Miners' Journal.

POTTSVILLE, PA.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1856.

THE MINERS' JOURNAL FOR 1857.

On the first of January, 1857, the *Miners' Journal* will enter upon the Thirty-third year of its existence, (the twenty-eighth year it has been under the charge of the present proprietor,)—a very respectable age, say our old time friends and patrons, who have journeyed with us during the greater portion of almost a third of a century.—For the addition to our subscription list during 1856, we express our acknowledgments, and state that we will endeavor during 1857, to fully merit the liberal patronage which is extended to us.

Our Principles.

Elsewhere will be found "Our Political Creed." In it are embraced the Political Principles which heretofore we have esteemed it a duty and a privilege to defend. Conservative in many respects, they are yet sufficiently progressive to redound to the greatness and prosperity of our beloved country. The *Miners' Journal* will be independent in all things of public moment—exposing and denouncing wrong in high as well as low places, with the same readiness that it will award commendation when merited. We are not under the control of any party or clique.

Prohibition being one of the great questions of the day—involving the social happiness and prosperity of the people—it shall in the future as it has in the past, receive our earnest attention.—Temperance in all things, and human progress, go hand in hand.

The Coal Trade.

It has grown into a proverb, and is a fact recognised by the leading mining and commercial journals of the country, that the *Miners' Journal* is the prominent and reliable organ of the Coal Trade of the United States. Its statistics compiled from the most reliable sources, with necessary care and labor, are looked for with interest, and preserved for reference. That department of the *Journal* will in 1857 receive as heretofore, the undivided and assiduous attention of the Senior Editor, and no pains or expense will be spared to embrace in it information of importance and interest to the Operator, Miner and Dealer.

A prominent and valuable feature will be the Foreign Mining Correspondence, which will continue during the coming year. The practical information communicated by these letters is alone worth to those interested in mining operations, treble the price asked for the *Journal*. In addition we shall have correspondents in the various Coal Regions, to keep us advised of all information important to the Trade.

Local Affairs.

This is not the least interesting feature of a newspaper. It shall receive much attention in the *Journal*.

Our Miscellany

Will embrace,

Communications of original contributors.

The current news of the day briefly condensed —*multum in parvo*.

Poetry—sentimental, funny, patriotic and agricultural.

Two columns weekly, devoted to wit and humor and the interests of the farming community.

Tales, sketches, scientific matters, &c.

While we endeavor to maintain our position as a business paper of incalculable benefit to advertisers at home and abroad, we shall strive to render it ever a welcome visitor at the family fireside. Useful information and moral precept and instruction, shall receive that attention they merit.

Advertisers,

Will find the *Miners' Journal* the best medium for communicating with the public, to be found in Northern Pennsylvania. In Schuylkill County, its circulation is equal to the combined issue of the four other papers printed in the English language, which of course, renders it most advantageous and valuable to advertisers.

While expressing our warmest thanks for the large addition to our subscription list during the present year, we may remark that there is still room on our packet books for a few more names, and that those who do not take the *Journal*, yet recognize the truism, that the entertainment is so cheap as reading, and no pleasure so lasting, would do well to send in their names, and commence as subscribers with the new Volume in January, 1857.

TERMS.

SINGLE SUBSCRIPTION:

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BENJAMIN BANNAN,
Pottsville, Schuylkill Co., Pa.

THE HORRORS OF THE SLAVE TRADE.—Christendom has with one, united effort, endeavored for years past, to crush the Slave Trade. In a measure the effort has been attended with success. The vile traffic however, still flourishes, and is carried on under a *Christian* flag. We even have the spectacle of a Governor of one of the United States, Mr. Adams, of South Carolina, recommending a revival of the trade by authority of law, and who has endeavored to persuade his fellow-citizens, that the system is every way commendable and justifiable.

