Miners' Journal.

POTTSVILLE, PA.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1855.

REVIEW OF 1855.

The present year is drawing rapidly to a close. The cycle of Father Time is about to commence on earth another twelve month's transit amid the storms of Winter, the budding beauties of Spring, the flowers and fruits of Summer, and the golden harvests of Autumn. The seasons emblematic of man's brief existance here, are silent yet powerful instructors. Their lessons reach deep into the heart, and at particular periods fail not to impress even upon the most hardened, those startling truths conveyed to us in the murmur of the mountain rill, and fall of the sere and yellow leaf.

We are about to enter upon a new year, with almost extinguished hope rekindled, aspirations reawakened, and worldly thoughts as strong in the mind, as when we commenced the present year. On the 1st of January, 1855, how large a multitude of human beings looked anxiously forward, hoping yet fearing, undismayed by previous disappointments, and buoyed up by the sanguine expectation that this year they would gain all that makes life valuable, or existence worth the keeping.—Could we at this, the close of the present year, receive from each member of the human family, who started a twelve-month since with those feelings and expectations, a true, honest history of their experience, the mental pangs they have endured, how they have suffered the "stings of fortune, the proud man's contumely," and "the ills that flesh is heir to," but a small proportion of the worldly minded, we fear, could say, "I have secured the full fruition of my hopes—I am perfectly happy." Would it not be wise with this bitter experience, to so improve the future, that commencing with the coming new year, we may soon cease to regret the past?

While the contending armies of Europe are still in the field,—as they were a twelve-month since—and with no present prospect of peace, we fortunately enter upon 1856 unembarrassed by any difficulty, requiring a resort to arms. A flirt with England occasioned some feeling on both sides of the Atlantic, but the discovery being soon made that the threatened war was in reality but a *ruse* of the London *Times*, to effect financial operations important to that country, it soon subsided, and we are glad to know that the most amicable relations exist between England and the United States.

Our foreign relations being of so satisfactory a character, it is mortifying to know that internal dissension threatens so seriously.—On the frontiers, American citizens have been arrayed one against the other, with deadly weapons in hand. The prime cause of the difficulty, was that odious enactment, the Kansas-Nebraska bill, passed to conciliate and enhance the Southern slave power; but which every intelligent and observant Southerner will admit has proved an injury instead of a benefit. The operation of this bill on the new territory of Kansas, had the effect of changing it at once into a battle ground, for the contest of supremacy between the free-state men and the Missouri pro-slavery ruffians. After submitting to outrage following outrage, the smouldering embers of indignation at the cowardly treatment of the "border ruffians" was fanned into a flame by the unprovoked murder of young Dow, and serious difficulty was threatened. Had the affair progressed as at one time appeared probable, into civil war, the free-state men undoubtedly, would have suffered terribly, having arrayed against them the Administration, through its tools, the authorities of the Territory. The free-state men however, with prudence, checked their resentment, and for the time further scenes of violence have been spared them. The lesson taught their assailants by the occurrence, has been useful, and we doubt their inclination to again face the unerring Sharpe rifle, in the hands of the hardy Western pioneer.

During the year, pestilence desolated the streets of Norfolk and Portsmouth, and at other points laid its blighting touch. Scenes almost unparralleled in the history of the ravages of the yellow fever, were witnessed in those places last summer. A wide-spread sympathy existed for the sufferers, and while money was liberally subscribed in all the principal cities, and throughout many of the States, the physician and nurse, deaf to everything but the cries of distress, hurried rapidly to the scene, and relieved much suffering, while several of them mingled their ashes with those they had gone to save. What bright pages in the great and varied book of humanity, do these acts fill up; how many acts of selfishness they erase from the tablets of memory. The recording angel must drop a pitying tear, even while he indites the act which overwhelms.

Pennsylvania on this, the threshold of a new year, stands in as prosperous a condition, as can be expected, under the operation of a Tariff inimical to her most important interests. Financially, under Gov. Pollock's administration of affairs, her treasury is in a better condition than it has been before for years.—Were her manufacturing interests adequately protected, she would then become the recognized, as she is in point of resources, the Empire State of the Union. Let her citizens continue to labor earnestly, to compass the desired end. Next year will witness a Presidential election, important in its results, to every section of the Union; but particularly so to Pennsylvania. Let her citizens but be true to their own interests; to the principles of Americanism, and they will have the proud satisfaction of witnessing the cessation of the most corrupt and imbecile Administration that ever disgraced the country, and the overthrow of that unscrupulous, anti-American political organization, the Sham-Democracy.

