety of the Peace. Case discharged by the Court.

Com. vs. Judy M'Donneth—Assault and battery. Guilty, and sentenced to pay a fine of one dollar and costs of prosecution. Palmer and Geer for Com.; F. W. Hughes and John Hughes for deft.

Com. vs. William Morris and Abraham Black—Larceny. Guilty; not yet sentenced. Marsden and Leyburn for Com.; Palmer for defendant.

Com. vs. Christopher Schweikert—Assault and battery. Guilty; sentenced to pay a fine of 6 cents, and security in $100 for one year. Tower for Com.; Strouse for defendant.

Com. vs. John H. Johnson—Assault and battery. Plea of not guilty, withdrawn. Sentenced to pay a fine of $10 and costs. F. W. Hughes and Leyburn for Com.; Palmer and Strouse for defendant.

LETTER FROM ASHLAND.

MESSRS. EDS.—Your informant of the Ashland riots greatly erra in stating that "*two Companies* met, fought and wounded three men, two of whom have since died." No Companies met, neither was there a fight by them as such, and no one was killed nor seriously wounded. A drunken wretch lately from Pottsville, attacked *with words* some of the *better* citizens, who you know are very quiet, and they replied with stones. The brave fellow ran into Barron's tavern, followed by the aforesaid citizens. The inmates of the house fearing a general attack, defended themselves as best they could. A musket and bayonet being at hand were used in defence. One of the assailants received a few wounds, after which time being sobered and greeted, they bore from the scene of battle their companion, covered with blood and glory.

Ashland, considering the number of its inhabitants, and the absence of police officers, is a remarkably orderly place. We have many excellent citizens, men of decision, who make their influence felt in deterring disorder and aiding reform.

Our town is very prosperous. All kinds of business is good, and new houses are going up in all directions. The sound of the hammer, and the noise of the crushing Coal at the Breakers, greet the ears of the enterprising, and encourage labor.

In your paper of Saturday last, I see an "Old Operator" gives a description of one of our Breakers. It is indeed a complete affair, and worthy the attention of every sensible and thinking man, engaged in the Coal trade. *Economy* after all is the wise man's maxim. Seeing as I do, thousands of dollars squandered on useless breakers, the hints contained in that communication may prove useful. The name of the builder of Mr. Bancroft's Breaker alluded to by "Old Operator," is A. G. Swift, of Ashland, an energetic, persevering and worthy citizen. He is now engaged in completing one of like capacity for Col. J. J. Connor, whose Coal has a world-wide reputation. Ashland's prospects are bright. Her future greatness is no unsolved problem. Her Coal would make any place great. Her enemies can no longer use the planes as a bug-bear to prevent men of capital from settling here. They are about to be remodeled, after which they can take to market over a *million of tons per year*, and by the time greater facilities are needed, other roads will be made.—A road is about to be built to West Ashland, which will open the way for at least three new Collieries, by next spring. Ours truly is a land of *diamonds*.

DIAMOND.

Ashland, Dec. 3d, 1855.

NEW YORK LETTER.

FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

Thanksgiving day—The Rich and the Poor—Universal Justice—Puritanical customs—Modern Notions—Rebellion among the Feminines—Sunday Nights—Popping the Question—Paris adopting American fuel—American Dodges in demand—The American Institute and the Crystal Palace—Its Debts—The Latting Observatory, a shot tower—New project—An Iron Washington Monument—Briggs and Matsell—The Chief declared a nullity—New Equestrian and Dramatic establishment—Barnum—America's Museum sold.

NEW YORK, Dec. 5th, 1855.

DEAR JOURNAL:—In accordance with the recommendation of the Governor and immemorial custom, we have had, during the past week, celebrating Thanksgiving day—with *fasting* and *prayer*, used to be the style—with *feasting* and *jollity* is now the go. Shades of departed turkeys attend the vigor of our thank-offerings, while *mountains* of plum-puddings and pumpkin pies hide their diminished heads, if in fact their diminution has not gone so far, that there is nothing left to hide.