As an instance of the horrid manner in which the Slave Trade is yet carried on, a gentleman who recently arrived at New York from the coast of Africa, states that he learns from good authority, that there were thirty vessels, all sailing under the Portuguese flag, lying in the creek at the mouth of the Congo River, waiting for cargoes of slaves, and seeking for opportunities to get to sea, unperceived by the cruisers. Persons were stationed near the mouth of the river, to give warning of the vicinity of National vessels, and thus to announce opportunities, when with a dark night and a fair wind, these traders in human beings might effect their escape in safety.—The English Government have a steamer on the coast, but it is too slow to be of much service.—With a propitious breeze the swift, clipper-built slavers find little difficulty in evading the pursuit of their clumsy antagonist. Not long ago, a brig (supposed to be an American craft,) was making her way out of the mouth of the Congo river, with four hundred negroes on board, when she was espied by the steamer, which promptly gave chase. The brig slipped away from her pursuer with the greatest ease. The steamer fired several shots at her, but without success. When the brig had got out of the reach of the steamer's guns, the captain by way of tantalizing the baffled cruiser, ordered a negro to be pulled up to the yard arm, where he was allowed to hang for some time, as an insulting token of the acknowledged character of the vessel. The captain also signified his exultation by standing at the stern and fiddling as his brig scudded away. It is said that the trade in the vicinity of the Congo might be stopped, or at least materially diminished, by a small well armed steamer, capable of sailing fourteen miles an hour, which should cruise at intervals for a short distance up and down the river.

In this single instance, there is much to chill with horror and indignation. When we sum up the suffering and misery that are embraced in a trade, which lands yearly upon the Island of Cuba, thousands of slaves, and steals the ocean with slave ships, we wonder that more energetic steps are not taken to check it. The Slave trade is a blot upon the progressive and enlightened spirit of the age. It exists in cold-blooded brutality and inhumanity, the deeds of the assassin. It is ignoble, for its object alone is gain.

To the Southern portion of this confederacy, we are now as ever, disposed to accord every constitutional right she can claim. Should she however, listen to the monstrous proposition of the Governor of South Carolina, and indeed effect a reopening of that traffic in our ports, we would sink in the estimation of the civilized nations of the other portions of the earth. Worse, still worse, —the Union would be really in jeopardy, for the humanity of the North, could not by any possibility, consent to link itself with a Trade, abhorred of God, detested by man.

POOR FOOL.—William Bigler, who does not possess ability enough to misrepresent this State in the United States Senate, made a speech on Monday last in that august body, defending the President. On reading it, poor Pierce must have ejaculated, "save me from my friends." To us it appeared a miserable caricature of the most ordinary ravings of the stump. When will Pennsylvania send men of ability to represent her in the Senate of the United States? We have a surfeit of men of the Bigler stamp.

ARCHBISHOP HUGHES ON THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.—Archbishop Hughes, in an article published in the *Metropolitan* for December, has given his views upon the general character, management and influence of the Roman Catholic Press of this country. There are more of such periodicals, by-the-by, in this country, than there are among the English speaking Catholics of the whole world besides. The rivalry created by such a rapid growth has naturally led to differences among themselves, which have prevented the full benefit to the Catholic religion which might have been expected. The Archbishop says he remembers the time when the only *half a million* adherents. Well may the Charleston *Mercury* exclaim, "Another such a victory and we are done for the democracy") are united.

The most positive assurances are given that General Franklin Pierce intends running as a candidate for the Senate of the United States in place of Mr. Hale in 1858.

The Legislature of Pennsylvania will meet on Tuesday, the 6th of January.

On the 13th that body will proceed to elect a U. S. Senator in the place of Mr. Broadhead, whose term will expire on the 4th of March.

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGES.—The Presidential Electors chosen in the different States, met at their respective capitols on Wednesday week, and so far as heard from, cast their votes in every instance, in the way they were instructed to do by the people.

THE Virginia electoral college appears to have acted very ridiculously after casting its vote for Mr. Buchanan for President. The members took upon themselves to instruct the President elect that he must take a Virginian into his Cabinet, and even went so far in their indecorum as to name the gentleman whom he should take for one of his advisers.

THE NEW MARSHAL FOR KANSAS.—The President has appointed William Spencer, of Newark, Ohio, United States marshal in the territory of Kansas, vice Dopaldson, resigned. Mr. Spencer is highly spoken of as an impartial and intelligent man, of Governor Geary's stamp; and his appointment, it is supposed will be distasteful to the pro-slavery party in the territory, especially to Judge Lecompte, who found a congenial executive in Mr. Donaldson.

THE VOTE FOR PRESIDENT.—The returns of the vote for President as far as received, foot up as follows:—Buchanan, 1,796,327; Fremont, 1,328,185; Fillmore, 822,620. The returns to come in will not materially vary the result. Mr. Buchanan is over four hundred and sixty-eight thousand ahead of Mr. Fremont, and Mr. Fremont has nearly half a million votes more than Mr. Fillmore. The combined vote of Fremont and Fillmore is greater than that of Buchanan by 354,528.

