Miners' Journal.

POTTSVILLE, PA.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 1857.

THE YEAR upon which we have fairly entered, can be made if the means are properly applied, one of profit, morally and pecuniarily. To this Region, in fact the entire Coal Region of Pennsylvania, it may be the commencement of a new era of prosperity. The same system in the management of the American Coal Trade, which has been introduced successfully in England, would inure to the benefit of the operator, and prevent those fluctuations in prices which unsettle the confidence of consumers. The plan for the reorganization of the Trade—which is recognized as the only one that can save us from irretrievable ruin—meets the hearty approval of the large mass of the operators. They are disposed to give it a fair trial. This is well.

The Coal Trade is peculiarly hazardous to the operator. Faults are often met with in veins which blast the brightest hopes, and ruin the enterprising miner. In addition to this, an entire lack of system in regulating the supply to the demand, conjoined with so many flimsy paper calculations, propagated to advance selfish interests, tend to distract the business, and convert it into a game of chance, in which "the longest pole knocks the persimmon." This is all wrong. The history of the trade of this Region for the last twenty years proves it. The few who have succeeded in acquiring fortunes in the business, can attest how severely the pell-mell manner in which the Trade has been conducted, has recoiled upon them. The remedy now lies within the reach of our business men. If they are wise, they will profit by the opportunity offered of retrieving their shattered fortunes.

Another project, tending to enhance the value of investments here, and give us a Winter communication with New York, is found in the Auburn and Allentown Railroad. Its feasibility, importance to the Trade; its necessity as a link in the chain of railways through Pennsylvania, from New York to the West, and the beneficial influence it will exert on every description of business, point to it as a fitting companion to the thorough reorganization of the Coal Trade. That road should go through immediately. Every man of business who has a dollar invested in this Region, should lend his hearty co-operation to a project, which will enhance the value of his other investments.

And yet another project is on foot, which when carried out—as it will be—will create new avenues to market, and demand of the existing transporting companies more than they can accomplish. We allude to a continuation of either the Little Schuylkill or Mill Creek Railroads, into the Mahanoy Coal Basin, across the Broad Mountain. Two surveys of routes have been made, and the work will ere long be pushed vigorously to completion. It is rendered imperatively necessary, as the Mine Hill Road is rapidly filling up with business, and will not be able in the future, to accommodate all the trade from the Mahanoy Basin. These improvements will give to the Auburn and Allentown Railroad a heavy and remunerative trade, which could not find its exit by any other means.—These facts should induce redoubled exertion on the part of the Region, to gain and maintain a position in the business world, which neither time nor circumstance can affect.

RETURN OF DR. LIVINGSTON, THE AFRICAN TRAVELLER.—The Rev. Dr. Livingston, the celebrated African traveler, was expected to reach London on the 11th. He was a passenger from Alexandria in the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company's ship Candia, which encountered very severe weather after leaving Malta, and which during a calm that succeeded, narrowly escaped being drifted on the rocks near the Island of Zimbra. When within a mile of certain destruction, a breeze providentially sprung up and carried the vessel past, and she was towed into the Bay of Tunis by one of the Bey's steamers. A part of the passengers, including Dr. Livingston, proceeded to Marseilles, in a small steamer, kindly granted by the Bey.

The great traveler is in good health, although his left arm is broken and partly useless, it having been torn by a lion. When he was taken on board her Majesty's ship, the Frolic, on the Morambique coast, he had great difficulty in speaking a sentence in English, having disused it for years. The native travelling in Africa, was so excited with the manners and various wonders of civilization, that he went mad, and jumped into the sea and was drowned.

Dr. Livingston has been absent from England seventeen years. He crossed the great African continent almost in the centre, from west to east; has been where no civilized being has ever been before, and has made many notable discoveries of great value. He travelled in the two-fold character of missionary and physician, having obtained a medical diploma. He is rather a short man, with a pleasing and serious countenance, which betokens the most determined resolution. During the voyage home he continued to wear the cap which he wore while performing his wonderful travels. On board the Candia he was remarkable for his modesty and unassuming manners. He never spoke of his travels, except in answer to questions. The injury to his arm was sustained in the desert while travelling with a friendly tribe of Africans. A herd of lions broke into their camp at night and carried off some of their cattle. The natives, in their alarm, believed that a neighboring tribe had bewitched them. Livingston taunted them with suffering their losses through cowardice, and they then turned out to face and hunt down the enemy. The doctor shot a lion, which dropped wounded. It afterwards sprang on him and caught him by the arm, and after wounding two natives who drew it off him, it fell down dead. The wounded arm was not set properly, and Dr. Livingston suffered excruciating agony in consequence. Great honors await the doctor in England.

