Miners' Journal.

POTTSVILLE, PA.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1855.

A FALSE LIGHT.

The *Gazette* of Saturday, in attempting a correction of the statement which recently appeared in the *Journal*, in regard to an alleged military riot at Ashland, the particulars of which were the result of misinformation, perpetrates a series of falsehoods, while it succeeds in pandering to the views of its peculiar class of readers.

It states on the faith of "Mr. Philips, the captain of the Irish company," of Ashland, that a fight took place "between the Know Nothing company and citizens." A communication in the *Journal* of Saturday last from Ashland, gave the particulars of the disturbance, which stamp the assertions of the *Gazette* as untrue, and which facts will be endorsed by every citizen of Ashland cognizant of them. We can imagine no object for the untruthful statement, except to incite those misguided persons to still greater hostility to the laws and institutions of the country, who have been arrayed in opposition to the American people by such Jesuitical sheets as the *Gazette*.

From the tenor of its comments, we presume the exciting of these people to still greater antagonism to Americanism is not alone its object. It invites by its malignancy and unscrupulous assertions an attack upon our establishment by a lawless rabble. In such an event we should hold the editor of the *Gazette* personally responsible, and cause his arrest as prime instigator, by means of incendiary words which he is conscious bear no evidences of truth upon their face, and which are used to inflame passions and prejudices at war with the peace and good order of the community.

It is idle on the part of the *Gazette* to argue that Americans have urged on by their course the condition of things which exists throughout the country, between the native and adopted citizens. How is it that the uneducated, unthinking, easily moulded peculiar masses of citizens in the United States, have assumed a suicidal policy? It is by the pandering course of papers like the *Gazette*, that they have been misled; it is by catering to the prejudice of those masses, that such papers grow so bold.

When Americans at last roused themselves to the danger of permitting longer unchecked, the encroachments of the Papal priesthood, it was when Rome commenced the contest by a direct assault on our Common School system. In asking a division of the School fund for peculiar religious purposes, they "sowed the wind to reap the whirlwind." Are the American people liable to censure for the zeal with which they have entered upon the great and glorious work of Americanizing America, and checking the aggression of Papal influences? We esteem that man craven, who with a single drop of American blood in his veins, does not with all the energies of body and mind work against, and place himself as a barrier against the tide of corruption and anti-Americanism which annually surges on our shores, threatening with the weapons of infidelity and Popery to sweep away all those cherished landmarks planted by the Pilgrim Fathers of 1642, and nobly sustained by the men of 1776.

When the forms of the men who sacrificed all that renders temporal existence endurable—home, friends, fortune—for their country's sake, rise up before us, carrying their acts as a light to illuminate their manly characters, we see how despicable a thing is the editor of the *Gazette*, who to judge from his course and opinions, as seen and expressed in the columns of his sheet, would for a few votes, Judas-like, betray his country. Fear, abject fear, keeps such tricksters from expressing, even at times when they feel most inclined, an honest, independent, American opinion.—Fear of alarming and offending those whom they have misled, tricked and degraded. If it is to attack a political opponent, or censure a partizan clique which threatens disorganization, and consequent loss of the spoils of office, O, they are most valiant! But ask them to assist in harmonizing the various incongruous elements that form a nation like ours; ask them to inculcate into the minds of the adopted as well as the native born citizen, true American sentiments; respect and veneration for those institutions made holy by the pure hands to which they owe their being, and love and fellowship to all mankind, and what do we gain by the appeal? Coarse invectives and contemptible subterfuge! Are such to be trusted? Can we respect men who seek to widen the gulf between bodies of citizens whose mutual welfare and happiness are interested, and can only be secured by a firm, lasting union?

We have esteemed it our duty, a duty from we trust we shall never deviate, to exhibit in a striking light, the evil, the positive danger of estranging the adopted from the citizen of native birth, and the error of tolerating, even in a single instance, the existence of military companies, exclusively foreign in character. While we entertain the most lively feelings of satisfaction in welcoming to the ranks of Americanism—we speak not of it in a party sense—the intelligent, industrious, and consequently influential adopted citizen, yet we do not hesitate to condemn the importation of those unfit for citizens of any land, and that abuse of the elective franchise, which has distinguished the policy of the Sham-Democratic party during the years of its past career. In regard to foreign military companies, we trust that every one in this State will ere long be disbanded. It would be better for the quiet, order-loving adopted citizen, and much safer for the communities where these companies are tolerated. It is well known that bad feelings and difficulties are engendered between native and foreign military companies, when they come in contact. We had an instance of this fact at the last battalion in this County, where the ill-feeling between companies of this character, amounted almost to a fight, and one of the companies, composed exclusively of foreigners, was ordered to leave the ground. These evils are among the many that exist, which we oppose boldly and openly, as anti-American and subversive of every principle contemplated by the founders of the Republic, and in opposition to the expressed opinions of Washington, and every eminent American statesman since his day. While we endeavor to assist in opening the eyes of the people to the evils enumerated, the truckling, narrow-minded, party-serving *Gazette* dares impugn our motives, but fears in consequence of its peculiar patronage, to speak one word in condemnation of palpable evils, or in favor of those institutions which are loved and cherished by every true American heart. The fulminations of the *Gazette* fall harmless, when we consider the motives which actuate them, and the Papist ignorance and prejudice to which it panders weekly.

