# Miners' Journal.

POTTSVILLE, PA.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 1857.


## WOOL.

Among the features of the proposed modification of the existing Tariff, none are more interesting than the one which bears with it the question, will it be advantageous to the interests of the producer as well as the manufacturer, to repeal the duty on Foreign Wool? This question should receive fair consideration in all its bearings. In the annexed statement in relation to Wool and Woolen goods, prepared for the consideration of Congress, there are facts which must arrest the attention of the American people. It will be perceived that while the total imports of raw Wool into this country, during the past ten years exhibit no increase, but rather a decrease, the value of Woolens imported has doubled in the brief space of four years. Now apart from the folly of exporting so much of the precious metals, for goods which can be manufactured equally as well in the United States, the manufacturers of this country contend, that by taking the duty off the raw material, they will be placed on an equal footing with the European manufacturer, while the impetus given to the manufacture of Woolens here, will multiply mills, increase the production of Wool, which now languishes, while an importation cost of 25 per cent. will add that much natural protection to the American producer.

A high duty on imported Wool has failed to be beneficial to the producer. Great Britain labored under the same disadvantage, until the duty was removed. From 1800 to 1828, under a duty of 12 cents per pound, the quantity of Wool produced in that Kingdom, increased only 19,079,729 pounds. The duty was then repealed, and the subsequent twenty-two years, showed an increase in the production of 163,376,211 pounds. The prices of Wool also steadily advanced, owing to the great revival of manufacturing.

When the removal of duty on raw material will enhance the interests of producer and manufacturer, it should be effected. In the matter of Sugar however, we do not think it advisable to render ourselves dependent upon foreign countries for supplies, until we have thoroughly tested the feasibility of growing the Chinese Sugar cane in this country. It promises well, and until proved a failure, we think it to the interest of the country to maintain the duty on Sugar. With Wool, however, it is different. A high duty has failed to produce desirable results. Experience and observation urge now a different policy, whereby the consumption of American Wool may be increased at paying prices; the manufacturing interests be fostered, by placing the manufacturer on an equal footing with his foreign competitor, and the country caused to be drained to such an extent, of the millions of dollars annually sent abroad to pay for imported Woolens.

We ask attention to the following

**Statement of Facts in Relation to Wool and Woolen Goods; Prepared for the Consideration of the Congress of the United States, December, 1856.**

The first reliable information in regard to the production of Wool in the United States was contained in a work prepared in 1837 by C. Benton and S. F. Barry. This gave the total product of the United States (page 123) at 41,917,324 pounds. The census of 1840 was confessedly imperfect in this respect, owing to blank returns from various wool-growing districts. The total product by the census of 1840 was 52,516,957 pounds. In a document recently addressed to the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, and signed by all the leading agents for the sale of domestic wool in New York, the total clip for the last year is stated at five million pounds less than in 1840, or only 47,516,957 pounds, showing an increase of but 5,599,633 pounds in 19 years, and a large positive decrease during the last five years. This has been the progress of production in this country since 1837, with a high duty on wool, ranging from 4 cents per lb, and 40 per cent. ad valorem, to 30 per cent. ad valorem.

The same document shows conclusively that if the duty were repealed, the present price of wool in London would not admit of its being landed here at the prices our farmers obtained for the same qualities of the last clip. The manufacturers could afford, however, to pay high prices for wool, as the repeal of the duty would oblige the foreign manufacturer to pay the same rate.

A similar effect of a high duty was noticed in England:

| | POUNDS. |
|---|---|
| Quantity of wool produced in Great Britain in the year 1820, | 92,544,000 |
| Do. do, do. 1828, | 111,623,729 |
| Increase in 28 years (under a duty of 12 cts. per lb.) only | 19,079,729 |

The duty was removed, and in 1850 the production in Great Britain was 275,000,000, showing an increase in 22 years, without duty, of 163,376,271 pounds. Notwithstanding this rapid increase in the production, prices of wool steadily advanced (as shown by the Parliamentary statistics) the moment the duty was taken off, owing to the great revival of manufacturing.