CHINA SUGAR CANE.—An official circular from the U. S. Patent Office concerning the culture of the Chinese sugar cane, says that an agent of the Patent Office, while travelling in Europe in 1854 collecting agricultural information and seeds for the office, saw this plant growing at Verneres, in France, and being struck with its resemblance to Indian corn, inferred that it would flourish in any region where that plant would. He procured 200 pounds of the seed, which were distributed in small packages by the Patent Office, among the members of Congress, with a view of experimenting with it in all parts of the Union. In numerous instances the results proved highly satisfactory, as it attained the height of eight or ten feet as far north as St. Paul, Minnesota, and matured its seeds at various points in Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and other places farther south. The following year several bushels more of seeds of the Caffrarian variety of the same plant were procured, but they have proved to be identical with those previously used. The results of all the experiments is that this plant is of the same cultivable nature as Indian corn, and will thrive wherever that does.

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY AND OUR GOVERNMENT.—The managers of the Atlantic Submarine Telegraph Company have had satisfactory interview with the President and other authorities at Washington, and have expressed a confident belief that this Government will afford aid to the enterprise in like manner as the British Government proposes to do. That Government agrees to a certain amount of business to the company, as it supposed, to pay four per cent on the capital of the company, which is secured at $400,000 in the President may recommend to Congress a similar subsidy.

THE NEW TARIFF BILL.

The Tariff bill reported by Mr. Letcher and two of his associates on the Committee of Ways and Means, presents the locofoco and free trade view of the revenue system. Mr. Campbell's bill is a reasonable and moderate measure of reform. Mr. Letcher proposes a general reduction of 20 per cent. on the different schedules of the act of 1846.

Wool is to be reduced to eight per cent., and raw silk, flax, jute, manilla, and most of the chemical and dye-stuffs to four per cent., or to the free list. Ten per cent. is to be levied upon imports belonging to schedule "I" if imported in foreign ships, as a discriminating duty in favor of American navigation. The idea of this bill is the revenue principle upon which it was pretended at the time of its enactment, that the law of 1846 was found. It is thought that it will receive a very feeble and limited support. But it may serve to defeat the plan of the majority of the Committee. And this was probably one object of introducing it. The Democrats have fallen out among themselves and have an ambition to settle this question by themselves. It is probable, therefore, that they will postpone the whole subject until the meeting of the next Congress, when they will have the undisputed control of the House.

The most material facts in the statistics of Wool contained in the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, are these:—There were 1,559 manufacturing establishments, with a capital of $28,118,650—consuming 70,862,829 pounds of Wool. The value of the raw material consumed, was $25,755,991. The number of hands employed was, males 22,678, females 10,574. The value of products in 1840, was $20,696,999; in 1850, $43,207,545, and the estimate for 1855, was $56,406,786.

The total production of Wool in 1855 is estimated to be 61,560,379 pounds, valued at $23,392,944. We imported and retained for home consumption 17,805,511 pounds of foreign Wool, valued at $1,910,000. It thus appears that the foreign Wool imported is valued at only about 11 cents per pound, while the price of domestic Wool is about 37 cents. The total consumption of Wool in the United States is thus estimated at 78,970,000 pounds.

MR. CAMPBELL'S BILL.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the first day of January, eighteen hundred and fifty-seven, the goods, wares, and merchandize mentioned in schedule I, made part hereof, shall be exempt from duty, in addition to those now exempt by law, and in like manner entitled to free entry.

SCHEDULE I.