PENNSYLVANIA.—The finances of our State are at present in a more favorable condition than for many years past. The proceeds from the public works for the financial year were $1,942,376, showing an excess of $23,770 over the revenues of the previous year, whilst the expenses of their maintenance and operation was $455,576. The balance in the treasury on the 1st December was $1,245,097 81, enough of itself to pay the February interest. Since the close of the year a large amount of money has been received from collectors on our public improvements, which will go to increase this balance.

THE TROUBLE IN KANSAS.—It is yet extremely difficult to understand the true position of affairs in Kansas. The pro-slavery men have their version of the merits of the difficulty, while on the other hand, the free-state men, have from accounts which are received daily from the west, been expected to wanton outrage, and unwarrantable oppression. Late accounts state that the excitement had partially subsided, but still much apprehension existed. On the one hand, the pro-slavery men were sustained by the Governor, and indirectly by the President of the United States. On the other, the opponents of slavery had organized vigilant Committees and Militia Companies for mutual defence.—Mr. Conway, one of the leaders of the latter, in the course of a speech, recently made at Cooper city, held this language:

"They had ignored the action and authority of the illegal Legislature which had met, and passed obnoxious laws at Shawnee Mission: and *while they repudiated the laws, they also repudiated the county officers so monstrously thrust upon them by that Legislature. He knew that they would not yield obedience to those authorities.*

"They would yield obedience to the United States authorities, to the organic act, to the Courts created under it, and the Judges and Marshals appointed by the President. These might oppress them, being opposed in sentiment, but they would—he knew all would—submit to such authorities, and only appeal from them to the United States Supreme Court, where they would get a fair hearing.—They must take every step with prudence and care; take the right course, and having taken it, go on fearlessly to maintain it."

In regard to the Dow murder, it is affirmed that Mr. Charles W. Dow, formerly of Ohio, a Free State man—and his antagonist, held adjoining claims, and that the latter, Mr. Coleman, had cut timber and burned lime upon Dow's land. That Coleman was preparing to start another lime-kiln upon his neighbor's property, when Dow remonstrated, and warned him that he would not be permitted to repeat the encroachment. The two parties met, without any positive violence, when Coleman turned upon Dow and shot him, some of the balls entered his heart. The deed is thus described:

"Coleman raised his gun, and taking deliberate aim at Dow, snapped a cap. On hearing this, Dow turned to see what it was, when Coleman recapped his gun, raised it to his eye, and shot Dow dead on the spot.—Several buckshot entered his breast, killing him at once. This was all done in sight of Coleman's house and the groggery, and happened at one o'clock. No one of those gathered about Coleman's house, and there were some eight or ten, went to remove the body, or to inform any one of the murder. So the dead body lay by the roadside till five o'clock, when a man named Branson, somehow or other heard of it, and went and had the body taken care of."

Coleman then fled. A meeting was immediately held at Hickory Point, by the citizens, with the object of adopting means to arrest the accused, and bring him to justice. Meanwhile a clamor was raised, to the effect that Dow was the aggressor, and had been shot by Coleman in self-defence. Mr. Branson, however, the individual who discovered the dead body of Dow, the day after the murder, was arrested on the affidavit of three of Coleman's friends. He was about to be carried away, under an escort of fourteen armed men, when so one of his family summoned the neighbors to the rescue. These by a rapid detour intercepted the sheriff and his posse, and drawing up in a line across the road, ordered them to stop, and called upon Mr. Branson to leave the sheriff and join them, which he did. This is the statement of the friends of the rescuers. Mr. Sheriff Jones then informed them that the Governor would send a superior force to execute the arrest and uphold the laws. It is alleged that the sheriff did not exhibit any authority for the arrest, and that he is not a resident of Kansas, but a post-master at Westport, Mo.

THE SUNDAY LIQUOR LAW.—A report has been recently extensively circulated that the Sunday Liquor Law, of the 25th February, 1855, was repealed by the Restraining License Law, passed April 14th, 1855. This is altogether a mistake. The decision of the Supreme Court which gave rise to this report relates to an entirely different matter, having reference to a local law in Allegheny county, and so far from impairing the efficiency of the Sunday Law, the Court has indirectly affirmed its validity. The Lancaster *Express* says:

"It is reported in certain quarters that Judge Lewis, of the Supreme Court, had given a decision declaring the Restraining License Law of last session unconstitutional. It is hardly necessary to say that this is without foundation. It was said that the Pittsburg cases would at once be carried to the Supreme Court on a writ of error; but the Liquor League of Allegheny county hold a written opinion *from their own counsel*, which has caused them to change their original intention of carrying that question to the Supreme Court! They cannot find a respectable lawyer in the State who will risk his professional reputation in an opinion that the law is unconstitutional; and hence their reason for not venturing an appeal to that tribunal. Their present tactics is to fight the Law in the lower Courts, by influencing Juries, obstructing the business of the Courts, &c., hoping that the Legislature will repeal the law before any more convictions are had under it! They will find that they are building this hope on a sandy foundation."