In Schuylkill County, the Coal Trade has been active during the year; but in many cases not remunerative. There is a manifest lack of harmony between the producing capability of the Region, and the facilities of transportation to market. These matters of course, regulate each other. Hence, we have new and important roads projected, which cannot but exercise a revivifying effect upon the trade. Another error is—the predisposition to overstock the market, in place of allowing the demand to regulate the supply, and thereby ensure to the operator remunerative prices. When we consider the high rates of toll for transportation; the amounts which have been invested during the year in colliery improvements; the increased price of living to operatives and the consequent additional burthen upon operators, and the whole capped by the low prices at which Coal has ranged during the past season, we only wonder that disaster has not met our Coal operators in a still more fearful shape, than it has assumed this year. We think with an united effort on the part of operators, to regulate prices and establish a general understanding and uniformity in the *minutiæ* of the Trade, in connection with projected improvements which will transport Coal to a convenient shipping point contiguous to New York, at less expense than it could be transported, *via* Port Richmond, that the Coal trade could be made to assume a permanent form, and not exist as at present a lottery, in which many who invest their means, draw but blanks. The Coal business is hazardous enough, without being made more so by the wilful neglect of operators to protect themselves. A thorough organization of the trade into one solid body, with the leading motive of action the general welfare, then the trade will know from year to year how it stands, and reverses will become "like angel visits, few and far between."

Before we conclude our sketch of matters, which occur to us at this the close of 1855, and hear advent of 1856, we beg to embrace in our brief review, a notice of the *Miners' Journal*; its past career and future prospects. When our paper entered upon the present year, it was in a building erected upon ground that a few short weeks previous, presented the spectacle of a heap of smoking ruins. We rose Phœnix-like from the fire that wrought such destruction to our establishment, fully determined to use increased exertions to merit the liberal patronage and friendly feeling, of which we have for years been the recipient. And we are not mistaken in the estimate we formed of the appreciation of the public. The patronage which has been accorded us during the past year, far exceeded our most sanguine expectations. The subscription list of the *Miners' Journal* largely exceeds what it numbered on the first of the present year, while the *Wednesday Dollar Journal*, generally acknowledged to be an excellent family paper, possesses a large circulation in this and adjoining counties, and is increasing daily. A few figures may not prove uninteresting. We will therefore, state that during the year we have added 460 new subscribers to the list of the *Miners' Journal*, and lost as near as we can ascertain, about 40—being a nett gain of 420, or more than one a day for the year. The *Journal* now in point of circulation, stands about number 3 in the State, out of the cities. Its circulation is now equal to the combined circulation of any *three* of the other English papers published in the County; consequently, as an advertising medium, the people can judge of its value. The *Wednesday Dollar Journal* has been published since May last only, yet its circulation is already 950 copies. It is absolutely necessary that the paper should run up to 1200 copies, to defray the necessary expenses incurred in its publication, and as the *Dollar Journal* is a fixed fact, and will go on, we call upon our friends throughout the county to aid us in the effort to run up to, and even beyond that number. In connection with the *Miners' Journal* it forms a regular semi-weekly paper, entirely distinct in contents, and forming a good outlet for much interesting reading, that we find impossible to get into the crowded columns of the *Miners' Journal*. We commend this admirable family paper, to the attention of all who desire to receive regularly a useful, instructive and moral publication.

This number of the *Miners' Journal* closes the present volume—the new commencing with the first of next year. With this fact in view, those who not receive regularly our paper, and wish to subscribe to the recognised organ of the Coal Trade, would do well to send in their names during the coming week, in order that they may commence with the first number of the new volume. We intend in the future to spare no expense nor exertion to render the *Miners' Journal* worthy of liberal patronage. It will ever be found a staunch advocate of American principles, and will continue to combat error and political corruption with fearlessness, and independent of party influences.

THE PHILADELPHIA SUN.—This paper, one of the ablest and most independent of the penny press of the United States—and a brilliant corruscation amid its cotemporaries of Philadelphia, offers strong inducements to the public, to patronize it liberally during the coming year, a most important one in a political sense, to the American cause. The *Sun* ranks next to the *Ledger*, in Philadelphia, in point of circulation and influence, and we have ever found it foremost in every contest, on the side of truth, justice and genuine Americanism. Its course in the recent Williamson case alone, entitles it to the thanks of every lover of freedom, while the manly yet courteous manner in which it scourges its antagonists, commands respect, even while the recipients writhe under the merited infliction. We would commend to notice and patronage, the *Weekly Sun*, a paper containing forty-eight columns of reading, and sent to subscribers for One Dollar per annum. A cheap and acknowledged excellent publication. We extend to the Colonel the compliments of the season, and trust that his unremitting efforts may in 1856 be substantially recognized in a business point of view.