Acids—acetic, boracic, citric, muriatic, nitric and sulphuric; Amber, Ambergris; Angores or Thibet, and other goats' hair or mohair; Annatto, roncou, Orleans; Anim l Carbon (bone black); Antimony, crude or regulus of; Argols or crude tartar; Arsenic, Asphaltum, Aloes; Alcornoque, Antiseed, Arrowroot, Assafetida; Animals, living; Barks, Barilla; Bells, old, and bell-metal; Berries, nuts, and vegetables; berries, flowers, and barks; Bismuth, Borax; Brass, in bars and pigs; Brass, when old, and fit only to be re-manufactured; Brazil wood, Brazilletto, and all other dyewoods in sticks; Brescia, in blocks or slabs; Brimstone, unrefined, or in rolls; Bristles, Bronze liquor, do powder; Burr stones, unmanufactured; ditto, wrought or unwrought; Bolting cloths; Bitter Apples, Boucho leaves, Burgundy pitch, Cadmium, Calamine, Cameos mosaics and precious stones—not set; Cassia buds; Chalk; Clay; Cochineal; Cocoa and cocoa shells; Codilla, or tow of hemp or flax; Copper, when old, and fit only to be re-manufactured; Copper, for sheathing vessels; Cork tree bark, Cream of tartar; Cubbeas (vegetables;) Camphor, crude; Cantharides, Castorum; Cubebs; Cutch; Dragon's blood; Emery, in lump or pulverized; Extract of indigo; Extracts made of decoctions of logwood, and other dyewoods; Extract of madder; Fire bricks; Flax, unmanufactured; Flaxseed; Flints; Fuller's earth; Furs, dressed or undressed, when on the skin; Furs, hatters', dressed or undressed, not on the skin; Gamboge; Gums—Arabic, Barbary, East India, Jeddo, Senegal, Substitute, Tragacanth, and all other gums and rosins in crude state; Gutta percha, unmanufactured; Green turtle; Ginger—green, ripe, dried, preserved, or pickled; Grindstones; Hair of all kinds, uncleaned and unmanufactured; Hemp, unmanufactured; Hemp, Manilla; sun and other of India Jute, Sisal grass, coir, &c. Horns, horn tips, bone, bone tips and teeth, unmanufactured; Hydrodate of potash; India rubber in bottles, slabs or sheets, unmanufactured; India rubber, milk of; Indigo; Iodine; Iridium; Ivory, unmanufactured; Ipecacuanha; Iris or orris root; Ivory nuts or vegetable ivory; Jalap; Kelp; Kermes; Lac dye; Lac spirits; Lac sulphur; Leather—of all kinds, and articles of leather, and lemon juice; Linseed; Liquorice root; Marine Chronometers; Madder, ground and madder root; Manganese; Manufactures of mohair cloth, silk twist, or other manufactures of cloth suitable for the manufacture of shoes, boots, bootees or buttons, exclusively; Marble, in the rough, slab or block, unmanufactured; Marine coral, unmanufactured; Moss and other vegetable substances used for mattresses; Manufacture of platina; Music and music paper, with lines, bound or unbound; Medicinal roots, leaves, gums, and resins in a crude state; Machinery exclusively designed and expressly imported for the manufacture of flax and linen goods; Maps and charts; Munjeet, (India madder); Nutgalls; Nutgalls; Nuxvomica; Ochres and ochreous earths, whether dry or in oil; Oils, almond, cocoanut, olive, poppy and teal; Orpiment (and realgar) arsenic; Opium; Orange and Lemon peel; Osier or willow, prepared or unprepared; Palm leaf, unmanufactured; Plumbago or graphite; Polishing stones; Pumice and pumice stones; Pearl or hulled barley; Quicksilver; Rags of whatever material; Rattans and reeds, unmanufactured; Rotten stone; Rhubarb, Salts of tin; Safflour; Saffron and saffron cake; Sal ammonia, ammonia, and carbonate of ammonia; Sulphate of ammonia; Saltpetre, or nitrate of soda or potash, refined or crude; Seedlac; Shellac, Silk, raw, or more advanced in manufacture than singles; Sam or organzine; Skins and hides, raw, of all kinds, whether dried, salted or pickled; Sealskins; Sheathing paper; Seeds of all kinds; Slates or slate pencils; Sponges; Substances expressly used for manures; Sumac; Salt or muriate of soda of all kinds; Spices of all kinds; Sago; Sarsaparilla; Spunk; Squills; Sulphate and muriate of potash; Tallow, narrow, and all other grease, and soap stocks and soap stuffs; Terne tin plates; Terra Japonica or catechu; Tin foil; Tin, in plates or sheets; Tin plates, galvanized; Tin, in pigs, bars or blocks; Tortoise and other shells, unmanufactured; Tumeric; Type metal and old types fit only to be remanufactured; Tapioca; Vanilla beans; Verdigris; Ware, chemical, earthen or pottery, of a capacity exceeding ten gallons; Waste or shoddy; Weld, Whiting, or Paris white; Wood, or pastel Woods—namely, cedar, lignumvitæ, ebony, box, granadilla, or hair of the alpacca, the goat, and other like animals, of the value at the port of importation of fifteen cents per pound, or less, and of the value of fifty cents per pound over; Zinc, spelter, tentenegue in sheets or pigs.

MR. LETCHER'S AMENDMENT.

Mr. Letcher, from the minority of the Committee of Ways and Means, gave notice of his intention to submit the following amendment in the nature of a substitute for the bill of the majority of the Committee of Ways and Means, reducing the duties on imports, and for other purposes:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, that on and after the first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven, there shall be a reduction of twenty per centum on the rates of duty imposed by the act entitled "An act reducing the duty on imports, and for other purposes," approved July thirteen, one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, on the goods, wares, and merchandize imported from foreign countries, enumerated and provided for in Schedules A, B, C, D, E, F, G, and H, and also those provided for in the third section of said act, except as hereinafter provided.

100	40	39	25	20	15	10	5	Free
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
80	32	24	20	16	12	8	4	Free

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, that the manufactures and articles of silk, of which silk shall be a component material, not otherwise provided for, shall be transferred to Schedule F; that the manufactures and articles of [illegible] and flax, and blended with other materials, shall be transferred to Schedule E; that the manufactures and articles of [illegible] shall be transferred to Schedule D; that the manufactures and articles of [illegible] shall be transferred to Schedule C; that the manufactures and articles of [illegible] shall be transferred to Schedule B; that the manufactures and articles of [illegible] shall be transferred to Schedule A.