### Woolen Goods.

The annual product of Woolen Manufactures in England, France, and the United States, is officially given as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual value of the Woolen Manufactures in England, | $180,000,000 |
| Annual value of the Woolen Manufactures in France, | 200,000,000 |
| Annual value of the Woolen Manufactures of the United States, (by the census of 1850,) | 43,207,545 |

Political economists agree in stating that the people of the United States consume more woolen goods than either France or England, and yet but a small proportion of this consumption is produced in the country. In 1837 (page 124 of Benton & Barry) there were 344 sets of cards at work upon broadcloths in the United States, making, at 60 lbs. per day to the set, the annual consumption of wool for this purpose, 8,250,000 lbs. Now, with the exception of a few contract goods for the army and navy, the production of all wool broadcloths have about died out in this country, and there are not 30 sets of cards engaged in this branch of industry, although the consumption of broadcloths has largely increased.

### Effect of the Duty upon the Import of Wool and Woolen Goods.

The above figures show that the effect of the duty on wool has been to diminish the home production of wool, and to embarrass the manufacture of woolen goods. The duty has not, however, kept out the foreign wool, or limited the consumption of woolens. It has only encouraged the importation of wool in a manufactured state. The following will show the comparative value of raw wool and manufactured wool imported into the United States during the last ten years, as compiled from the official returns:

TOTAL IMPORTS OF RAW WOOL AND WOOLENS INTO THE UNITED STATES:

| For end'g June 30, | Wool Imported. | Woolens Imported. |
|---|---|---|
| 1846, | $1,134,270 | $9,935,195 |
| 1847, | 250,473 | 10,665,443 |
| 1848, | 857,034 | 15,061,102 |
| 1849, | 1,117,347 | 13,503,202 |
| 1850, | 1,681,691 | 16,909,916 |
| 1851, | 2,383,157 | 19,239,930 |
| 1852, | 1,930,711 | 17,348,184 |
| 1853, | 2,699,718 | 27,821,921 |
| 1854, | 2,842,185 | 32,382,589 |
| 1855, | 2,072,139 | 26,476,288 |
| 1856, about | | 33,000,000 |

As the duty does not keep out the foreign wool, but only enables the foreigner to send it here already manufactured (the annual import of manufactured wool being given in the Treasury Report at 119,000,000 lbs.), it is proposed to repeal it, and secure a portion, at least, of the manufacturing home industry. This would not only give a fresh impulse to the manufacture of woolens, but would benefit the wool-grower by an advance in the value of wool consequent upon the greatly increased demand for it, (as proved in England by actual experiment,) and would also greatly benefit the landed interests by creating an enlarged market for all the produce needed to support the manufacturers, who now, while at work clothing us, live upon the harvest of foreign gold, and annually take from us millions of our gold. The repeal of the duty would place the foreign wool on a par with the domestic.—The cost of importing foreign wool, if the duty were totally removed, would be from 25 to 30 per cent., averaging over 25 per cent. This, however startling to those who have not considered the subject, is fully proved by the following statement from the principal Custom House Appraiser at New York:

The expenses and charges on Wool imported from foreign countries, independent of duties, is from 25 to 30 per cent. Among these charges are included freight, insurance, interest, commission, guaranty, labor, &c. The average charges and expenses above first cost abroad is not less than 25 per cent.

ISAAC PHILLIPS, *U. S. Appr.*

New York, Dec. 12, 1856.

The above is independent of the cost of bringing the foreign wool from the interior, where it is grown, to the port of shipment. Of course, with this large incidental protection, the wool-grower in this country need have no fear of a foreign competition, which shall prevent his obtaining the highest price for his own product, while the transfer of a portion of the manufacturing from the foreign country to our own land, must create a first-class market for all home-grown wool, at remunerating rates.

The object of repealing the duty is not to bring down the price of wool; all former experience shows that it would produce a contrary effect.—The design is to place the foreign and domestic manufacturer on an equality in the markets of the world, so that any advance in price paid for wool shipped to this country shall also be paid for that which is manufactured abroad. This will remove the encouragement to import woolen fabrics in the place of raw wool, and bring a larger quantity here in an unmanufactured state, at the same time, it will increase the demand for all kinds of domestic wool, which will have an advantage in the home market equal to at least the entire cost of importation, fixed, as above, at over 25 per cent. Under the duty, high prices for wool increase the advantage of the foreign manufacturer. Repeal the duty, and this advantage is entirely removed.