CALIFORNIA INTELLIGENCE.—By the *Northern Light* at New York, we are in receipt of California dates to the 20th ult.

The Know Nothing State Convention held its session at Sacramento, and appointed delegates to the Philadelphia National Convention, instructing them to vote for no President unless in favor of the Pacific Railroad, and opposed to any agitation of the slave question.

Gen. Wm. H. Richardson, United States Marshal, for the Northern District of California, was assassinated at San Francisco on the 17th of November, by an Italian gambler, named Cora.

Isaac B. Wall, Collector of the Port of Monterey, has been murdered near San Luis Chispo, together with a companion, named Thomas Williamson.

The dates from Salt Lake are to the 11th of October. Difficulties had occurred between the Mormons and the Eutaw Indians. Several Mormons had been murdered.

The banking house of Sanders & Brennan, at San Francisco had failed. Their liabilities are $80,000—their assets nothing.

Some rain had fallen, and there was much snow in the mountains, but the winter rains had set in.

The miners are awaiting the rainy, season and not much gold is coming in.

The Indian difficulties in the North continued.

Capt. Archibald McRae, of the revenue cutter McLean, had committed suicide.

Important News from Central America.

Among the passengers is Col. Parker H. French, accredited Minister to the United States, in place of Mr. Marcoleti, recalled.

Col. French is vested with extraordinary powers, to enable him to settle immediately the difficulties between the United States, England and Nicaragua.

He also brings with him the ratification of the new treaty, made by his government with Colonel Wheeler, U. S. Minister at Grenada.

The peace of Nicaragua seems firmly established, and its beneficial effects are every where observable.

The accounts from the mines are generally very flattering. Immense piles of earth have been thrown up in the dry diggings, awaiting the rains to wash out the gold, and now that water is becoming abundant there is no lack of employment for all.

The soldiers of Walker's battalion were in deep grief for the loss of two of their best men. On the 25th ult., Wm. Mull, aged 25, supposed to be a native of New York, accidently killed himself with a pistol, contained in his overcoat pocket, the ball entering the chin and lodging in the brain. On the 28th, Henry Barrington, aged 21, died of disease of the heart. He belonged to Philadelphia, where he was understood to be respectably connected. They were buried with military honors.

The U. S. man-of-war Massachusetts, was lying opposite San Juan del Sur. The officers had just returned from a visit to Gen. Walker, and highly delighted were they all with their reception, the general good feeling and the brilliant future of the country.

BRITTON'S TABLE.

"GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK."—A perfect gem, without exaggeration is the book for January.—Of the engravings which are numerous and very beautiful we notice particularly, "Those are my Jewels," "Our Father who art in Heaven" and a superb Fashion Plate. In addition to several pattern plates—interesting to our fair readers—this number contains a beautiful piece of music entitled "Lelia." The literary contents which are varied and interesting, are from the pens of regular and favorite contributors. The terms of Godey are as follows: One copy one year, $3.—Two copies one year $5. Three copies one year $6. Five copies one year, and an extra copy to the person sending the club, making six copies, $10. Eight copies one year, and an extra copy to the person sending the club, making nine copies, $15. Eleven copies one year, and an extra copy to the person sending the club, making twelve copies, $20. Copies of the January number can be obtained at Dannan's.

Local Affairs.

METEOROLOGICAL NOTATIONS.

Reported by Dr. A. Hager, of Potts. Sci. Assoc'n.

DECEMBER. 12th mo. 31 days.	THERM'R. Mean.	THERM'R. Lowest.	BAR. Mean.	GENERAL OBSERVATIONS. Topograph. & Geographical.
Saturd. 8	33	26	29.39	Height of Pottsville (corner of Market & 2d sts.) above mean tide, 653.957 ft.—Distance from Philadelphia, 95 miles.—Latitude, 40° 44' 15".—Population in 1850 7,800.
Sunday 9	41	31	29.43	
Monday 10	28	22	29.80	
Tuesdy 11	26	21	29.29	
Wedn'y 12	25	22	29.71	
Thurs'y 13	28	20	29.60	
Friday 14	30	29	29.68	

8—S. W. light; cloudy—snow.
9—E. fresh; cloudy—rainy.
10—W. high; very cloudy—a few spits of snow.
11—N.-W. strong; cloudy—Do.
12—N. W. light; nearly clear—eve. cloudy—snow.
13—S. E. light; still snowing.
14—Do.; cloudy.

The Applications for Liquor Licenses.—Decisions in the case of these applications has been deferred until Monday next.