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, that on and after the first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven, there shall be levied, collected and paid on all goods, wares and merchandise mentioned in schedule I, imported from foreign countries in ships or vessels not of the United States, a duty of ten per centum *ad valorem*; and an addition of ten per centum shall be made to the rates of duty imposed by this act in respect to all merchandise not mentioned in schedule I which shall be imported from foreign countries on and after the 1st day of July aforesaid in ships or vessels not of the United States—provided that neither the duty of ten per centum *ad valorem* nor the addition of ten centum to the rates of duty aforesaid shall be imposed on any goods, wares, and merchandise imported on and after the first of July aforesaid in any ships or vessels not of the United States, entitled by treaty or by any act or act of Congress to be exempt from discriminating duties, tonnage and other charges.

SEC. 4. And be it further enacted, That all goods, wares, and merchandise, which shall be imported from foreign countries, after the passage of this act, and be in the public stores on the first day of July aforesaid, shall be subject, on entry thereof for consumption, to no other duty than that if the same had been imported, respectively, after that day.

SEC. 5. And be it further enacted, That on the entry of any goods, wares, and merchandise imported on and after the first day of July aforesaid, the decision of the Collector of the customs at the port of importation and entry as to their liability to duty or exemption therefrom, shall be final and conclusive against the owner, importer, consignee or agent of any such goods, wares, and merchandise, unless the owner, importer, consignee or agent shall, within ten days after such entry, give notice to the Collector in writing of his dissatisfaction with such decision, setting forth therein distinctly and specially his grounds of objection thereto; and shall, within thirty days after the date of such decision, appeal therefrom to the Secretary of the Treasury, whose decision on said appeal shall be final and conclusive; and the said goods, wares, and merchandise shall be liable to duty or exempted therefrom accordingly, any act of Congress to the contrary notwithstanding, unless suit shall be brought within thirty days after such decision for any duties that may have been paid, or may hereafter be paid, on said goods, or within thirty days after the duties shall have been paid, in cases where such goods shall be in bond.

SEC. 6. And be it further enacted, that on and after the first day of July aforesaid, all provisions of existing laws which impose other rates of duty on imports than are imposed by this act, shall be inoperative and void.

AMERICAN PUBLISHERS' CIRCULAR.—The claims of this journal, published in New York, we refer to the favorable consideration of Publishers, Booksellers, Libraries, Literary Associations and Men of Letters. The *American Publishers' Circular* is the only paper in the United States which keeps a record of Current Publications. This appears each week, carefully compiled, giving the correct Title, Size, Price, and Publisher, as far as they can be ascertained, of every volume published in this country. It also contains regular lists of the most important New Books issued from the English Press. In addition to the *Lists of Publications*, it is the only medium of American Publishers' Announcements. Each number of the Circular contains a copious collection of current Literary Intelligence, concerning Books and Book Makers, with occasional Editorials upon kindred topics, and a variety of interesting Miscellaneous Information. As most every number will contain extract from New Books, selected with general reader. This paper being the official medium of advertising of the great body of American Publishers, will possess in its department of advertisements great attractions to every book-buyer. Published weekly at $2 per annum, payable in advance. Communication should be addressed to the *American Publishers' Circular*.

A YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION to the MINERS' JOURNAL would be an appropriate present to an absent friend.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

BLACKWOOD'S EDINBURGH MAGAZINE has been received. Publishers, Leonard Scott & Co., 79 Fulton street, New York. Now is the time to subscribe to the American editions of the English quarterlies. Subscriptions commencing with the year can be left at Hannan's store.

THE MOVING MAGAZINE for December, filled with useful information, lies on our table. Edited by Wm. J. Tenney, and published by John F. Enow, 377 Broadway, New York.

Local Affairs.

☞ *In Minersville* on New Year Day, the ladies kept "open house;" the first time the agreeable custom has been generally observed in our sister Borough.

☞ *Snow* has been falling in spits during the week, not enough however, to make "tip-top" sleighing. In the Borough, it is useless to attempt it with comfort, while in the vicinity, the sleighing is only "so so."

☞ *Our Carriers* return their sincere acknowledgments for the kindness shown them on New Year Day by our Borough Patrons. It was a shivery occasion which they will store away in the golden casket of memory.

☞ *Fatal Occurrence.*—Dr. Wm. N. Smith of Minersville, fell near his residence on Monday evening last, and striking his head against a curb stone, fractured his skull. About 11 o'clock he was found where he fell, dead.

☞ *Convalescing.*—Capt. E. E. Bland, who sustained a serious injury on the Valley train last week, is recovering. His skull was not fractured. The wounds on his head although frightful in character, were confined entirely to the flesh.

☞ *The* coming anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans, will be observed in Minersville by the Ringgold Rifle Company, Capt. Werner, with a military and citizens' dress ball at the Odd Fellows' Hall, and it will be undoubtedly, a delightful affair.