THE LAND SALES IN KANSAS.—so far as they have progressed—seem to be favorable to the ascendency of the Freedom of that embryo State. A curious fact is mentioned, that nearly all the purchasers from Kentucky, who are quite numerous, and a majority of those from Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, and Tennessee, are favorable to making Kansas a Free State. Many of them had enough of slavery in their old homes, and wish to be free and untrammeled of this great social evil, by which they were so long oppressed, in the new homes and career opening to them.

EXCITING SCENE.—On the final vote in reference to the delegate from Kansas, Messrs. Broom, Tyson, Harrison, Moore, Valk and Whitney, Americans, and Hickman, Keller, Williams and Wells, Democrats—all of whom voted to eject Whitfield in August last—voted to admit him. Mr. Fuller, of Pennsylvania, was absent. Mr. Haven voted to eject, Mr. Damrell, of Massachusetts, though quite feeble, was in his seat for the first time and voted. Mr. Dickson, of New York, continued absent, sick.

Quite a lively scene occurred during the contest.

Mr. Grow's motion to refer Mr. Whitfield's credentials and the whole subject of the Kansas delegate to the Committee on Elections, was quite a surprise to the South.

Mr. Houston, of Alabama, remarked in his seat: "This has been fixed up between Banks and Grow."

After the question on the motion to refer had been decided, the speaker said that he desired to say with the consent of the House, that the charge made by the gentleman from Alabama was without foundation in truth; that he had held no conversation with the gentleman from Pennsylvania on the subject.

Mr. Houston, of Alabama, excited—"Does the Speaker mean me?"

Speaker, firmly—"The Chair understood the gentleman from Alabama to bring such a charge."

Mr. Houston said he had good reason to think so.

Mr. Grow, of Pennsylvania—"I call the gentleman to order." [Great excitement.]

Mr. Houston—"I am as much in order as the Speaker was."

Mr. Grow—"I wish to correct the gentleman in a matter of fact."

Mr. Houston—"You don't know facts enough to correct me."

At this moment the excitement became so intense that it was almost impossible to hear a word spoken. At last the Speaker, who remained cool and calm throughout the storm, said he would like to make an explanation, with the consent of the House; but objections were abruptly made by several. Mr. Orr, of South Carolina, demanded the question, and the House went on again as if nothing had happened.—*Tribune.*

IGNORANCE AND THE BUCHANAN VOTE.—It is a curious fact that the vote for Buchanan in the Northern States was always in direct proportion to the ignorance of the locality. Among those individuals who either could not read or were not allowed to read, the Buchanan ticket obtained its greatest strength. In those sections of the country where general ignorance prevails, the principles of Freedom made but little progress. Our success was among those who read the numerous facts and appeals which were placed before the public. It was so in this State, and it furnishes an excellent reason for continuing the supply of political documents. The election it is true, is over and our candidate defeated. But the principle still lives. It is as important now, as it was before the fourth of November, to show the people the value of freedom to a community; to place before them the dignity of free labor, the privilege of free speech, the importance of free soil.—*Hartford Courant.*

Very true. The principle of Freedom for the Territories of the United States, and the importance of white labor maintaining its dignity, are cherished by the citizens of the North. As education progresses; as Public Schools become more numerous, the Democratic party will lose that power upon which it depends for success—the ignorant, cattle-like driven masses. As an illustration, let us glance at the Presidential vote of the Ninth Congressional District of Illinois, *alias* Egypt, a District in which there are, according to the census of 1850, almost 12,000 grown up persons who can neither read nor write—nearly all emigrants from the slave States. It is as follows:

Counties.	*Buchanan.*	*Fremont.*	*Fillmore.*
Johnson,	1144	2	74
Pope,	704	3	59
Hardin,	332	4	228
Franklin,	1051	5	251
Massac,	630	5	551
Saline,	1004	7	228
Williamson,	1419	10	138
White,	1062	27	845
Alexander,	404	15	230
Jefferson,	1278	60	426
Effington,	874	90	163
Clay,	731	29	540
Wayne,	1218	129	401
Total,	11,818	353	3,884

This out-Berks Berks county, where but a few years since a staunch Democrat—a candidate for the Legislature—was defeated by a large majority, because he was known to be in favor of Free Schools. Berks still wallows in the mire of ignorance—ditto "Egypt". Witness their astounding Buchanan majorities.