Mr. Haywood's Lecture.—We learn that Mr. Haywood has consented to deliver a lecture on Friday evening next, at 7½ o'clock, in the First Methodist Episcopal Church, Second above Market street. The price of tickets will be 25 cents; the aggregate amount of receipts to be devoted to the benefit of the church. We need hardly suggest an excellent attendance on the occasion. The subject, and the interest that can be thrown around it by the lecturer, cannot fail to attract.

Fair and Festival at Tremont.—The ladies of Tremont will hold a Fair and Festival on Christmas Day, for the benefit of the Methodist Episcopal Church of that place. In addition to the sale of fancy and useful articles on the occasion, a dinner will be served up in the Church, the price of tickets to which will be seventy-five cents. A good day and a good deed. We trust that the result in a pecuniary sense, may equal the expectations of the fair denizens of Tremont, engaged in getting up the Fair.

Fair and Festival.—The ladies of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of this Borough, will hold a Fair for the sale of fancy articles, refreshments, etc., at the Town Hall in this Borough, on the 18th, 19th and 20th instant, (next week.) We sincerely hope that the commendable exertions of the ladies referred to will be substantially appreciated by the public. Let the attendance be general, and the contributions on the occasion, liberal. We learn that the hour for opening the Fair will be 7 o'clock, Tuesday evening.

Pottsville Literary Society.—The meeting of this Society last Wednesday evening was of more than usual interest, and we feel confident that all present were amply repaid in going. Mr. Angele delivered an interesting and lucid lecture on "The Philosophy of Cant"—while the debate on the emigration question was discussed in a spirited and able manner by Messrs. Millins, Spincy, Bogle and Douglass. If the exercises generally, are conducted with as much spirit and earnestness as they were last Wednesday night, the Society will not fail for want of large audiences. Howell Fisher, Esq., lectures next week, and we think we are safe in promising something both able and entertaining—while the debate is on a question of much practical importance.

Something new—Elliott's Bow-window Reflector and Sweat Preventor.—That bright and widely radiating light in front of Mr. Elliott's Jewelry store, which many of our citizens must have noticed, is not altogether the reflection from his highly polished silver ware, but the result principally, of a new reflector, placed in the top or bulk of his show window, the design of which is to carry off the hot air, and consequently the moisture from obstructing the light and injuring the ware exposed. This it does effectually.

A pipe three inches in diameter, penetrates its centre, and arises through the bulk, acting as a channel for the perspiration or vapor to escape, the top of which is covered with a cap to prevent the admission of rain or dust—the gas burner in the centre acting as a rarifier.

A few such reflectors in the windows of our merchants and shop keepers, would light Centre street in a dazzling manner, and not only have the effect to transmit but also to admit light, and keep the windows and wares exposed in them clean and dry.

Mr. Elliott claims the contrivance as entirely original with him, yet very liberally offers it to all who wish to benefit by its effects. The cost of erecting this reflector, rarifier and sweat preventor is but trifling, and any tinsmith or gas-fitter can put it up.

The First Snow.—On Wednesday night the flakes of the first real snow storm of the season, danced merrily from their lofty birth-place to Mother Earth, on whose bosom they fell as noiselessly as a wearied child sinks to slumber in the arms of affection. The brows of our mountains became, we almost thought, prematurely white, as if some superhuman power had caused a sudden transition from youth to old age. Still down, down, down, the flakes fell, in fantastic eddyings, some sweeping round sharp corners, others selecting cosy corners in door-ways to rest in, while some less fortunate than their brethren, fell plump upon the warm glass of our street gas lamps, and quickly lost their identity in the tiny drops of water which trickled slowly down, sparkling in their course, like diamonds on the brow of beauty, emulous of the eyes which rob them of half their lustre.

Thus they fell during the long night, throwing a pure white robe over all, which remained unruffled until early on Thursday morning, when the jingle of numerous sleigh bells came musically to the ear, and the graceful runner was seen to cut sharply the yielding congelation. About five inches of snow fell on Wednesday night, and the sleighing on Thursday was "tip-top." Now will the young folks be on the *qui vive* for sleighing parties to Minersville, Tremont, Tuscarora and other convenient places in the locality, and soon will each experience the exhilirating pleasure of the first sleigh ride of the season, embodied in a 2.40 nag, a charming cutter, a capacious "buffalo," and a sympathetic *cher ami*.

While sitting on Wednesday night, just before retiring, and watching by the aid of a neighboring gas light, the flakes in their descent, the words of a poem by Henry Howard Brownell, were forcibly brought to recollection. They are,—

"When I sit at eve alone,
Thinking on the past and gone;
While the clock, with drowsy finger,
Marks how long the minutes linger;
And the embers, dimly burning,
Tell of life to dust returning;
Then my lonely chair around,
With a quiet mournful sound—
With a murmur soft and low,
Come the ghosts of long ago.