☞ *Rev. J. P. Durbin* of Philadelphia, will deliver a lecture in the Second M. E. Church of this Borough, on Monday evening, next at 7½ o'clock, for the benefit of the Church. The ability of the lecturer and the purpose to which the proceeds will be devoted, will be a guarantee, to secure a good attendance.

☞ *The Young Men's Christian Association* would acknowledge sixteen volumes of books donated by Rev. Mr. Washburn.

A meeting of the Board of Managers of the Young Men's Christian Association, will be held on this, Saturday evening, (January 3d, 1857.) A full attendance is requested.

Rev. Mr. Washburn will deliver a sermon before this Association, Sabbath evening, in the Episcopal Church.

J. P. SHERMAN, *Pres't.*

C. H. DENISES, *Sec'y.*

☞ *Masonic Supper.*—The members of Pulaski Lodge No. 216, A. Y. M., of this Borough, held their annual St. John's Night Supper at the American House, on Monday night last. There was on the occasion, an unusually large attendance, and everything passed off in the most agreeable and satisfactory manner to the participants.

The officers of the Lodge, for the new current year are:

H. A. Archtercart, W. M.
W. L. Whitney, S. W.
M. E. Richards, J. W.
C. Little, Secretary.
Wm. Fox, Treasurer.

☞ *Arrest of Alleged Robbers.*—Charles and Christian Schamlinger, charged with perpetrating the recent robbery at the dwelling of S. Morris, Jr., in this Borough, have been arrested in Philadelphia and await a requisition from the authorities of Schuylkill County. A portion of the stolen articles found at their residence in Philadelphia, was recognized as the property of Mr. Morris. It is supposed that they are part of a gang, who have recently marched on in this Borough, a series of robberies. The women is recognized by Mrs. Morris as the woman who saw on her premises, on the day preceding the robbery. The arrest of these parties was effected through the vigilance of Officer Reed.

☞ *Fire in Port Carbon.*—On Monday morning last, a small building adjoining the residence of Mr. Jacob Bright, in Port Carbon, was discovered to be on fire, and before it could be extinguished, it had communicated to his dwelling, which was considerably injured. The building belonged to Mr. Bright, and was used as a shop by Mr. Jacob Bright, Jr., who had his tools, leather, &c., therein, which were all consumed. The building was valued at $300, and was insured for $200 in the Schuylkill County Mutual Fire Insurance Company. The loss of Mr. Bright, Jr., is about $100, and is not insured.

☞ *Young Men's Christian Association.*—On Tuesday evening last, Mr. Wetmore lectured before the Association. Subject, "Joan of Arc." It was an exceedingly interesting lecture. Mr. Wetmore having visited France, possesses many interesting facts in relation to that remarkable French woman, which have never been introduced into her biographies. We regret that we do not feel at liberty to give a summary of the lecture. We were astonished to witness the meagre attendance on Tuesday evening. Mr. Wetmore is a gentleman who is in the principal cities has attracted large and intelligent audiences, to hear his classical productions. A corporal's guard hardly assembled to greet his debut in Pottsville. If those of years and influence remain away, we can hardly expect the young to be attracted where they may glean at the same time, useful knowledge and entertainment. It appears useless to spread a literary banquet here, there are so few disposed to partake of the nutritive viands. For the credit of the appreciative intelligence of the place, let our citizens resolve to be present in goodly numbers at the next able lecture delivered here.

☞ *The Third Annual Fancy Ball* came off at the Town Hall on Tuesday evening. The room was well filled, and the sprinkling of fancy costumes quite liberal. Demure Quakeresses coquetted with proud lords, while Paul Pry and a court fool tried with each other in throwing light upon the dark side of a happy couple, the masculine of which sported a shoking bad hat, half white and half black, which freak was continued down his clothing to his feet, while his better-half revelled in a bonnet, the shape of an ancient Dutch gallipot, and about the size, while her dress partook of the peculiar hues of her handsome companion's costume. We thought them kindred hearts. The army and navy were represented; "Bay a Broom" looked sweet, while a couple of Highland lassies, would have captivated the heart of a Wallace. All in all, the display of fancy costumes was quite creditable to the tastes and ability of those who assumed them, and we are confident more would have gone in costume, had they been aware that the display in that respect would have been so brilliant. The only complaint we heard of the ball was, that it was too short. The room was decorated neatly by Mr. Bowen; the music of the Pottsville String Band was excellent, while the efforts of Mr. Jennings—the caterer—in the supper line, were of the most creditable character.