Dickens has drawn a lovely picture of a holiday in cities, and the scenes which he depicts smack strongly of reality—are in fact reality's self. There are certain days of the year, when certain rays of light and sunshine irradiate every home, and no household is there so gloomy that it is not more or less illumined with the holiday lustre. So is it in this great city of ours—the day that has just passed is one of those irradiating days that lighten the load of misery among the needy and destitute—alike in the palace windows of the opulent and through the pane-less sashes of the poor man's hovel does it show its genial warmth and lustre. The rich among us enjoy it of course, nor are the poor forgotten, since in many a place throughout our city were loaded tables spread, where thousands of the destitute "without money and without price," supplied themselves with that which perhaps a year had elapsed (since the previous anniversary of the same day) without their experiencing—a hearty meal.

It is an old maxim that the shortest way to the heart is thro' the "stomach" and we verily believe in its truth—reminiating that the "feasting and jollity" may after all be a surer hold on in the inward heart-thankfulness than the old *sackcloth and ashes* mode of doing things. Though educated in the old New England Puritanical habits of the Pilgrims, we are free to confess that we are not altogether bound by that *strict* code of which a fair sample may be found in "no man shall be allowed to *kiss his wife on Sunday*." If not his wife, then much less any other lady, with, of course, far less claims upon her embraces. Shades of Sunday nights! Reminiscences of dimly lighted halls and of sofas snugly ensconced behind parlor doors or in alcoves of walls—forbid the profanation. Remembrances of many a lingering farewell at mansion door and garden gate revolt at such a regulation! And then, the wrath of the fairer ones—terrible to encounter—those beings

"In our homes of ease
Uncertain, coy and hard to please."

How much more tough would they be in that laudable endeavor to please, did the Puritanical style of living now obtain—when their whole being is concentrated into that Sunday night, and it is made the central sun, around which the lesser luminaries of the week revolve and centre. Why—if that institution were to be abolished, we could hope for but few alliances—those little matters closely concerning sundry pairs of individuals, which now Sunday night generally clinches.—How many a *reference to pa* is that same eventful day the author of. Its abolition would be a death-blow to the Scriptural injunction about "peopling the earth &c," (you know all about that)—and our inhabitants would be to use a Southern expression, "*clean gone dead*."

"*Apropos* of warm subjects, of which we have been cogitating—it seems from the letters of a friend at Paris, (which as they have found their way into print already, I will give you,) that the inhabitants of the gay capital are becoming quite *Pottsvillian*, if I may use the term, in their styles of keeping warm at all events. So, whatever reputation we may have acquired with the *grand nation* in this respect at least, let us of the black diamond fraternity shake hands and be merry. Those who have been in Paris can particulary realize the fun of the following as he writes it:

"Whatever doubtful circumstances of a political character there may be prejudicial to America in the opinion of the worthy citizens of the most charming metropolis in the world, there is one circumstance of a social character which at all events renders America at the present season the most popular and admired of all existing nations. The wind blows from the north, and as its chill blasts whistle through the stage, a domestic fuel which, with the antechamber and rooms connecting one with another by innumerable doors, constitutes the regular Parisian method of warming, is sent for, and if luckily disengaged immediately commences bricking up the deep recess which the French call a fireplace, behind and at the sides, till that which yawned like a grave and was only awful for swallowing up all the heat which should warm the space before it, becomes a narrow concave surface bent in towards the top of the chimney, so as to leave the thinnest imaginable aperture for the smoke to ascend. A *voiture* or blower, is let down before the fire when first lighted, the smoke turns up the crevice assigned as its channel like mad, the bricks become suddenly red hot, the fire is then unmasked, and the room that looked upon its shivering inmates, possessed of *blue eyes*, blue noses, shivering knees, and lions trembling as with ague, beholds nothing but smiling faces, cherry cheeks, and all the social comforts of a winter fire-side! Small wonder American *families*, American dodgers for diffusing heat and saving the pocket, are therefore household words, and such is the difficulty of procuring the necessary *article*, that ladies whose hands have never been soiled with anything less dainty than the colors of worsted work, or the rich silks whose fashions find daily employment for their delicate fingers, are seen themselves handling the trowel, kneeding the mortar, and boldly penetrating into the physical, if not the moral, secrets of masonry, as taught them by the ingenious denizens of the New Orleans. The were winters we have experienced during *the two last seasons*, the enormous price of the necessaries of life which, seem to be daily augmenting, the value of house rent, which, so far from showing signs of diminution, yearly increases, are pressing teachers in the school of economy, and the olfactory nerves which formerly could not tolerate anything more pungent than the aroma of the well-dried log as its flame mounted upwards is becoming *every* day more liberal in its tendencies towards the dark mineral whose character is so warm, genial and forgiving, considering the many hard knocks and pokes we mercilessly subject it to."