THE SOUTHERN COMMERCIAL CONVENTION assembled at Savannah on Monday last. Its proceedings while exciting interest, need not be regarded here at the North, with apprehension.—This is as it should be. Let the South improve her commercial advantages. Let her do it in a national, not a *sectional* spirit, and it will redound to her credit and prosperity.

REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENTS.

The Reports of the various Departments are voluminous and interesting. We must content ourselves, however, with giving merely an abstract of the leading features of each:

Report of the Secretary of the Treasury.

It is a very elaborate report, and is a satisfactory exhibit of the commercial and financial condition of the country. It opens with a statement of the receipts and expenditures of the country for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1856. The total receipts were $74,187,784, of which $64,022,862 were from customs, $9,917,644 from public lands, and $227,633 from miscellaneous sources. The expenditures were $72,048,792, being for civil and diplomatic expenses, $23,274,330; interior, pensions and Indians, $2,575,826; the War Department, $16,948,396; the Navy Department, $14,077,047, and for the redemption of the public debt, $12,766,290. The balance in the Treasury on the 1st of July, 1856, was $12,991,253.

The exhibit of the commercial condition of the country is exceedingly gratifying. The total imports for the year ended June 30, 1856, amounted to $314,339,942; and the exports to $326,961,918; showing a balance of exports over imports of $12,3.4,976. The exports and imports were larger than in any preceding year, the excess of exports over imports being however about $1,300,000 less than in the previous fiscal year, was it will be remembered, the period of comparative scarcity and great requirements in Europe. We subjoin a table extending over fourteen years, commencing from the time when the termination of the fiscal year was changed from December 31 to June 30, which will show the steady and astonishing progress of the commerce of the country in that time. It may be mentioned that the year 1847 includes the time of the famine in Ireland:

	Imports.	*Exports.*	*Excess of Imports.*	*Excess of Exports.*
1844	$108,435,035	$114,200,046		$2,767,011
1845	117,254,564	114,646,606	$2,607,953	
1846	121,691,797	113,478,316	8,203,281	
1847	146,545,639	158,648,622		12,102,984
1848	154,977,925	154,039,436	941,492	
1849	147,857,439	145,755,839	2,101,619	
1850	178,136,260	149,914,854	41,191,406	
1851	216,224,032	213,338,011		2,163,079
1852	212,945,442	209,641,625	3,303,817	
1853	267,978,647	275,081,157	37,062,490	
1854	304,582,281	275,756,320	28,756,061	
1855	261,486,520	275,156,846		13,688,326
1856	314,023,942	326,961,918		12,324,975

The revenue derived from customs during the fiscal year was $64,022,862, being an increase over the previous year of $1,933,625. The repeal of the duties on wool is again recommended, on the ground that it has failed to secure that increased domestic production of the article which it was supposed. No material change is recommended in the duties on iron and steel, but the Secretary recommends the extension of the free list to raw materials used in manufactures, to an estimated reduction of $20,000,000 annually. He also suggests the withdrawal of the small note currency, as the first step toward the metallic medium; and the continuance of the *ad valorem* of levying duties.

The increase of trade with the Canadas is very striking. In 1853 the imports from those provinces amounted to $7,550,715; and the exports of American produce thither to $7,494,847. In 1856 the imports were $21,810,421, and the exports $22,714,697.

The Secretary estimates that $202,922,937 of American securities are held by foreigners. The report further says that from 1823 to 1856 inclusive, the cost of building, fitting and repairing custom houses amounted to $2,116,987; revenue cutters, $7,670,845, and collection and other expenses attending the revenue service, $48,-260,985. The two last sums make $58,969,213 as the expenses of collecting $1,023,116,676, or 5½ per cent of the public revenue.

The losses to the various Departments of the Government by failures and defalcations now stand $23,898,003 from the foundation of the Government, of which $6,-213,345 is hopelessly lost by the death of the parties, without leaving any effects. The outstanding claims altogether are equal to about 1¼ per cent. on $1,888,136, old received into the Public Treasury, or ⅝ of one per cent. on the receipts and expenditures.