☞ *Mines on Fire.*—A fortnight since, the Peach Mountain vein, up the Norwegian, worked by Rogers, Slunikson & Co., and the property of the Delaware Coal Company, was fired at the air shaft, below water level. The vein from the start burned so fearfully, that all attempts to check the flames proved futile, and the men employed themselves in removing the machinery, etc., of the operation. It is thought that the fire is the work of some miner dissatisfied with the reduction of wages, which it is the rule to establish at this season. By the act, the incendiary has stopped one of the most valuable red ash collieries in the Region; has entailed possibly, considerable loss on the lessees, and thrown out of employment many miners, upon whom at this severe season are dependent scores of women and children.

It is contemplated to turn a stream on the Norwegian Creek into the mine, and thus if possible, extinguish the fire. The lessees have another operation on the Diamond vein, and are opening two other veins on the same property.

The Mt. Laffee colliery—Charles Miller's—took fire last May, and has been burning since, below water level. The fire originated in the old workings. The operation was closed, and water let in. Past week we understand, the mine was filled up, and ere this the fire has been undoubtedly, extinguished.

☞ *New Year* was very generally observed here, and passed off with spirit. "Open house" was the order of the day, and kept the gentlemen agreeably employed in calling upon their lady friends to wish them a happy New Year. In many instances, the ladies substituted coffee for wine, which we have reason to believe, was acceptable to a majority of the recipients. Although the motive which induces the tender of a glass of wine to a gentleman visitor, is undoubtedly, of the most creditable character, yet the practice is deservedly growing into disrepute yearly. The lefty tree springs from seed which at one time could have been contained within the palm of the hand. Huge habits, inimical to happiness and prosperity, have grown too often from the glass of wine, pressed upon gentlemen visitors by lady entertainers.—We have no desire, however, to enter upon a dissertation on this subject. The truth of what we urge cannot be disputed, and we are really gratified that our fathers have very generally, determined to correct a custom "more honored in the breach than the observance."

Our streets were lively during the day, and although we observed a few individuals very mellow from copious potations, yet no serious difficulties occurred. The Pottsville Brass Band marched through the Borough during the afternoon, playing some lively airs. The Band during the previous night, serenaded several of our citizens, which said the sting of guns and pistols, ushered in the New Year, in a lively manner. We hear of no accidents.

☞ *Homicide at Branchdale.*—On Monday last, a desperate rencontre took place at Branchdale, Branch Township, between two Scotchmen—brothers-in-law—named William Turner and James Johnson. They were employed as engineers at the colliery operation of James Bucey & Co. The origin of the difficulty we have not been able to ascertain, but on the day named, they suddenly engaged in a desperate fight outside of the engine room. Turner succeeded in getting his antagonist down, and Johnson cried to his son standing near, to bring him a pistol. The boy hastened to obey his father's commands, and when he returned with the weapon, Turner assaulted him, knocking him down and kicking him. Turner then ran hastily to the tool-box in the engine house, it is supposed with the intention of procuring a weapon. Johnson having possession of the pistol brought it to his son, followed Turner, and as she descended at and shot him, the ball entering above his left hip and passing out of the right side of the abdomen. With an ejaculation, "you have done for me this time," Turner staggered out of the building, and falling to the ground expired. Johnson delivered himself up to the proper authorities; was brought to this Borough on the 30th; had a hearing before Squire Reed, and was committed to prison, to answer the charge at Court.

Turner leaves a wife and six children. Johnson also has a large family.

☞ *Meeting of Old Soldiers.*—At a meeting of the Soldiers of the War of 1812 and the war with Mexico, held at the American House in Pottsville, December 25, 1856, Benjamin Pott, Esq., was chosen President, Maj. John C. Lessig, Col. C. M. Straub, Daniel Shelly, and John Dager, Vice Presidents, and Charles Fralley and Jacob B. Bright, appointed Secretaries.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we now proceed to the appointment of Delegates to attend the National Convention to be held at Washington of the Soldiers of the war of 1812, and the war with Mexico, on the 8th day of January, 1857.

Whereupon the following named persons were appointed:

Maj. John C. Lessig, Col. John Bannan, Christopher Loeser, Benjamin Pott, Capt. B. H. Goodwin, Capt. Peter Aurand, Maj. Isaac Moyers, Peter Filbert, Daniel Shelly, Isaac Moser, Col. Jacob Huntsinger, John Klemmel, Col. John S'tzer, John Dager, Thos. Sillyman, Jacob R. Bright, Wm. Bowen, Henry Shoemaker, Capt. Jacob Minnich, Michael Fritz, Benj. Bowersox, Daniel Christian, Daniel Miller, John Henry, David Davies, J. G. Rich, Washington Reliensider, Col. James Conner, Chas. Fralley, Col. C. M. Straub, Isaac Severn, E. M. Palmer, Esq., Frank Dowees, D. E. Nice, Charles Sillyman, Henry Weldy, John S. Boyer, David P. Brown, Dr. Tewis Royer, Michael Weaver, Capt. Benj. Christ, Capt. Frank Foll, Lieut. R. B. Koercher, Michael Mertimer, Robert Ratcliff, Gen. H. L. Cake, Hon. Jas. H. Campbell, Capt. Wm. R. Lebo, George Warnemeller, Jos. Schuyler, Nat. an Evans, Col. Geo Wynkoop, Capt. Myer Strouse, and John Hipple.