"A WORD TO THE WISE," &c.—"Young America" is the title of a new humorous publication, started in New York, in imitation of the London *Punch*. The first number contains, among a number of other good things, an engraving over the above title, representing the Goddess of Liberty, behind the counter of a provision store, in which there are articles marked "Cakes," "Flour for Exportation," "Best Genessee Flour," etc. In front of the counter stands a female domestic, Queen Victoria, and by her side the British Lion, looking very meek and hungry, with his tail tied up with a ribbon, *a la* poodle.—The following copy of the lines attached to the engraving, are explanatory of the illustration: "*America*—(to Mrs. Victoria Gulph, Icq.)—Yes, ma'am; shall be happy to supply you until you get out of your difficulties, but your man, C—p—n, mustn't try to get my men away to protect that beast of yours, or I shall stop the supplies." The bit is happy. The design and execution of the illustration are capital.

THE BOSTON MURDER.—Edward O. Coburn and Benjamin F. Dalton, charged with inflicting injuries upon the person of William Sumner, which caused his death, have been fully committed for trial, on the charge of murder. This case, it will be remembered, originated in an alleged illicit intimacy between Sumner and a young man named Porter, and the wives of Coburn and Dalton. From the evidence taken on the coroner's jury, the course of the women in question, was of the most imprudent character, and the subsequent action of the husbands unwarranted by any act known to have been committed by the young men, in their intercourse with Mrs. Coburn and Mrs. Dalton.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

HECTOR'S communication will appear in the next number of the *Wednesday Dollar Journal*. A pressure of matter and Christmas week, interfered with its publication before as intended.

"THE KANSAS REGION."—Fowler and Wells, 308 Broadway, have published a work with the above title, embracing descriptions of scenery, climate, wild productions, capabilities of soil, and commercial resources of Kansas. The work is interspersed with incidents and anecdotes, etc., rendering it very interesting even to the general reader.

JOURNAL OF THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE.—The December number of this valuable publication has been received. In addition to a variety of matter interesting to the scientific, this number contains two illustrations, one representing the moment in making contact in the measurement of a base—United States Coast Survey; the other a beautiful lithograph of the steamship Arago, 2260 tons burthen.

GRAHAM'S MAGAZINE.—What shall we say of the January number of this Magazine? It burst upon us, like the sudden presence of a lovely woman dazzling us into silent admiration. It is a superb number, worthy of the taste, liberality and enterprise of the publisher, Mr. See. The frontispiece is a charming steel engraving, entitled "Rosa;" then follows an artistically designed and executed title page of Graham for 1856, and a beautiful Parisian fashion plate for January. "The Bride's Feast" is a finely illustrated poem. The music in this number is entitled "Lilly May." The Editor's Table is racy, while the fashion department for January must prove interesting to the ladies. The literary matter is from the pens of several writers for Graham. We advise an inspection of the January number of Graham's Magazine. It will be found as we have stated, superb. Copies can be obtained at Bannan's.

Local Affairs.

METEOROLOGICAL NOTATIONS.

Reported by Dr. A. Hagner of Potts. Sci. Assoc'n.

DECEMBER.	THERM'R. Maximum.	Minimum.	BAR. Maximum.	Minimum.	GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.
12th mo. 31 days.					*Topograph. & Geographical.*
Saturd. 22	38	32	29.80		Height of Pottsville corner
Sunday 23	40	30	29.10		of Market & 2d. sts.) above
Monday 24	32	29	29.45		mean tide, 633.067 ft.—Dis-
Tuesd'y 25	39	27	29.90		tance from Philadelphia, 81
Wedn'y 26	15	4	30.33		miles.—Latitude, 40° 41'
Thursd'y 27	21	8	30.76		15".—Population in 1850
Friday 28	18	9	30.33		7,606.

22—E. light; cloudy, misty.
23—N. W. do; clear in morn. eve. rather cloudy.
24—N. E. fresh; cloudy.
25—E. do; cloudy, rainy.
26—N. strong; rather cloudy.
27—Ditto.
28—N. W. light; cloudy—a few spits of snow.

School tickets for January will be issued Saturday, 5th proximo.

Snow.—The flakes commenced falling merrily yesterday morning, with no prospect however of a deep snow. Our girls and boys, as well as those of older years, have been waiting impatiently for the first sleigh ride of the season.