Suggestions are made with respect to the administration of the trust funds held in the Department—Indian and Smithsonian—part of which are invested in the non-dividend-paying stocks of some of the states and of corporations under state laws, the loan on which the Secretary suggests, had best be made at once, as the Government is held responsible for the principal and interest. He doubts the propriety of the Federal Government lending the credit or lending itself creditor to any of the individual states which have failed in the payment of the interest on their bonds.

The system requiring monthly settlements from all receivers and disbursing officers has worked so successfully, that but one defalcation has occurred since its adoption; from this Mr. Secretary Guthrie argues the wisdom of adhering to the system, and even increasing the stringency of the regulation.

Report of the Postmaster General.

The Postmaster General's report shows the following facts:—

On the 10th of June, 1856, there were 28,565 Post-offices, being an increase of 4,664 in four years.

On the 13th of June, then, there were in operation nearly 800 mail routes, the total length of which was estimated at 235,642 miles, costing $6,035,474. These mail routes were divided as follows: 23,822 miles in steamboat, 14,951 in railroad, 50,455 coach, and nearly 150,000 in inferior grades.

The increase during the last fiscal year was nearly 20,000 miles railroad, 322 steamboat, 1,250 coach, and 62,000 inferior grades.

In Nebraska and Kansas, 10,238 miles were added to the length of the routes.

Between the 1st of July, 1852, and 1st of July, 1856, the railroad service was increased to 10,177 miles, exhibiting the fact that within that time this description of service was more than doubled.

On the 1st of December, 1856, the length of the railroad routes had increased to 21,810 miles. The total cost for this service at that date amounted to $2,403,747.

The whole cost of the inland service on the 1st of July was $8,526,028.

He alludes to the Panama Railroad Company seizing on the occasion of the withdrawal of the steamers, the Nicaragua route, to force the Department to pay what he considers an exorbitant price across the Isthmus, and recommends regular contracts with them, not exceeding $50,000 per annum, and a contract for the service at $250,000 per annum via the Nicaragua or Tehuantepec route, so as to give a weekly mail.

The California expenditures for the year 1856 were $10,500,258, and the gross receipts, including annual appropriations for free matter, $7,020,821. The deficiency is $2,787,000.

He recommends the abolition of the franking privilege and compulsory prepayment of all transient printed matter; also the repeal of the act of 1845, which gives the Postmaster General discretionary power to make new contracts for ocean steamship service. He alludes to the fact embracing the branch from New Orleans to Havana, that there are now four ocean steamship lines running out of New York at an expense to the Government of $1,-400,000 per annum, and says that there is no reason why one part of the country should be preferred to the exclusion of others.

Among other points it is stated that negotiations are to be set with a view to the reduction of the transit charge on United States colored mails, and the rates of postage between the United States and Great Britain to twelve cents a single letter.

Report of the Secretary of War.

The authorised strength of the army is now 17,894 men. The actual strength at the date of the returns, July 1, 1856, was 15,562. The number of enlistments made during the twelve months ending September 30, 1856, was 4440. The number of offers refused on account of inability or unfitness for service was 5,294. The number of casualties during same time was 6,626, of which 3,223 were by desertion.

All our Indian troubles in the West have ceased except with the Cheyennes.

The disposition of the troops is given in detail.

It is recommended to extinguish the possessory rights of the Indians in Florida, as they are no allegiance to our government, and would be disposed to exercise a powerful influence among the Indians against our people if occasion required.

A vigorous campaign has been projected against the Florida Indians, General Harney commanding the military posts.

Much space is devoted to the consideration of the present system of military posts on the Western frontiers, and a complete revelation of the whole system is urged. The expenses at present are enormous, without any corresponding benefit to the country or frontier.

The great number of resignations in the army show the necessity for an increase of pay. It evidences a jealousy with the contract price, while the hard service and frontier stations of the officers require of them sacrifices which no other offices of the government are called upon to make. The expense of living has been greatly increased, and the pay is about the same as it was fifty years ago. It is bad economy, the report continues, to drive the active and intelligent from the service which they adorn.

Report of the Secretary of the Interior.

The Secretary of the Interior's Report states that the quantity of land surveyed since the last report, and up to the 30th of September last, is 16,873,695 acres, exclusive of the school sections. The execution of the graduation act has raised many grave questions, which call for the interposition of Congress. He says it is an important matter, and should be promptly disposed of, either by sanctioning and affirming the action of the Land Office or directing that patents be issued without further delay.