Resolved, That we are in favor of the passage of a law extending to the soldiers and widows of the soldiers of the war of 1812, and of the war with Mexico, the bounties now derived by the soldiers and widows of the soldiers of the war of the Revolution, and that the invalid pensioners shall be entitled to pay, to commence from the time of disability caused by wounds or otherwise, whilst in the service of their country.

Resolved, That our Senator and members of the legislature from this county be requested to introduce and support the passage of a resolution instructing our representatives in Congress and requesting our Senators in the United States Senate, to vote for the passage of a law, embracing the general features contained in the foregoing resolutions.

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting are hereby tendered to Col. J. B. Sutherland, of Philadelphia, the soldier and soldier's friend, for the able and eloquent address he has already rendered his fellow soldiers in securing partial justice now meted out to them; may he enjoy long life, and continue his services in their behalf, until success shall have crowned his bold and persevering efforts in securing that full justice due them for the service they have rendered in support of the defence of their countries cause.

Resolved, That C. Lessig, Esq., Major John C. Lessig and Charles Fralley, be a committee of arrangements, with power to fill any vacancy which may occur in the delegation named in the foregoing resolution, and that the delegates so named give sufficient notice to the committee of arrangements of their intention to attend as such.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in all the papers printed in this County.

B. POTT, *President.*

Maj. JOHN C. LESSIG,
Col. C. M. STRAUB,
DANIEL SHELLY,
JOHN DAGER, *Vice Presidents.*

Chas. Fralley,
Jacob B. Bright, *Secretaries.*

☞ Delegates will call at the American House and have their names registered on Saturday evening.

DONALDSON AFFAIRS.

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE MINERS' JOURNAL.

MESSRS. EDS.:—Permit me to record one of the most miraculous and providential escapes ever brought to my notice. My fellow townsmen, Mr. John Horton and Mr. James Moser were returning from Pinegrove to this place on the evening of the 24th ult., in a light buggy wagon.—Notwithstanding the icy condition of the road, they came in safety until they reached the hill approaching Black Creek bridge. The travelers took every precaution in descending it. Notwithstanding however, the united efforts of Mr. Horton and his companion to save themselves from an awful catastrophe, the horse slid from near the top and finally went over the road-side down a precipice twenty to twenty-five feet into the creek below. In the fall, owing to the very steep bank the wagon turned a complete somersault over the horse's back and fell with the wheels up permost. Wm. Moser was the first to disentangle himself from the wreck, but as soon as consciousness awoke Mr. H. to a sense of his frightful situation, he found himself under the wagon almost immersed in the water, (his peril can be easier imagined than described.) To extricate himself required a great effort, the weight of the wagon being on his body. No time was to be lost in making his escape. In doing so he found no other way than through the broken dasher and the heels of a kicking horse. The wagon is a total wreck. Scarcely a part of it remains unbroken. Yet these gentlemen escaped comparatively unhurt. Mr. H. received a blow on the head and had it not been for the timely aid of Mr. John Koons, who happened to come up a few minutes after the accident, he would undoubtedly have frozen to death. Mr. Moser also received a blow on the head and shoulder.

Now a word on the condition of the road. It is proberbial that that part of it below Tremont is kept in a worse condition than any other road in the State. It is true from its location in some places, that danger naturally follows its course, but in no one instance has any precaution been taken to protect the traveler from falling over banks or precipices even in the most dangerous places. It is an outrage that life should be endangered in this way from the neglect of others. A. F. J.

Donaldson, December 26, 1856.

ST. CLAIR AFFAIRS.

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE MINERS' JOURNAL.

DEAR JOURNAL:—Once more and perhaps for the last time, *Kate*, after a long silence, presumes to address you. It may not be much that I have to say, or very interesting or important, to say save ourselves. But I could not leave my *native home* without a parting word; I could not go without saying at least—"adieu."

St. Clair, though still flourishing and gay, does not seem to me now what it once did, and this must be partly my excuse for running off so suddenly; yet to tell the truth, love and the sunny South may to some extent lead me, so far away from our rugged hills. Such being the case, you will not expect me to depict the grand and awful scene that left the "Shaft" in ruins, or the perseverance and energy that have again raised the towering timbers over it; you will not care about the gossip of the town, and *news* is scarce; though for want of it, the recent loss of health, and departure home of *your* eloquent young minister," is a subject of interest to us all. When he took his leave of the Sunday School, many a stifled sob and glittering tear told how much he was loved. We fear that few will come after him who will be so kind to the "lambs of the flock."

The coming of the holidays always proclaim joy and mirth to the little ones. How glad and light their merry laugh now floats around me, yet it makes me feel sad indeed, to think that years may come and go, before I hear their happy voices again. Other scenes and other joys may woo me, but Willie's laugh and Mary's smiles can only visit me in dreams.