The recent signal success of the Fair of the American Institute has given birth to a project which we rejoice to record. Negotiations have been pending for some time between the Institute and the Receiver of the Crystal Palace Company relative to the purchase of the building—the price of which had been fixed at one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars, a small fraction of which the superb edifice cost to erect. Measures were taken to raise by donations forty thousand dollars, which added to the funds of the Institute would enable them to effect the purchase. This has been done at once and the Palace is now the property of the American Institute, who have taken measures to secure a permanent lease of the ground upon which it stands and will open it as a standing exhibition of American Industry and Art.

The debts of the Palace Company amounted to some one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars, which, crediting the amount of money realized by the sale of the building, leaves a snug little fifty thousand deficit to be fathered somewhere.

The Latting Observatory, standing opposite to the Palace, which attracted considerable notice from its vast height and particularly from its having resulted in such a complete and gigantic failure, is now a shot tower under the name of the "Hyde-ville Manufacturing Company."

Apropos of Latting—he is up before the Common Council with another *dodge* in the shape of a Washington Monument, to be erected on the battery. The matter was referred to a committee of the Council who reported in favor of the following plan:

The monument to be 600 feet high, with a statue of Washington 23 feet in height upon its summit, the whole to be constructed of iron.

Second—The contract to be open for five years, within which time $100,000 is to be deposited in the City Treasury as a guarantee of the prosecution of the work.

Third—The monument to be completed within ten years.

Fourth—Mr. Latting to have sole direction and use of the monument for a period of thirty-five years, after which the property and its uses are to revert to the City.

Speaking of the Common Council, at their session last evening by a vote of twelve to eight—they declared the office of Chief of Police to be vacant, on account of the incumbent, George W. Matsell, being an unnaturalized foreigner. The investigation of this point you will doubtless remember has been a source of fun for the past year or two—the author, Briggs, having become quite a laughing stock—he has now carried his point in spite of all calumniations to the contrary, and there are those whose grins will all be confused to the wrong side of their mouths. So much for perseverance.

Another new thing is afloat in our city and you will not be surprised, when I tell you that Barnum is at the bottom of it. It seems that he has sold the American Museum with which his name is so indissolubly connected, to two of his fellow laborers in the enterprise, and having purchased a large plot of ground in the upper part of the city is about to erect a circus, theatre and zoological garden on the plan of Astley's of London tho' far more extensive. The whole enterprise is on a gigantic scale and apart from the well known invincibility of Barnum, its own attractions and merits must render it vastly popular.

To prosecute fully his new undertaking Barnum has resigned the Presidency of the Bridgeport Bank, in which place he resided and of which his famous Eastern residence "Iranistan" was one of the chief features, and taken up his exclusive abode in the city of New York.

European Correspondence

OF THE MINERS' JOURNAL.

UNDERGROUND WALKS IN ENGLAND.

"The Black Country."

No. 9.

BIRMINGHAM, September, 1855.

DEAR JOURNAL:—Some ten miles from the 'Black Country' there has grown up a large town, the fourth in size of Great Britain. Situated far inland, very nearly in the centre of England with no river like the Delaware or Hudson connecting it with the ocean, and giving passage to the ships of all nations, not a stream in fact worthy the name of creek flowing within a dozen miles, this town possesses within her streets workshops, whose productions are vended in every quarter of the globe. From a steam engine down to a pin, it has been well said, there is nothing in the working of metals that *Birmingham* has not attempted and achieved. Her makers are not unknown.—*James Watt* created a new era in the world's history by his application of the power of *steam*.—*Fox and Henderson* have given an impulse to manufactures by their handiwork the *Crystal Palace*, which cannot be forgotten. Wherever a *pen* is used, *Otlotts* is known—wherever on the other hand, a *sword*, innumerable makers, whose names are seen on the door signs of Birmingham, are recalled to mind.