The Palo Alto Engine House.—This building, which was injured by fire on Sunday week, has been repaired, and is almost ready for the occupancy of the Coal engines of the Reading Railroad Company.

Schuylkill County Medical Society.—The annual supper of this Society will be discussed by the members at the Exchange Hotel, on Wednesday evening, 2d proximo. We know no host in Pottsville, more capable of gratifying the most fastidious epicurean palate, or of making hours of pleasant social enjoyment pass swiftly by, than Mr. Kaercher.

St. John's Day.—Polaski Lodge, No. 216, A. Y. M., celebrated the day by a supper on Wednesday evening at the American House. The "Governor" displayed much taste in catering for his guests on the occasion, and the company appreciated the fact, if one may judge by the hilarity exhibited. Sungs, speeches, etc., were the order of the evening, and were kept up incessantly until "the clock told the hour of retiring."

Calico Parties.—These parties which were introduced into New York last winter, we understand, will be introduced here. Among the amusements for the holidays, we learn that a lady of our Borough intends giving a private entertainment on New Year's eve, on a similar plan, the costume of each guest to be presented to the Dorcas Society, for the benefit of the poor, who ought not to be forgotten in this period of festivity, among the worse favored of this world's goods.

Rumor of Murder at Coal Castle.—It was pretty extensively rumored yesterday that a farmer (with a load of pork) had been found murdered in his wagon, at Coal Castle, during the early part of the week. But we have, as yet found no one who could give reliable information, and it may be, after all, a rumor and nothing more; at least we are inclined to believe so, as Coal Castle is not remarkable as a place of law and order, or even of personal security. There is too much whiskey drunk there.

The Market House.—Our readers are probably not all aware that our Market House, in Market street, has been completely enclosed, and our market laws revived and altered. A town clerk has been appointed, and the proper steps taken to establish a permanent market, with rules and regulations that will be enforced. Those markets, of which ours is an imitation, in Reading, Harrisburg and other places around us, have been beneficial to the people, and we hope ours may be so too. The Ordinance can be found at length in the advertising columns of both this and our last week's paper.

Temperance Meeting at St. Clair.—It will be noticed in a communication from St. Clair, that a grand temperance meeting will be held there. Several good speakers have been engaged, and among others, Rev. Samuel Kurtz, who has displayed splendid abilities as a lecturer on former occasions. The members of the Ashbel Division, S. of T., No. 544, who will form a procession on the afternoon previous to the exercises of the evening, deserve credit and encouragement for the interest which they take in the cause to which they are devoted, and we hope that many others will follow their example and keep the great cause of moral reform constantly before the people.

Anthracite Masonic Lodge.—At a regular stated meeting of Anthracite Lodge of the Masonic fraternity, held at their Lodge room in St. Clair, Dec. 18, the following named gentlemen were elected to serve as officers for the ensuing year:

Jonathan Johnson, *W. M.;*
Wm. J. Uhler, *Sr. W.;*
W. D. Hudgson of Pottsville, *Jr. W.;*
Adam Kline, *Treasurer;*
R. H. Irwin, *Secretary.*

Signor Blitz.—This favorite performer gave exhibitions on Monday and Christmas day, to fine audiences. During the week he has also visited Minersville, Schuylkill Haven and Tamaqua. We learn from the Signor that he will return to our Borough, and give two exhibitions to-day, afternoon and evening, and two on Monday, also afternoon and evening. It is unnecessary to suggest a general attendance. Those who wish a hearty laugh, always visit the Signor's entertainments.

Fatal Accident on the Reading Railroad.—On Wednesday morning, when the up passenger train for Pottsville was between the Falls and Manayunk, one of the cylinder heads of the locomotive engine "Elmira" blew out with a loud report. At that point some laborers were repairing the road, and one of the pieces after flying a distance of about sixty yards, struck one of them named John Antrem on the head, killing him instantly. The unfortunate man's skull was driven completely in by the projectile. The deceased leaves a wife and child. His remains were brought up to Pottstown for interment. Several persons working with Antrem made narrow escapes. The train was detained an hour and a half by the occurrence.

Things for the Times.—The best things that we know for the times, and things that can be had for money, are turkeys, geese, chickens and other fixings, (but money is a thing that everybody seems sticking to just now, not that it is in our way, but because we stick more without it.) Our farmer friends from old Mahantongo have brought down there good things for the holidays, and they have been driving a smart trade in our streets for the last two weeks. Others from the wilds of the Catawissa Valley, from the rich flats of the Swatara and the fertile valleys of the Schuylkill, have poured in their beeves, their pork, their turkeys, their geese, and their chickens in abundance; but they stick to their prices, and get them too. Even the Irish house-wives that would haggle for a 5p all day, could not save a cent by their blarney, their wit, or their skill.