But I am growing sentimental, and must *hurry* on to say a word or two more, and then bid you "good bye." I want the streets made passable before I return to St. Clair, and I want the police to keep the *roosters* off the corners. It would not be amiss, indeed, to keep them quiet too; but I should be satisfied if these nuisances were abated and seven-eighths of the *curfews* closed up, or even if some one would keep a "black list" of those who lead the rising generation to ruin, through "groggeries" and "gambling dens." The exertion even of a single individuals have accomplished much, and might do more, and I sincerely hope that with the help of the *thunderer* (JOURNAL), and the efforts of humanity everywhere, many years may not elapse, ere those temptations to err—to vice and misery—may be no more the "stumbling blocks" of those who should know better.—Wishing for your prosperity ever, I remain truly,

KATE.

St. Clair, December 31, 1856.

PEN, PASTE AND SCISSORS.

☞ Deaths in Baltimore last week, 100.

☞ Deaths in New York, last week, 407.

☞ The Potomac river is closed by ice.

☞ Deaths in Philadelphia, last week, 269.

☞ Dummy engines work well in New York.

☞ New gold mines are being discovered in Mexico.

☞ Lucy Stone Blackwell has a baby—sex not stated.

☞ Mrs. Sarah Marsh, of Heath, Mass., is now in her 100th year of her age.

☞ To the brave and strong Repose seems inglorious, and the night too long.

☞ The Chambersburg *Repository* has completed the sixty-fourth year of its existence.

☞ The river at St. Louis is full of heavy ice. Other streams are closed.

☞ The Hon. James A. Bayard is spoken of as Secretary of State.

☞ Thackeray is one of the Glasgow $1,000 subscribers to the Atlantic Telegraph.

☞ Cranberries are grown in great abundance at all the towns along the Upper Mississippi.

☞ Nelson H. Gaston, a prominent merchant of New Haven, died recently in that place.

☞ Between two and three millions of dollars worth of oysters are sold at Baltimore yearly.

☞ Baltimore, on Christmas-day, was the scene of numerous bloody riots.

☞ Commodore Bladen Delany died in Washington on Friday week.

☞ Col. Kessler, of the Reading *Adler*, is about to retire from that paper, and become a farmer.

☞ Scarlet fever is raging in Boston, New York and Philadelphia.

☞ The first shad of the season was caught in the river Savannah on the 25th ult.

☞ Free negro for killing their wives were tried in Boston this week.

☞ The five great lakes of North America cover an area of 90,000 square miles.

☞ Senator Sumner expects to be in Washington early in January.

☞ The hoop style was in rogue in the reign of George III.

☞ The cost of the Plymouth Monument will be $30,000.

☞ In Lawrence, Kansas, the people are organizing a municipal government on their own hook.

☞ William Dailing, M. D., a young American surgeon has been admitted as a member of the London Royal College of Surgeons.

☞ Hereafter, postage to Panama will be rated at six instead of twenty cents per single letter.

☞ Line of Telegraph is to be established on the site of the Lebanon Valley Railroad, between Reading and Harrisburg.

☞ The inventor of the crinoline petticoat has resaved, so far, two hundred and fifty thousand francs by the patent.

☞ Caroline Spears, aged 25 years, was accidentally burned to death in Bern township, Berks county, a last Christmas night.

☞ It is estimated by the Friend of India that in Indianed Ceylon there are one hundred and twenty thousand converts to Christianity.

☞ Lady Byron, widow of the poet, has by the death of the incumbent, inherited the title of Baroness Wentworth.

☞ Several Pennsylvanians are establishing Iron works in the counties of Bath and Alleghany, Virginia.

☞ A new field of unprecedented value, has been discovered in New South Wales, 130 miles from Sydney.

☞ The English papers abound with cases of murder by garroting. In one instance, a man upwards of eighty years of age, was a victim.

☞ The Philadelphia *Sun* is publishing a series of editorial articles on the articles on the theory and practice of blistering.

☞ The difference between Perseverance and Obstinacy—one is a strong will—the other a strong wont.

☞ A Yankee at Panama sought shelter at the American Consul's from an earthquake; he thought even the earthquake would respect our flag.

☞ The Galena and Chicago Railroad Company have just had a verdict rendered against them for $15000, for injuries done a gentleman, through the neglect of the employees.

☞ There are 24,195 miles of railway in the United States, of which Pennsylvania has 2,165 miles. In 1835—twenty-eight years ago—there were 3 miles of railway in this country.

☞ A family, named Joyce, numbering four persons, and living near the mouth of Salt River, Ky., was killed on Friday, by their slaves, and the house burned.

☞ A Chillicothe paper states that the new State House of Ohio will yet require two years to finish it. The building has already cost about $2,000,000, and was commenced in 1839.