The quantity of lands sold for cash during the fiscal year, amounted to over nine and a quarter million acres, and the receipts therefor to $9,383,414. The total quantity of land disposed of is over thirty-five millions of acres.

He suggests the necessity of further power being granted to the Commissioner of Pensions to suspend, dismiss and discontinue pensions when the reason for granting them has wholly or partially ceased.

The number of patents issued within the year will probably reach 2500.

The report says that during the present Administration, fifty-two Indian treaties have been negotiated, twenty of which remain to be acted upon by the Senate. By these treaties the Indian title has been extinguished to nearly 175,000,000 acres. The aggregate of money consideration paid therefor is $11,154,235 80. The policy heretofore pursued in making annual appropriations for free matter, $7,020,821. The deficiency is $2,787,000.

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The Second Assembly of the season, will be held at the Town Hall on Thursday evening next.

The Disease of Winter.—At this season, Scarlet Fever, Small Pox and Measles are generally prevalent. There is no scourge more dreaded by parents, than Scarlet Fever. Any suggestions which may possibly lead to the abatement of the disease, will be thankfully received, and we therefore give the following receipt as a remedy, said to be equally effective in either the Scarlet Fever, Small Pox, or Measles. The receipt, was originally taken from an old London paper:—Take one grain each of powdered Foxglove (Digitalis) and Sulphate of Zinc; rub together thoroughly in a mortar with five or six drops of water. This done, add four or five ounces of water, and sweeten with loaf sugar. Dose—a table-spoonful for an adult, and correspondingly for a child.

Melancholy Case of Self-Destruction in the County Prison.—On Monday morning last before the hours of 5 and 11 o'clock, Charles A. Petre, a German, aged 23 years, committed suicide in his cell in the County Prison, in which institution he was confined at the instance of the Directors of the Poor, for an alleged desertion of his wife.

Petre had been arrested in Philadelphia; was brought up to Pottsville, and committed to Prison on the 5th inst. He was a coachmaker by trade, and formerly worked in Jenning's establishment in this Borough. He is described as having been a very respectable, sober, industrious man, so sensitive and retiring in disposition, that the position in which he was recently placed unsettled his mind, and drove him in a fit of desperation to the committal of the fatal act.

The manner of the suicide was by hanging. He took his neck handkerchief, and forming a noose of it by means of the bell-pull above his cell-door, suspended himself with his back to the door until he expired. The physician of the Prison was the first to make the discovery. On opening the door, he found the body still warm, but the heart had ceased to pulsate. With the assistance of the underkeeper, he cut the body down; but all efforts at resuscitation were unavailing. The Coroner held an inquest on the body, and on Tuesday it was interred in Potter's Field.

There is a peculiar severity in this case, which offers food for thought. Whether the Directors of the Poor are altogether blameless in the caukes which led to the melancholy termination of the young man's life, is a matter which may be left to their consciences. From facts which are in our possession, in relation to the case, we feel assured that Petre was "more sinned against than sinning." Adopting the mildest views of the matter, we think the steps taken in his case, were unwarrantably severe.

The Young Men's Christian Association.—The first of the series of lectures to be given under the auspices of this Association, will be delivered at the Mahanoy Street Presbyterian Church, on Tuesday evening next, by the Rev. Dr. F. Hodgson of Philadelphia. Several eminent lecturers will follow, until the course is completed. We trust that the interest felt in the success of the Association, as well as the pleasure which will be derived from the intellectual treats promised, will induce liberal patronage.

The object of the Association is in the highest degree commendable and worthy of the countenance and support of every lover of Christianity, morality and good order. Its design is to exert a harmonizing Christian influence; to draw together the different denominations of Christians causing them to forget their denominational peculiarities, and uniting them in one great enterprise for the benefit of Christianity and morality. It is calculated to exert a powerful and beneficient influence if properly conducted, not only upon the world around, but upon Christians themselves, causing them to forget that they have any particular ends to accomplish in building up their own denominations exclusively, and to remember that they are laboring in a common cause, for one master, and to accomplish a common object.

It proposes, when its funds warrant, to establish a library and reading room, which will be open every evening for the accommodation of its members, to have a series of sermons preached in its behalf by the different clergymen connected with it, to their respective congregations, and to have a series of popular lectures during the winter, for the double purpose of affording to our citizens a rational and delightful means of enjoyment and entertainment, and of adding to the resources of the Association for improving their library, and reading room.