The Annual Fancy Ball at the Town Hall on Thursday evening was a pleasant affair in every respect. The room was neatly decorated and the floor marked fantastically with water colors, showing the space allotted to each set. Quite a number of fancy costumes were present, and the sprinkling of citizens' dresses, added to the general effect. Several musicians from the city formed an admirable orchestra on the occasion. Mr. Little as floor manager, acquitted himself with credit, and assisted materially in causing the various items on the programme to glide away smoothly and almost imperceptibly, until the sma' hours witnessed the departure of "Dutchy" and "Don Cæsar," the "Goddess of Liberty," a charming Indian maiden and a host of others, *en costume*, to their respective homes. The ball, we believe, was enjoyed by all present.

Fantastical Parade.—On Christmas day, amid the peltings of a pitiless storm, some twenty individuals belonging to Port Carbon, entered and paraded through the streets of our Borough.—They were arrayed in every imaginable burlesque costume, and wore tiles apparently manufactured from damaged hardware, and discarded hats reduced to a shocking bad state. The captain wielded with herculean grasp a long wooden scimitar, and innumbered his men with military skill to the music of a well soaked fife and drum, operated by well soaked performers. A member of the company bore upon a fragile stick, a piece of not the whitest muslin we ever saw, upon which was inscribed "Santa Anna Life Guards—O, git out." The Falstaffian array created much amusement, and if the weather had been pleasant, the array on the part of the Guards would, we presume, have been more formidable, in point of numbers.

Card of Thanks.—The workmen engaged in the erection of the dwelling house of David P. Brown, Esq., have been the recipients of an entertainment, for which they publicly express their acknowledgments, as follows:

The Mechanics concerned in the erection of the new dwelling house of Col. David P. Brown, corner of Market and Fourth streets, Pottsville, desire thus publicly to return their thanks to Col. Brown, for his magnificent entertainment of them at his house, on the 25th December, instant; to express their gratification at the satisfaction their work has given to the generous host, and to hope that similar kindly feelings may always prevail in Schuylkill county, between the employers and employed.

Pottsville, Dec. 29, 1855.

A Delightful Concert.—Our citizens had a musical treat on Wednesday evening, in the shape of a classical Concert given at the Town Hall by the directors of the Philadelphia Musical Union. The performers on the occasion were Miss Agnes and Fanny Heron, Mr. Rohr, Mr. Heron and Mr. Ashe. Five gems from Rossini's "Stabat Mater" were rendered in a most effective manner by the Herons and Mr. Rohr. An aria from Lucrezia was sung in a correct and satisfactory style by Miss Fanny Heron, while Miss Agnes warbled the waltz aria—"*Il Colonello.*"—in a charming manner. "My Boyhood's Home," a neat ballad, was sung by Mr. Rohr unexceptionably; but the piece is better suited to a tenor voice, than Mr. R.'s bass. He however, sang it very sweetly, and we believe to the gratification of the audience. Miss Fanny sang in *piguant* style, "Somebody's Coming," which elicited an *encore* and the song of "Kathleen Mavourneen." The well known scene from "L'Elisire d'Amour," was rendered by Mr. Rohr and Miss Fanny Heron, with spirit and humor, Mr. R. was excellent in it. The concert was so satisfactory in every respect, that we trust the Union may be induced to favor our citizens shortly with another.

Changes and the Effects.—All things change, people, feelings, objects, seasons, the times and the weather, and sometimes those changes are rather disagreeable, no matter how serviceable they may be. The last great change, which no one will dispute, is a remarkable one, has made the matter of getting out of bed in the mornings rather disagreeable, and, ugh! wet streets and cold baths to follow, must be exceedingly disagreeable. It is rather disagreeable too, that this black, cheerless atmosphere is not enlivened by snow enough to make good sleighing. The merry tinkling of the sleigh-bell would tend materially to enliven the times, beautify the scenery and soften the weather. In such a case, you know we would have such glorious parties to Tremont, and such exciting drives to Tamaqua; and then some of you would have jolly times on the mountains, and others enjoy themselves down the valley. But its no use speculating, no good will come of it to us; for we poor printers and pen drivers have only to imagine and chronicle other peoples' pleasures.—Yet after all it is really a pleasure to know that our readers enjoy themselves, and then you know, we do not come in for the upcettings, the headaches, and the blue days. But we are getting into the realms of imagination, or as the saying is, "reckoning without our host,"—there's no snow yet.