THE POOR HOUSES OF NEW YORK STATE.—that is, many of them—are described as being in a shocking condition. They are badly built, worse arranged, not half warmed, and not at all ventilated. The tenants when not starved, are fed upon tainted meat, spoiled fish and decaying vegetables. They are lodged either in open sheds where they freeze, or in close hovels where they suffocate. They sleep piled in cloths. They sicken without attention, die without medicine, and are tossed into graves like brutes. In one institution not less than one-fourth of its 137 inmates died (say rather were killed) in less than a single year! They are literally the abodes of Pestilence and Famine.

While the sane fare thus badly, the insane fare worse. Blows and chains are the only prescription for mental disease. The Lunatic is beaten because of his wandering mind, and the Idiot pounded for his lack of sense. Some wretched ones lie upon straw, amid the accumulated filth of months, with no covering but such of this foul bed as adheres to their bodies. The blind, the deaf, the crippled, huddled together, are treated with equal inhumanity—as if they were doomed to suffer by the neglect of Man, as well as by the visitation of a God.

In addition, the manner in which men and women are indiscriminately huddled together in a common sleeping room at night is an outrage on decency, and causes the State to be annually charged with the supply of a new brood of paupers—the offspring of the illicit lusts of its lazarhouses.

But that is enough to prove that the Supervisors, Contractors, etc., of the New York Poor Houses, are unfit for the positions they hold.—Even in this County, we were afflicted with incompetent and cruel officers in the Poor House, until the Court instituted an investigation into its management. Reform succeeded, since which we have heard no complaints of the management.

Statements like the above, are well calculated to startle and shock the humane. While we shudder at them, we cannot but think that the entire pauper system of this country is erroneous. In place of huge lazar houses, where misery breeds misery; vice links hands with laziness, and cruelty runs riot, Houses of Industry should be established, in which strict discipline would make the pauper and petty violator of the laws, earn at least their food and clothing, while habits of morality would be engendered. We can hope for but little improvement in the management of paupers in this country, while the present institutions, badly as in some instances they are conducted, offer such inducements to the vicious and indolent. It is true that many worthy persons become inmates of American alms houses; but the proportion is small compared with the mass of healthy, lazy, viciously inclined, who seek a life of indolence, at the expense of the public.—Cruelty and rapacity will be found inseparable with our poor houses as they exist. Industry and consequent elevation of the class now dependent upon the public for support, would follow upon the establishment of an Institution, a medium between the present prison and alms house, without partaking of the objectionable features of either.

THE VALLEY OF THE SUSQUEHANNA.—*Nimrod de Guerre*, a communicant to that spirited sheet, *Life Illustrated*, in furnishing notes of "Peregrinations in Pennsylvania," remarks with truth that there is no part of the Keystone State, more worthy of the observations of the tourist, than the country comprised between the North and West Branch of the Susquehanna River. It is diversified with every possible variety of mountain and valley, of hill and dale; its soils range from the richest limestone to the most sterile rock—from the light sand to the deep loam—on parts of which flourishes the winter wheat, and on other portions is cultivated the nasty tobacco. Some of the finest coal formations in the Union are found among its hills, and the iron ore of the Susquehanna region is unsurpassed in quantity and quality, by the same extent of country anywhere. Throughout its whole compass are to be found numerous anthracite and charcoal furnaces, and every branch of trade and industry has encouragement and success among its fertile plains. While the North Branch Canal bears on its bosom, southward and northward, annually, thousands upon thousands of tons of coal and of iron, both in the ore and in the pig, down the West Branch extension come millions of feet of timber, the whole keeping in constant and active employment many thousands of the hardy sons of labor.