It is to be hoped that all who are likely to be the objects of the Association, (what good citizen is not?) will encourage its efforts to benefit the young and exert a benign Christian influence.

Astronomical Aspects in Winter.—Every admirer of the wonders of the Universe will agree with the editor of the Newark *Advertiser*, that the heavens look lovely at night at this season of the year, for at least at this time of the night, Laurel Run, and two other streams flowing between them, with a view to use the water for mill purposes, and to bring surveys of Big Creek over to the Schuylkill Haven and Orwigsburg Railroad, at a point where it is proposed to cross the latter road. The estimate of the cost of the work is $4,500.

On the 6th day of December, 1854, I met the commissioners at a meeting held for the purpose of adopting measures to complete the Water-works.

The following resolution was adopted unanimously by the Commissioners. On motion of J. C. Wright, it was

Resolved, That a committee of one be appointed to secure an accurate survey of the route of the water line, to be constructed, including surveys of Big Creek or Dyer's Run, Laurel Run, and two other streams flowing between them, with a view to use the water from all of them if deemed necessary, with separate estimates of the cost of the works by using a six inch pipe, an eight inch pipe, and a ten inch pipe.

The above resolution was adopted with the intention of making the Works secondary to the means raised by the canvasser; and it has been shown to the Commissioners and others already interested, that we can construct those works on a scale large enough to supply the Borough with water. All however, unite in saying that if the means to lay larger pipes cannot be raised, we can raise sufficient to lay a six inch pipe, and that we will cut our cost according the cloth furnished; and if it should not suit the taste of those outside, we cannot help it, as we have done the best we can under the circumstances. You will see by this that we are determined to complete these Works. The amount required to make them large enough for the Borough alone, can be raised without difficulty. I remain yours, &c.

CLEMENT S. FOSTER.

A Series of Bold and Startling Robberies.—Within the past fortnight our Borough has been the field of thieving operations, one of which was characterized by a boldness calculated to startle those who have been in the habit of leaving their front doors unlocked at this season.

Early last week, Mrs. Major, residing in Centre street, was robbed of a gold watch and two gold chains, valued at $180, some other articles of jewelry, and $25 in money —all valued at about $225. The property was stolen from Mrs. Major's residence. There is no definite clue to the perpetrators of the robbery.

About the same time, the residence of Mr. Phillip Womelsdorf, in Second street, was robbed of jewelry and money—the property of Mrs. Stichter—valued at some $40. In this case also, no chief remains undetected.

The boldest robbery, however, was perpetrated on Tuesday evening last, at half past 8 o'clock, at the residence Dr. J. T. Nicholas, in Market street. While the family were sitting in social converse, in a back room of the first story, the entry adjoining was entered from the street by means of the front door. Passing the entry the thief or thieves, proceeded up stairs to the second story, which characterize all of Dickens' works. "Little Dorrit" is equal in interest to anything he ever wrote. Mr. Peterson has published all of "Boz's" works—numbering thirteen—which he furnishes for five dollars.—Copies of "Little Dorrit" will be sent to any one by the publisher, through the mail, free of postage, on receipt of fifty cents. Those who have read "Pickwick Papers," "David Copperfield," etc., should not fail to send for "Little Dorritt."

GRAHAM'S MAGAZINE for January, 1857, is superb. The Magazine is now edited by Charles G. Leland, Esq. The principal illustration, entitled "The New Year's Gift," is a charming fancy, artistically delineated. The fashion plate is one of the richest ever published in Graham's. "The Orphans" is the title of a well executed wood engraving. A neat pattern for a slipper is given. "Edgar and Elinda; or, The Courtier's Deceit," is an illustrated historical sketch. "The Cypress Crown" is a beautiful story—illustrated—by Caroline Foque. "Marianna" is an illustrated poem of Tennyson. Another historical sketch, entitled "The Court of Napoleon I," is also illustrated. In addition to some useful pattern plates, and a comic sketch, there is a variety of prose and poetical contributions from favorite authors.

Again we must congratulate the publishers, Messrs. Watson & Co., upon the success which attends their efforts to publish a superior Magazine. His *au fait* in every department, and exhibits a degree of skill, liberality and talent, which renders Philadelphia enviably notorious for its preeminence in this branch of the publishing business.