"One by one, I count them o'er,
Voices that are heard no more;
Years, that loving cheeks have wet,
Words, whose music lingers yet;
Holy faces, pale and fair,
Shadowy locks of waving hair;
Happy sighs and whispers dear,
Songs forgotten many a year;
Lips of dewy fragrance; eyes
Brighter, bluer than the skies—
Odors breathed from Paradise.

"And the gentle shadows glide
Softly murmuring at my side,
Till the long unfriended day,
All forgotten, fades away.

"Thus, when I am all alone,
Dreaming o'er the past and gone,
All around me, sad and slow,
Come the ghosts of long ago."

Tamaqua Iron Works.—In going through these extensive and admirable works, belonging to Messrs. Carters and Allen, we were much struck with the convenience that existed in every department of the establishment to facilitate operations, and to save the heavy moving by hand of the ponderous machinery and castings here executed. Heavy cranes, stand around like great giants, waiting to catch up in their iron fingers the most enormous weights, and fling them to almost any point at a word. Those cranes are distributed throughout the entire establishment, and by this means, the hands have but little heavy work to do; and not only save labor, but time, as a heavy piece of machinery can be conveyed from one part of the building to another and distributed to lathe and turning machine, forge and furnace, in a few minutes and with all the ease imaginable.

There are other and numerous improvements which we cannot detail. Mr. Allen seems to regard these as worthy of his particular attention, for to make heavy machinery and to do the work cheap, nothing must obstruct the facilities for operating, and, in competition with Mr. Evans, who is a skillful draftsman and an accomplished and practical mechanic, every available improvement whether in the materials used, the mode of using it, or the article manufactured, is made use of at the earliest moment. But those gentlemen are not confined in their views and operations, to the improvements or inventions of others, for when opportunity offers, when the wants of their patrons, or the necessities of the times demand it they levy contributions on their intellectual wits for the thing required, and never cease to revolve it in their minds until, like Archimedes, they cry, "we have it." But Tamaqua is celebrated for inventors.

Thus they may point to their car wheels, which are in every way equal to those manufactured at Whitney's famous establishment in Philadelphia. They are made solid, as well in the hub, as where the "spokes ought to be," and are almost everlasting. Mr. Allen is getting out a patent for his mode of making them. They are also erecting improved "drums" for slopes, shafts and inclines, which we think will be superior to the style now generally in use.

Their new foundry, which they have just completed, is 80 by 100 feet in size. It contains three heavy cranes, two cupolas, an extensive pit for large castings, which they can execute to the weights of twenty tons, large and convenient drying ovens, &c.

Their blacksmith shop is 33 feet wide by 100 feet in length. It contains 13 fires, seven cranes, Nasbit's forge hammer, &c. Their boiler house is forty feet wide by eighty feet long, in which are manufactured every variety of boiler, railroad and drift cars, &c. Besides those, they have several large and extensive machine shops, of whose dimensions we took no note, being more particularly attracted to the machinery which they contained; amongst which, we noticed several very large planing machines, which were fed by cranes, a great many lathes, bolt cutters, drilling machines, upright drills, slanting machines, compound planing machines, &c. In the pattern shop they employ seven pattern makers and attendants on their wood planers, circular saws, &c.

The machinery is driven by a thirty horse engine, which also drives the fans for the cupolas and blacksmith fires.

They employ about one hundred men in, and connected with the establishment, most of whom are of temperate habits and consequently of industrious dispositions. They find that men of such a character are best suited for every purpose, and they will not employ men of any other class, when they can be obtained. Though they command higher wages, they can be trusted, and through their industrious steady habits, the work can be pushed ahead with despatch. But in this connection we may add that our mechanics generally are not only industrious and temperate, but are of the more intelligent order—the younger ones particularly are promising, and seem eminently imbued with the same spirit of enterprize that has animated their elders in this county in so remarkable a manner.

Messrs. Carters & Allen's establishment is situated on Railroad street at the south end of Tamaqua, Foundry street runing up between the foundry and the machine shop. The enterprising proprietors are now about erecting an extensive car shop in connection with their other buildings, besides furnaces for the melting of scrap iron, &c. There has been a project suggested to erect a rolling mill at Tamaqua, at the head of which is this firm, but the time has not yet come for such an establishment there, yet we understand that it is in the programme of Tamaqua's future improvement—how long it may be put off we cannot tell.

The place is well situated, as regard the convenience of obtaining iron, coal and other materials, which are made use of for such purposes—being but a short distance by rail from the rich iron and limestone deposits of the Bloomsburg region, and will soon be placed in close connection with inexhaustible fields through which the Port Clinton and Allentown railroad will pass.

LETTER FROM COMBOLA.