It has been said that a *gun* a minute is made in Birmingham—the number of *buttons* per minute, or *hooks and eyes*, or *hatchets*, or *metalic bedsteads*, or productions in glass, electro plate and papier mache per minute made here, it would puzzle the most untiring statician to tell.

What has caused manufactories that have gained distinction where the world was competing for the prize, thus to spring up distant from every navigation but artificial canals, and in a town unvisited by any vessel but the canal boat? What has made Birmingham the iron depot of Europe and flined her streets with the shops and dwellings of princely manufacturers?

What but the little ring of 'Black Country' that encircles it on the north and west, and which, in furnishing the fuel essential to the activity of its innumerable steam engines as well as the iron which these engines work into endless forms of ornament or utility, has proved itself to be the real creator of all the wealth and prosperity we now witness.

The three railroads and canals which penetrate this region, bring the Coal in quantities inconceivably great to Birmingham. Here it is sold from $3 to $4 per ton and applied to domestic purposes, and to all the innumerable branches of manufacture congregated within her limits. The importance of this interest renders it worth while to put in operation expensive improvements, by which the transportation of the Coal from its native mines may be facilitated and cheapened. The 'Birmingham Canal Navigation' are at this time raising very large sums of money by new shares, for the purpose of carrying out extensive tunnelling and other works in the neighborhood of the high limestone hills of Dudley. It is said that the increased facilities of transit hereby afforded, will secure to the inhabitants of Birmingham for the next half century, Coal at 36 cents cheaper per ton than they otherwise could expect to have it. There appears to be no means of arriving at the number of tons conveyed by canal and railroad into this market from the Staffordshire district—the Coal papers are wonderfully deficient in such information. We hope their measures will be crowned with the success they deserve, but until the solid front of ignorance, which they find presented to them, is attacked by some such *battering ram* as a system of public school education, like that we have in the United States, we can hardly anticipate much from their generous efforts. The American who traverses this densely populated region is astonished at finding not a few newspapers. Large towns, Walsall, Wednesbury, Bilston, with 20, 40 and 60,000 inhabitants, possess not a single *editor*. What a contrast with the condition of things in the all but newly created West of our country, where every village of three or four thousand inhabitants has as many enterprising sheets published weekly, and diffusing among their readers, news of what is going on as well under their feet as in the most distant corners of the habitable globe.

It is pleasing to remark, that many of the iron masters have begun the movement of education.—One firm in particular, that of *Lloyds & Foster*, members of the Society of Friends, and employing in the several departments of mine, furnace, forge and foundary, an immense body of men, have constructed and are on the point of constructing more school houses, wherein to educate at their own expense the children of their workmen. We may be allowed to mention *en passant* that a kinder feeling could not possibly exist between master and men than that witnessed between the Lloyds and their employees. One amongst many testimonies to the existence of this good feeling that we observed may be here mentioned. Over a new forge which these gentlemen have lately started is floating a flag, upon which the workmen have inscribed "*Success to the new enterprise.*" This is not the frame of mind in which strikes are concocted.

We shall conclude our notice of the 'Black Country' with a brief mention of a singular phenomenon, which we saw in the neighborhood of Bilston. It goes in the neighborhood by the name of 'the Pseudo Volcanoes,' or amongst the colliers 'fiery holes,' and is caused by a bed of Coal ten yards beneath ground, which has somehow or other caught on fire and is now slowly burning away. Where it is burnt, the strata above have fallen in, causing holes out of which smoke is evolved and sufficient air probably obtained thro' them to keep up the smothered combustion below. They are what the miners term 'fiery holes'; their masters sometimes 'Pseudo Volcanoes.' The fire has most likely resulted from the spontaneous combustion of the spoil and small dust left in an abandoned mine where the bed of Coal was at one time worked. W. J. P.

[NOTE.—The production of Anthracite Coal in Pennsylvania will be about 6,000,000, and Bituminous in the different States 2,500,000 tons nearly. The production in the United States, about 8,500,000 tons for 1855.—EDS. M. J.]

Religious Intelligence.

☞ It appears by the report of the Philadelphia Committee on collections for the sufferers from the fever in Norfolk and Portsmouth, that Episcopalians have contributed about $6,849 16; Presbyterians