No work that we are acquainted with, binds up prettier than Graham's Magazine. We therefore advise those who do not take it, to commence with the New Year. A gentleman could not offer a lady a neater present, than a copy of Graham's Magazine for the year. Copies of the January number can be obtained at Bannan's.

Local Affairs.

The Holydays are at hand. Those having gifts for sale, peculiar to the season, would do well to make the fact as public as possible, by advertising in the *Miners' Journal*.

The Canal.—Several boats were frozen up at Auburn on Thursday; but it is possible that the warm and copious rains which have fallen since, have released them from their icy bonds.

Several former residents of Pottsville, now located in Wisconsin and Minnesota, paid our Borough this week, a flying visit. They give glowing descriptions of Western life, scenery, hunting, etc.

Committed to Prison.—On Monday last, Patrick Brenan was before Squire Reed, charged with stealing a pair of boots, valued at $4 50, from Silas Strouse. Patrick was in default of bail, committed to prison to answer the charge.

Fatal Accident in Schuylkill Haven.—A man named Sampson, aged 35 years, was instantly killed in Schuylkill Haven on Sunday evening last, in consequence of falling down a flight of his boarding house, and breaking his neck. He was an employee of the Reading Railroad Company at that point. He leaves a wife and child in Philadelphia.

Concert will be given at Thompson's Hall on Monday evening next, by Mr. J. Dyer, a blind vocalist. Mr. Dyer accompanies himself with the guitar. He possesses a good voice; his programme for Monday evening is well selected, and we commend him to liberal patronage. He formerly resided in this Borough. At present he is a citizen of Philadelphia.

PEN, PASTE AND SCISSORS.

The Pennsylvania river is closed by ice.

Deaths in Philadelphia last week, 292.

Poultry is an undant at reasonable prices.

Thalberg will not visit Boston until January.

The Susquehanna River is filled with floating ice.

Ex-Governor Slade, of Vermont, has become deranged.

The wool growers of Albany intend to put up an annual ball.

In the United States there are 4761 Catholic priests, and 40 bishops.

Sir E. B. Lytton has been elected Lord Rector of Glasgow University.

Duck shooting is one of the sports at present of Chesapeake Bay gunners.

Samuel Hargraw & Sons, bankers, of Boston, have failed. Liabilities large.

Prince Woronzoff, a prominent Russian statesman, died at Odessa on the 15th ult.

A new city at the mouth of the Ohio River is to be called Emporium. Is projected.

Texas is out of debt, with a surplus of over a million of dollars in the treasury.

Nesbit, Tillotson & Co., stock brokers of New York, have failed. Liabilities large.

One of the ill-fated steamer Lyonnais, boats has been found at sea. No person was on it.

The Post Office at Sunbury was robbed on the 30th ult., of a small amount of money.

The Charleston Gas Company make a reduction of fifty per cent. on all bills promptly paid.

Holidays are approaching, and our storekeepers are rearranging their various establishments.

Root, the Philadelphia daguerreotypist, was seriously injured in the recent railroad accident at Alliance.

Hon. R. F. W. Alston, has been elected Governor of South Carolina, and Hon. G. Cannon, Lieut. Governor.

Dr. Kane, the intrepid Arctic navigator, is very ill. He is now in the West Indies, in company with Mr. Grinnell.

The estimated value of Slave property in the United States is from fifteen hundred to two thousand billion dollars.

Dr. Joshua H. Hayward, a highly respectable physician of Boston, was found sitting in his chair dead, on Wednesday last.

The "Brick Church" property, New York, will be purchased by the Government. Upon the site, a Post Office is to be erected.

The Collecting Committee are actively engaged in Philadelphia, in efforts to raise funds for the destitute and suffering in Kansas.

The London Times locates the duel in which Mr. Perry, of the Richmond (Va.) *Inquirer*, was concerned, in Richmond, *Massachusetts*.

Daniel Bogue, the London publisher, and one of the chief proprietors of the *London Illustrated Times*, died recently, very suddenly.

Guard against sitting in draughts of air, exposure and wet, and above all, *quit fear*. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Nicholas Fisk, announces his withdrawal from the editorial chair of the "*Brandywinian*." It is not that paper's loss, but its readers' gain.

Patrick Morrissey, an Irish laborer, was murdered in Spring township, Berks county