The Faithful Horse.—On Wednesday afternoon quite a crowd were gathered around a fallen horse, in front of our office. The animal belonged to a person from Minersville, and had fallen from the effects of some disease, of the nature of which we are ignorant. But as the poor and faithful servant lay struggling as it seemed for life, we could not help noticing the expressions of pity that rested on the faces of the crowd. If it had been a human being, we do not think the feeling would have been more general, for against the poor horse there can be no envy nor dislike, and consequently there can be no triumph in his downfall. But we did not intend to moralize on this simple occurrence. It is rather rare to see a horse down in our streets, though in New York, particularly in Broadway, it is common. Once we recollect of seeing a stout Vermonter, whose sympathies were strongly with the abused horse, throw off a rich and glossy coat which he wore, and putting his broad shoulder to the load that confined the animal, with one strong effort liberated him. The action was the more singular and humane, since the man was a stranger, and hundreds of the citizens stood around admiring though not helping. He passed on without waiting for the rude Irish drayman's thanks. But the occurrence is too common in Broadway, when neither the groans of horse or human can stop the rushing crowd a moment, to attract attention.

Christmas.—The rains descended on Tuesday from morn till night, and our streets were coated with a compost of mud, rendering pedestrianism any thing but a pleasant operation. But few persons ventured out, except those engaged in a *spirited* effort to observe the day. In the family circle, games, mirth and merriment enlivened the day and evening, and spite of the very disagreeable weather, we do not doubt that generally, this Christmas was not inferior to any of its predecessors, in point of fun and frolic. Places of business were nearly all closed during the afternoon, and in the evening, the only person we observed worshipping the almighty dollar at the altar of Mammon, was the Yankee traveling book peddler, who held an auction with a slim attendance. We pity that man who cannot set apart a few hours aloof from business, on Christmas, for congenial communings and heart-felt thankfulness to God for favors past and present. To the sordid, however, whose idol alone is gain, what is Christmas or any other holy day? What sympathy has he in common with men who possess a "local habitation and a name?" As far as Santa Claus' visits were concerned, we believe there was "no postponement on account of the weather," and that the hosts of little ones in our midst were made happy according to their several tastes and deservings. How forcibly the warbling of a fair correspondent of the *Delaware Republican* came to recollection on Tuesday. She sings,—

All other festal scenes may breathe
Of bursting buds and blooming flowers,
Of sunlight streaming radiantly,
Of crystal dew, and pearly showers,
Yet Christmas hath the truer charm
Of gathering those we love around us,
Linking anew the broken chain
That once so fondly bound us.

The starry jasmine may not fling
Its fragrance to the air,
Still love and friendship's balmy flowers
Are bloming everywhere;
Beloved ones we long have missed
Are gathered around the blazing fire,
And tales of mutual joy and grief
Are told till its bright gleams expire.

* * * * * * *

There is a halo round the scenes
Of by gone Christmas holiers,
The memories of departed ones,
Whose voices joined with ours,
In singing Christmas carols once
Come vividly before us;
And mournful shadows for a time
Hang cloud like darkly o'er us.

Still Christmas hath much more of joy
Than sorrow in its train,
The thoughts of those who joined our mirth
On other Christmas days,
Off mingle with our present hopes
Of joyousness and praise,
Those memories of olden past we all
Must fondly treasure always.

SCHUYLKILL HAVEN LETTER.

FOR THE MINERS' JOURNAL.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—I have the pleasure of perusing your most excellent papers, and do most sincerely hope that you will have them more extensively circulated by obtaining constantly new accessions to your subscription list. Being a resident of this town I have the opportunity of making observations respecting what is occurring among us. Although there is much to make the heart sad, because of *Sabbath desecration, profanation, intemperance*, yet there is some religious and moral influence in this community.

If you, sire, had been in our borough Tuesday evening, and heard the interesting and eloquent lecture by Mrs. Elisa Thompson, of Ohio, who nobly advocated the cause of Temperance in the M. E. Church, and claimed the attention of the respectable audience so much that there was an influence of the proper kind pervading the entire assembly. I again remark, if you had been a listener it would certainly have prompted you to the conclusion that the *lecturer* was well calculated to promote the cause in which she is earnestly engaged. We certainly ought to give our influence, and help along those (and especially the ladies,) who spend their time and employ their talents in furthering the cause of Temperance and every other moral reform.

We do wish much success attending the labors of Mrs Thompson wherever she may go, and be well compensated here in this life, and finally have her reward in a better life above.

I am truly yours, J. D.

Schuylkill Haven, Dec. 27th, 1855.

LETTER FROM ST. CLAIR.

FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.

DEAR JOURNAL:—It is so long since I troubled your printers last, that by this time, I suppose they will have forgotten Kate, but to jog their memories, here I am again, with my likes and my dislikes, and nearly all my imperfections: though I really hope that we are improving, for I do certainly try hard enough to grow wiser and better as I grow older. Yet with all my efforts to be charitable and amiable, as our young minister tells us all young people should do, I cannot for the life of me help hating,—yes, detesting, despising and scorning the mean actions of some craven souls, who like the worm crawls groveling along the slime. O! had I but a pen of fire and a heart of boiling, hissing ink, with words to express my cramped up feelings, what a lashing I would give bad people and bad habits. I would not say that our growing town holds more than its quota of misguided mortals. But O, my friends! could you but see and hear what the ruin *rum* has done, even here—how it has carried misery and grief into the hearths of the innocent and the good, your pity would increase and you would battle, champion-like, still harder for the good time coming.

But I will change my theme, and instead of enumerating the evils that exist around us, tell you all the good I can, together with the news.

The military had a grand ball on Monday evening, and I suppose enjoyed themselves exceedingly; though not more perhaps than we, of more domestic habits, did around our cheerful, "Merry Christmas" firesides.

Yesterday was what people generally call a dull day, a soft day, or a tiresome day. Yet, though it rained and froze all day, until all the walks and paves were sheeted, as it were, with glass, and many were the slips and shrieks and falls; we cannot say it was a dull day, or a tiresome one, for the drifting rain that beat so musically against our window panes, can never damp the genial feelings of the heart, nor can the chilling frost freeze up the joyous laugh. With us it was a merry and a happy Christmas, and we hope that all our friends can say the same.

A few Sundays ago, one of our ministers here—a young and much loved man—delivered an eloquent and original sermon on "Christian Union," which was full of beautiful ideas, and forcible truths—truths that ought to be instilled in every heart. Yet even some of the pious members of his, and other churches I could name, cannot agree among themselves. I do not feel disposed to be personal, but some people make themselves conspicuously the subject of comment, and wrong the cause they pretend to support.

The temperance people here are making strenuous efforts to extend their influence, and on New Years' day a grand temperance meeting will be held, in which all our talent and eloquence will be called upon the speaker's stand. The "suns," of whom we spoke on a former occasion, are working hard to promote the good work of reform, and we are trying to get the "daughters" to do their duty also, and you may be sure they will answer for themselves, for who more than we, should oppose intemperance.

Our schools are in a flourishing condition and speak much more than I can say for the future; and not only are our common schools spreading the reign of intelligence, for they are in good hands, but our night schools and Sunday schools are making glorious progress in smoothing the way to the temple of knowledge.

And here let me remark, an incident to show that light is breaking upon dark places, however strenuously the powers of darkness may oppose it.

The Roman Catholics of this Borough opened an independent school here some time ago, in which, under the direction of the Priest, their children were taught the catechism, and—very little else. But they made such slow progress in books and letters, that their parents at last became disgusted, and many of them have recently applied to our Directors to have their children admitted again to our free schools.

Our Lyceum is weekly the scene of animated discussion, and notwithstanding the depth of the subject before them, which is no less than the great theory of Newton, they do credit to themselves and the place, though the fame of the great astronomer may suffer from the results, and new ideas that originated here, pervade the world instead.

In default of some manly pen to tell you of our mines and miners, I will state that the masculine gender of our little community have much to say about the McGinnis shaft, and our old friends—William Milner & Co's new improvements at the (some-kind-of-wood—hickory I believe) Colliery. But it pains me to write on this subject, for much suffering seems to be in store for our miners and laborers this winter, as all our operators are either curtailing or suspending their operations, and provisions are exceedingly high. Let those who have money to spare, if they love their fellow-men, spend it to the best advantage, for there is want of labor. It might be made a remunerative charity.

Yours truly, KATE.

St. Clair, Dec. 26, 1855.

P. S.—A merry and a happy New Year to you all.

COUNTING-HOUSE ALMANAC. 1856.