FOR THE MINERS' JOURNAL.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—As I have seen none of your numerous correspondents, thus far, making mention of our thriving little town of Combola, and its progress, I will take the privilege of contributing a few lines to your columns, and through them inform your readers at large, that there is such a place in existence in the County, and more than that, that it does not rank as one of the smallest with other villages in the County, in regard to shipping of Coal and its other local business.—There have been shipped from the Combola Colliery, owned by Wm. Y. Agard & Co., since the first of January last, 28,000 tons of Coal, and by the time this will reach your columns, should the Colliery be in operation during the whole of this week, the total number of tons shipped will be about 30,000. The works, I am informed, will be brought to a stand-still, at the end of this week, in order to make some repairs in the slope, and about the Colliery, which may be the means of leaving a few of our working men out of employment for the time being; yet we hope their condition will not be rendered such as to cause them to exclaim, what shall we eat, or what shall we drink, or wherewithal shall we be clothed, for they can boast of that of which a great portion of the *too often* unfortunate laboring class in this County cannot, viz: of having always at the end of every month received their pay in cash.

Our town is making rapid improvements in the line of building. There were 12 or 13 frame buildings put up within the past year, and what is still speaking for the future, is an occasional thumping and shrieking of the mason's hammer and the carpenter's plane, though late as it may appear for mechanics of the building class. The only objections for not having the place built up long before this, is not having an access to good water on this romantic hill. *Opera ad praesentem non est comutable.*

Our schools are in a prosperous condition at present. We have two schools here and children enough to compose three schools of an ordinary number in each. All we want as regards schools is a more spacious building, which I hope will ere long be erected in this town, for I am opposed to and tired of the policy of having poor school houses, poor pay, and poor satisfaction given to the public on account of it.

Combola, Dec. 10, 1855. PHILOVIRTUTIS.

TAMAQUA LETTER.

FOR THE MINERS' JOURNAL.

MESSRS. EDS.:—I regret that your regular correspondent from this place, has failed to perform his weekly task in writing for your valuable and useful paper as he has been wont to do in times that are past. His racy communications were always read by your subscribers here with avidity, and they added much interest to the well-filled columns of the *Journal*. It is a pity he has become weary in well-doing.

Tamaqua is no longer a matter of experiment, but has become a veritable *factotum*, and not only has a real existence as a place and a name, but it contains all the essential elements of a permanent and a prosperous city, though it may perchance be one in miniature.

Among the salutary institutions of the place, none are destined (we leave out in this connection, of course, those of a strictly religious nature,) to wield a more lasting and beneficial influence upon the rising generation, than our public schools.

We have now in this borough school room capacity for some eight hundred scholars, more or less. Our enterprising directors having just completed a new and permanent structure in Pine street, which added to the large school building in Broad street, will afford barely sufficient school room to answer present purposes. The time is coming when our wants will require double the amount of school room that we now have.

All who are conversant with these matters well understand the extreme and ever perplexing difficulty of managing our public schools in a community like this, where so large a part of the population are constantly moving from place to place. Under such circumstances it is almost impossible to arrange the schools in a proper manner, and when they become well arranged it is still more difficult to keep them thus arranged.

But under the management of our energetic Superintendent, Wm. H. Baker, Esq., the public schools of this borough are being placed upon a scale of usefulness hitherto unattained, and if the fostering hand of the entire community be properly extended, our common schools will exert an influence in favor of virtue and intelligence in years to come. Our common schools, the "poor man's college"—palsied be the hand that would blot them from existence, "Arch-bishop" slippery John to the contrary, notwithstanding.

Among the many occurrences and events that take place in this borough from time to time worthy of hearty commendation, we have now and then an enterprise of an opposite nature, one of which I will mention. Within the past few days a *nuisance*, obscene and profane about called the *Pearl Pig*, has made its appearance here. This paper is edited and sent abroad, beyond the sphere of a doubt, by some person destitute of religious and moral principle, and who can only revel and delight in a literature baptized in infidelity and filth.

This paper, like the unnatural bird which passes by all that is wholesome and nutritious to every inferior form of organized life, and gluttonously feeds upon the most offensive and rotten carrion, collects and sends abroad upon the wings of the wind the follies, the infirmities and the vices of mankind, and also serves up such dishes of gossip imaginary or real, as can be picked up from the idlers, tatlers and lazy drones that are found in every place. For a few pennies any person however vile, can aim a stab (like the assassin in the dark) at virtue, religion or character, as may best suit his depraved mind. Most noble work. Most commendable object. Yet strange to say the *Tamaqua Gazette* has given this paper a courteous notice without a word of disapprobation and *thinks* that it is printed in Pottsville.—Where Messrs. Editors? At what office? Speak out, and give us the desired information if you can. Let us know who of your Pottsville printers is thus engaged in the commendable work of the intellectual and moral development of the age. Many persons in this borough *think* that the paper in question is printed a little farther from the setting of the sun than Pottsville. Whoever may think right and wrong in reference to this matter the public have a right to know, and will undoubtedly ascertain satisfactorily who it is that for a few paltry dollars has been willing to lend a hand in this filthy business.

There are many other subjects upon which I would like to comment but space and time will not allow at present. YOURS, VERITAS.

Tamaqua, December 13, 1855.

NEW YORK LETTER.

FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

The wind and the weather—High times among the material creation—Humanity at a discount—Stand from under, the motto—The pranks of a windy day—Hat, race—The ladies and their part of the fun—Model Venus-es versus cooper shops and rose of barrels—Sad fall in romance—The ship yards of New York—Steamers in process of construction—Launch of the Vanderbilt—Description of her—New idea in our merchant vessels, &c.

NEW YORK, December 11, 1855.

DEAR JOURNAL:—"Blow—Blow—thou wintry wind" was the exclamation of Lear, and any one who has been in Gotham for the past two days, would be inclined to think that the same hoary-headed old king had been promenading our renowned thoroughfare and had there been induced to put forth the invocation recorded above. However be the observation of Lear made when and where it may have been, it is a fact oscularly and most feelingly demonstrated within the last forty-eight hours, that the wind still continues to blow, as of yore it did when the world was somewhat younger than it is at present.

On the rivers the white-capped waves and rolling vessels attested its powers—while on the shore quadrilles of dancing shutters and signs led off in forward two and backward four—while *all chassee* seemed to be the order of the day for skylights and scuttle doors—meanwhile the more *light-hearted* awnings and sails polka-ed in fantastic circles in loving embraces, clasping their partners the awning posts and masts, much in the demure old fellows as they are, condescended to join the fun and unbend their proverbial *stiffness* with a modest inclination of the head and swaying of the body on the toes, like courtiers of the olden times.

As a matter of course, human bipeds played second fiddle in the grand entertainment of the material creation, and chore the better part of valor by either remaining in the house or if out of doors—keeping their eyes—"open light."

Various are the ludicrous scenes which a windy day in town develops—innumerable are the weary chases after truant beavers, which have a little trick of their own, of starting on a fresh run just as you put your hand on them, realizing the old saying of the Irishman's flea, who, when you put your finger on him, wasn't there. These hat races afford prodigious fun for the juveniles about town, as well as many of a larger growth, who, irradiate their faces with the broadest of grins, till an unlooked for puff causes them also to join in the general scramble—for our part we never laugh in a windy or stormy day—experience having taught us that it was far from safe.

Still we biped of the *forked wear* do not afford all the fun that such days furnish the community—our fair friends are forced to contribute their quota—with them, sad pranks does rude Boreas play—unheard of liberties does he take and unmentionable are the sanctums that he invades—with ruthless arm he encircles many a delicate waist and snowy throat and with rough ardor does he uninvited and also unrepulsed, kiss blooming cheeks, which many a languishing swain would give his right hand to press. In times gone by, the uncompromising blast as it swept the skirts of our lady friends revealed every line and curve of the figure—causing them to stand before us like Venus aphrodite or Diana, casta—but the romantic age has passed for the present at least, and the wintry blast now reveals to the view a cooper's shop in miniature, or array of hogsheads and barrels ready *hoop-ed* for the market.

Oh! Fashion!—thou art a sad enemy at times to the classic graces that we read of—and thy abominable innovations the *corset* and the *hoop*, have left us but little of the lines of beauty, that rendered the human form a "thing divine" and immortalized it in the verses of Homer and Horace.

New York has now in her ship yards the finest specimens of ocean steamers ever constructed, early next season, will make the trip to Europe a holiday excursion and at the same time redouble the rivalry already existing in the traffic and travel between the Old World and the New—the Collins' line are constructing the Adriatic, to replace the lost Arctic. Vanderbilt has just launched the steamer named after himself as one more of his own newly established trans-Atlantic line—the Bremen and the Southampton lines have each a mammoth, on the stocks—while the New York and Glasgow company have just launched on the Clyde, the Edinburgh, one of the finest screw steamers ever constructed, and the Cunard company are moving heaven and earth in the equipment of the new "Persia" for the struggle that is to come for the maintenance of ocean supremacy. In addition to all of which, George Steers will in a few days consign to her native element the "Niagara," for the government—the king of the six new steam frigates now building.

The launch of the Vanderbilt took place yesterday most successfully, in the presence of a concourse of ten thousand spectators. Shortly after nine o'clock the signal gun was fired and the last block being knocked away, the largest steamer ever constructed on this continent gracefully glided into the water. After running nearly across the river, she was secured by five steam-tugs (which by the way looked like egg shells beside her,) and towed to the balance dock, when she was again elevated, to be coppered.

Her size is gigantic, being 328 feet in length—49 feet breadth of beam and 33 feet depth of hold. Some idea of her size may be gathered, when you are told, that could she be caused to stand perpendicularly on end, she would far out-top any steeple in our city. The weight of her hull alone, without machinery or finishing is 2300 tons. She is 5100 tons carpenter measurement—about 4000 tons register—she is furnished with two 1700 tons power engines—90 inch cylinders weighing 19 tons each—her shaft is over two feet in diameter—revolving paddle-wheels of wrought iron entirely—42 feet in diameter (the largest ever built,) with paddles of 11 inches face—her boilers of which there are four, would each form quite a spacious drawing room, being 28 feet long, 14 feet wide and 13 feet high—weighing 60 tons each. Although the Vanderbilt is the largest steamer ever launched in this continent, as you will see from the dimensions which I have given you so fully, she is yet far short of the size of either the Adriatic or the Niagara—the former of which is worth a journey to inspect.