The valleys of the Forks of the Susquehanna have, in addition to those already noted, one other great advantage. They are unusually healthy. The diversified scenery, soil, and climate, the abundance of water and work, the great extent of the pure agricultural interest, and the virtue and general cheerfulness of the citizens, tend to keep the average health of the region superior to that of any other country of its size with which we are acquainted.

The recent completion of the Catawissa, Williamsport and Erie Railroad, has opened to trade and travel some of the finest portions of Pennsylvania and New York, and the amount of freight and number of passengers now being transported over different portions of the road, between Philadelphia and the Falls of Ningara, is perfectly astonishing, when we take into consideration the fact, that a few years ago, two or four-horse coaches, daily and tri-weekly, sufficed for the accommodation of the public. The beauty and the value of the Valley of the Susquehanna, are only just now beginning to be appreciated. Different portions of the State are having, as it were, personal communication with each other; and the pleasures of travel and the necessities of trade are giving us a first-rate illustration of life. Facilities for trade create business, and ease of locomotion begets a desire to change place.

NOT APPLICABLE.—The "unterrified" of Schuylkill County, have expended a vast quantity of wrath on the action of our representatives in the Legislature, Messrs. Lebo and Wagonseller, and have been liberal in their use of hard names.—They have even applied the epithet "traitors" to them. With all due respect for the indignation which the regulars naturally feel, and the sore dig in the ribs which Mr. Buchanan experienced, by the election of Mr. Cameron, we must protest in common with the citizens of Pennsylvania favorable to her interests, against the appellation. In party parlance, Messrs. Lebo and Wagonseller, may be esteemed disloyal to party drill; but when we consider the necessity at this time of the presence in the United States Senate of a man from this State who will advocate her claims to adequate protection, and enter her protest anew against the extension of Slavery, we must say that in voting for Cameron in preference to Forney, they have acted the part of patriots. A man's first duty is to his country, then let him consider the demands of party.

To what professed principle of the Democratic party have our representatives proved recreant? That party in the recent Presidential campaign, declared itself favorable to Freedom in Kansas. Since 1819 our State has been opposed to the extension of slavery. Messrs. Lebo and Wagonseller were elected on that principle; they entered the House as friends of Freedom in the new Territories; they voted for Simon Cameron, on the principle of sustaining a Freedom loving son of Pennsylvania against the pro-slavery, Free Trade, non-sympathising with Pennsylvanian interests candidate, John W. Forney. It strikes us that they have done nothing but their duty to their constituents, to their consciences, to their State.

Compare the antecedents of Cameron and Forney; consider the interests at stake—especially the manner in which this Region is affected by antagonistical legislation, and our readers can judge coolly and dispassionately, whether Messrs. Lebo and Wagonseller, are worthy of the epithet "traitors," or the appellation, patriots. We admire the man who at the dictate of duty, acts well his part, regardless of the censure of selfish office seekers. Messrs. Lebo and Wagonseller have thus distinguished themselves in the matter of United States Senator; are entitled to the thanks of every true Pennsylvanian, and should be enrolled in the list of patriots, honored by the citizens of our State.

THE BALTIMORE AMERICAN.—This old, and the commercial paper of Baltimore, with the New Year appeared in a quarto form, about the size of New York *Herald*, and with new and beautiful type. The price has been reduced to two cents per copy, which may be considered an adoption of the cash system, the only plan by which the *journals of the city* can prove profitable to the publishers. We note the improvement in the *American's* appearance with sincere pleasure, and trust that its future may be as prosperous, as its course in the past has been undoubtedly, satisfactory to its numerous patrons. We have always admired the tone of the *American*. Although a Southern journal, it has always maintained a policy calculated to harmonise conflicting elements; allay bitter sectional feeling, and smooth the troubled waters of storm tossed party feeling. We recognize it as among the most honest of the high toned, conservative press of the country, and congratulate it on the substantial marks of prosperity, stamped upon its neat typographical pages.

A LESSON FROM THE DEAD.—A gentleman observed in a thicket of bushes near his dwelling, a collection of brown thrushes, who for several days attracted his attention by their loud cries and strange movements. At length curiosity was so much excited, that he determined to see if he could ascertain the cause of the excitement among them.