1856.	JANUARY.	FEBRUARY.	MARCH.	APRIL.	MAY.	JUNE.
Jan'y	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 / 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 / 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 / 27 28 29 30 31		1 2 3 4 5 / 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 / 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 / 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 / 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 / 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 / 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 / 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 / 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 / 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 / 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 / 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 / 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 / 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 / 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 / 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 / 29 30
Feby	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 / 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 / 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 / 24 25 26 27 28 29	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 / 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 / 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 / 22 23 24 25 26 27 28				
March	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 / 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 / 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 / 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 / 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 / 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 / 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 / 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 / 29 30 31				
April	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 / 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 / 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 / 27 28 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 / 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 / 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 / 22 23 24 25 26 27 28				
May	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 / 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 / 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 / 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 / 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 / 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 / 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 / 29 30 31				
June	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 / 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 / 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 / 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 / 29 30					

1856.	JULY.	AUGUST.	SEPTEMBER.	OCTOBER.	NOVEMBER.	DECEMBER.
	1 2 3 4 5 / 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 / 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 / 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 / 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 / 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 / 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 / 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 / 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 / 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 / 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 / 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 / 28 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 / 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 / 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 / 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 / 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 / 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 / 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 / 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 / 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 / 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 / 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 / 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 / 29 30 31

Religious Intelligence.

It is stated that several private Protestant schools which have been established in Hungary without the permission of government having been obtained, have been closed.

Through Vienna we learn that the Servian Government had formally authorized free exercise of worship to the Protestant community in that country, which hitherto had only existed on sufferance.

DEATH IN THE CHINA MISSIONARY FAMILY.—Intelligence has been received of the death of Mrs. Anna M. L. Wentworth, wife of Rev. E. Wentworth, D. D., missionary at Fuh-Chaw. Mrs. Wentworth died on October 24. She was a daughter of J. Lewis, Esq., of West Chester, Pa.

THE USE OF THE ORGAN IN PRESBYTERIAN WORSHIP.—A meeting of the Lancashire Presbytery was held at Manchester, when it was resolved to consider the propriety of admitting organs into the places of worship connected with the United Presbyterian Church. After a long discussion, the motion was carried by a majority of 15 to 3.

NOTICES.

A FAIR AND FESTIVAL, under the management of the ladies of Schuylkill Haven, for the benefit of the M. E. Church, in said borough, will be held in the building formerly known as the Swan Hotel, on the 1st and 2d of January, 1856.

The patronage of a generous Community is solicited.—Season Tickets, 25 cts. Single admission 12½ cts.

MRS. ISAAC RUPP, Sec. MRS. JANE BOWMAN, *Pres.*

BAPTIST CHURCH, Rev. JOHN H. CASTLE, Pastor. Service every Sabbath at 10½ o'clock, A. M., and 7 o'clock, P. M.

SECOND METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, Market Street, Pottsville, Rev. ARMAND LOSCHE, Pastor. Divine service every Sabbath at 10 A. M. and 7 P. M.

REV. W. S. E. AGNEW, of Philadelphia, will preach in the First M. E. Church, to-morrow (Sabbath) at 10 A. M. and 7 P. M.

ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYT'N CHURCH Market street, Rev. WILLIAM H. PRESTLEY, Pastor. Divine service every Sabbath at 10½ o'clock, A. M., and at 7½ o'clock, P. M.

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

WELSH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, Minersville road, Pottsville, Rev. CHARLES WM. EDWARDS, Pastor. Divine service in this Church every Sabbath. Morning at 10 o'clock, evening at 6 o'clock. Prayer Meeting at 9 A. M. School for small children, to teach them in the theories and doctrines of the Bible, at 1½ o'clock. School for reading the Bible, &c., at 2 o'clock. Singing School at 5 o'clock.

MARRIED.

STICHTER—SPOHN—On the 23d inst., by Rev. D. Stock, V. STICHTER to SARAH SPOHN, both of Pottsville.

WOLF—MATZ—On the same day by the same, M. F. WOLF to LOUISA M. MATZ, both of Pottsville.

DIED.

LENTZ—On Thursday morning, 27th instant, ANNA LENTZ.

Her friends and the friends of the family are invited to attend her funeral from the residence of her brother, Dr. Henry S. Lentz, Chesnut Hill, on Monday the 31st inst., at 11 o'clock, A. M.

ALLEN—At Worcester, Mass., ELIZA N. ALLEN, wife of Hon. Charles Allen. Mrs. Allen was the sister of the widow of the Rev. Alexander Young, D. D., of Boston, and of the wife of the Rev. James W. Thompson, D. D., of Salem.

SIDAM—At Kingston, Ulster county, N. Y., on the 13th inst, M. H. ELMENDORF, widow of the late Hon. John Sudam, in the 67th year of her age.

STINNECKE—At Baltimore, on the 20th inst., HENRY A. STINNECKE, Surgeon U. S. A., in the 43th year of his age.

REYNOLDS—At Woodstock, McHenry county, Illinois, on the 7th inst., Judge ABNER REYNOLDS.

DAY—At Denn