Apropos of maritime matters—the scarcity of seamen has now for years been a source of constantly growing anxiety and has become so serious an evil, that it is now a fact that out of one hundred men employed on vessels, only two of the whole number are active, efficient seamen.—One of our shipping merchants has lately considered the matter at length in a pamphlet, and we see that measures have been introduced into Congress, embodying his views, and compelling all merchant vessels to carry a certain number of apprentices compared with their tonnage, and providing for their thorough education in navigation, seamanship and the branches of a common English schooling.

This effusion is already late for the mail, so that it must be sent as it is, leaving much that I desire to say until next week.

A KANSAS COURT HOUSE.—A Kansas letter thus describes the place where the U. S. District Court for Kansas is held:

The building is evidently intended for a private residence. It is a frame building of two apartments, some sixteen feet each. In one of these is the Court ensconsed. A very good stove is the only respectable article in the room, and as the walls are not plastered, its heat is required. As much of the building has been made from green cottonwood, the heat of the stove evolves a strong cottonwoody odor, that is more peculiar than agreeable. A couple of plasterers' "mules" are placed close to the wall, and these with a log laid on a couple of blocks and a ladder turned on one edge, constitute the accommodations for the jurors and audience. A coarse table, with a drawer in it, stands on one end of the same. Under it lie a pair of saddle bags, carelessly thrown, and a tin canister, open at one side, in which are a couple of parcels of those mysterious papers which puzzle the ingenuity of young lawyers, try the metal of old ones, and are as "a sounding brass and a tinkling symbol" to all other sensible men. A few common and rather coarse chairs are grouped round that table, and on these the functionaries of "law divine" are seated. Judge Lecompte is the chief justice.

The west is becoming a barren field for lecturers. Henry Ward Beecher, Burnham and Rev. E. P. Chapin, have all made recent lecturing tours in that direction, which have proved failures.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS may be taken with perfect safety by both sexes, and all ages, their effect being mild yet positive; their searching properties render them invaluable for the extermination of every disease, particularly liver and stomach complaints, bilious disorders, and indigestion. As a purifier of the system they are unequalled, and their virtues in cases of determination of blood to the head, and asthmatic complaints, cannot be too highly commented on; in short, by a perseverance with these admirable Pills, there are few complaints which can resist their extraordinary influence.

MATRIMONY FOR EVER!—Nothing is like it—particularly if you are sure to get the object of your choice. But how? Oh, the easiest thing in the world now. They cannot resist. They must love you, if you so will it. Only read Professor Rondout's book, "The Bliss of Marriage," which we advertise to-day. It helps you to the curious secret.—It is wonderful.

☞ SPLENDID DISPLAY OF GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS.—GLENN & Co., No. 180 Chesnut Street, (opposite the Masonic Hall,) Philadelphia.—Truly grateful for the liberal patronage they have heretofore received, especially Holiday Seasons, respectfully inform the ladies and gentlemen of Pottsville and its vicinity that they have NOW OPEN the most elegant assortment of FANCY and USEFUL ARTICLES of the kind, suitable for HOLIDAY PRESENTS, which have ever been offered for sale in this or any other city in the United States. Having which are a great many *New Styles* of articles, imported *expressly for the season*. G. & Co., desirous of retaining the liberal patronage they have enjoyed, have made great exertions to please, and have determined to *sell at the very lowest prices*, and not be undersold. Persons wanting choice and beautiful article for Christmas Presents would do well to examine the stock and prices before purchasing elsewhere.

Among the goods are Rich articles in Porcelain, Bisque and Parian Ware. Bohemian & French Fancy Glass, Super English Papier Mache Goods, Rich Mantel Clock, of Ormolu, Bronze, &c.; Bronze Statuettes, Candelabra, &c; Berlin and Frankford Fancy Iron Articles; Rich Fans, Opera Glasses, &c.; Portmonnaies, Card Cases, &c.; &c.; Derbyshire and Flour Spar Goods; Spar Goods from Belgium; Articles in Stag Horn, &c.; Portable Dressing Cases; Fancy Work Boxes, &c.; Music Boxes; Flower Baskets, Stands, &c.; Cabas and Newport Bags, with a thousand other articles of taste and fancy.

N. B.—Articles purchased sent home free of expense, or packed to go safely to any distance.

☞ Please remember the number—180.

Dec. 15, '55 50-2t

Religious Intelligence.

☞ THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND is in a remarkable position at this time as respects the Episcopal bench. There has not been any vacancy among the Bishops during the last year nid a half, but in the next year and a half there will probably be five. "If any one man shall continue to be the chief advi