On examining the bushes he found a female thrush, whose wing was caught in a limb in such a way that she could not escape. Near by her was her nest, containing several half-grown birds. On retiring a little distance, a company of thrushes appeared, with worms and other insects in their mouths, which they gave first to the mother, and then to her young; she in the mean while cheering them in their labor of love with a song of gratitude.

After watching the interesting scene until curiosity was satisfied, the gentleman relieved the poor bird, when she flew to her nest with a grateful song to her deliverer, and her charitable neighbors dispersed to their usual abodes, singing as they went, a song of praise.—*National Intelligencer.*

How impressive is the lesson conveyed by the above charming little narrative. There are no fear, many scenes of distress, in which tender woman and helpless children are the sufferers, and of which the "well to do," are cognizant, that fail to elicit from them a tithe of the tender sympathy and active charity, bestowed upon the distressed thrush by her neighbors.

"How light an act of duty makes the heart."—Do you know a family, that at this severe season, needs a barrel of flour, clothing, fuel, or anything embraced under the head, necessaries of life?—Emulate the example of the little company of thrushes. Is the parent of a large family sick and in distress, attend personally on the wants of the little ones, and minister kind offices to the parent bird.

It is difficult to realize while sitting coolly by warm fires, surrounded by the comforts of life, or when abroad, warmly clad and protected from the wintry blast, that all who wear the human form are not contented and comfortable as we.—Yet half a dozen steps from our path, in almost any direction, would bring us into the presence of poverty, suffering and often proud, but still suffering. A kind word; the coin—which would not be missed—cheerfully bestowed; the interest expressed, what a grateful song of praise would they not elicit, how bright the hope that would revisit the despairing bosom.

Why will we wrap up ourselves in the mant e of chilling selfishness, when acts of kindness and love, even of less importance than that bestowed upon the helpless thrush, would repay us a thousand fold? "It is more blessed to give than receive." Yes, and it is more delightful. We know not the heavenly part of our nature until we have, one and all, according to our means, relieved the distresses of those in suffering, dried the tear of too often despised, insulted poverty, and brought songs of praise, where before was mourning, caused by man's thoughtless inhumanity. When the reader hears of a case of suffering, let him act according to the dictates of the lesson gleaned from the birds, and remember the reward, in addition to an approving conscience—"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

## EDITOR'S TABLE.

THE AMERICAN ALMANAC, AND REPOSITORY OF USEFUL KNOWLEDGE, for 1857, has been received. The publishers are Crosby, Nichols & Co., Boston. There is more useful information embodied in the American Almanac than in any other work, of similar character, published. Every citizen should possess a copy. For sale at Bannan's.

KANSAS—ITS INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR LIFE.—This interesting work by Sara T. L. Robinson—the seventh edition of which has just been issued—includes a full view of the settlement, political history, social life, climate, soil, productions, scenery, etc., of Kansas. The book is beautifully illustrated, and very entertaining. Publishers, Crosby, Nichols & Co., Boston. Copies can be obtained at Bannan's.

## Local Affairs.

☞ *The Last Assembly* of the season will be given on Thursday evening next, 29th instant.

☞ *About* three inches of snow fell on Tuesday night, making sleighing "tip-top."

☞ *The Weather* has been intensely cold during the past two days. At 6 o'clock yesterday morning, the thermometers in this Borough marked 6 degrees below zero.

☞ *Warner's Panorama.*—We refer our readers to the advertisement of Warner's Panorama, which will be found in our advertising columns. We have only room to state that it is worthy of patronage and all who witness it will not be disappointed, but delighted.

☞ *The "unterrified"* meet at the Court House, this morning, to groan over the defeat of Forney, and sound the war whoop. The latter is for the especial benefit of the "traitors." The Democracy are very angry. If their safety-valves are not in order, we fear they will explode with rage, at Cameron's ten-strike.

☞ *Lecture Postponed.*—In consequence of the severe snow storm of the early part of the present week, the lecture which was to have been delivered on Monday evening, before the Young Men's Christian Association, by Rev. Mr. Brown of Reading, was postponed. The next lecture before the Association will be delivered on Monday evening, Feb. 2d.

☞ *The* first train from Philadelphia, since Sunday evening, reached Pottsville on Wednesday morning last at 5 o'clock. It brought the city papers of Monday and Tuesday, and private correspondence, which were quite acceptable, owing to the fact that for two days, we had been effectually shut out from the news-world, and cut off from all communication with our friends on the line of the Reading road.

☞ *Thermometrical.*—Our report for the week is as follows:

P. R. & P. TELEGRAPH OFFICE,
*Pennsylvania Hall, Pottsville.*

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sat., Jan. 17, | 8 A. M. | —21 | degrees above zero | —cloudy. |
| Mon., " 19, | " | —10 | " " " | —snowing. |
| Tues., " 20, | " | —5 | " " " | —cloudy. |
| Wed., " 21, | " | —24 | " " " | " |
| Thurs., " 22, | " | —5 | " " " | —clear. |
| Fri., " 23, | " | —2 | " below " | " |

☞ *Young Men's Christian Association.*—A regular meeting of the Association will be held in their room, (Russel's Office building, corner Second and Mahantongo streets,) on Monday evening, January 26th, 1857.

The Board of Managers have purchased books, and the room will hereafter be open every Wednesday and Saturday evening for members of the Association.

The Association would acknowledge ten volumes of books donated by Mr. J. P. Sherman.

Donations of books will be gratefully received. Persons having books to present, by leaving a note at Mr. Russel's office, will be waited on.

☞ *The Pottsville Scientific Association.*—At a stated meeting of this Association, held January 17th, 1857, the death of Mr. Joseph D. Meredith, late a member of the Association, was formerly announced. Whereupon Rev. Paul. Washburn offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:—

*Resolved.* That we have heard with sincere regret of the unexpected decease of our fellow-member, Mr. Joseph D. Meredith.

*Resolved,* That we place upon the minutes of the Association, this record of our high appreciation of his character and scientific attainments.

*Resolved,* That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the family of the deceased, and published in the papers of this borough.

C. LITTLE, *Recording Secretary.* *President.*

☞ *The Second M. E. Church* desires us to say that the failure of their Lecture on Tuesday evening last, was owing to the disarrangements caused by the storm. As John G. Saxe the poet, wrote to Albany last winter on his failure to be present to Lecture, so they feel. They had no design in its postponement, but in truth every motive to have been punctual but a locomotive. Mr. Crook did not leave Wilmington, fortunately, or like that Master Minister, St. Paul, he would have been "a day and a night in the deep" (snow.) The mails have been so irregular that they cannot announce when Mr. C. will lecture, but they anticipate the presence of Bishop Scott on next Monday evening to lecture upon Africa. The Bishop recently visited Africa and will doubtless furnish a very interesting discourse upon the subject.

☞ *"Tranquilla."*—The accompanying introduction and sonnets we extract from the *Home Journal.* The little inspiration cordially contains the fire of genius. We would question the identity of the writer. It cannot be, it is not her first public effort. The *Home Journal* says:

We wish that the lady-writer who sent us the two following sonnets, her letter dated at "Pottsville, Pennsylvania," would send us her name, or a *nomen de plume* which she is willing to attach to them. We are sure there is a fame to chronicle in the genius which inspired such lines. We are glad to recognize and speak prophetically of its rank, curiously enough, it comes from the same interior of a State whence we have already hailed *three* new lumers who have since gone prosperously on their way—GRACE GREENWOOD, BAYARD TAYLOR, and ROSE MAY—all from the interior of Pennsylvania, and, all, of our first heralding to fame. It is possible, of course, that the fair writer may have already a signature, in use elsewhere; but, in case this is, as we suppose, her first appearance in print, it is better to have some sign by which she will be identified with those sonnets hereafter, and we venture, therefore, to suggest one—expressive, at least, of the spirit breathed in her poetry—TRANQUILLA. Thus runs the music of her two sonnets:—

I.

If all the world had told me thou wert false,
I had defied the world and ta'en thy part;
But when, from thee, the confirmation comes,
The arrow stabs, deep, deep, within my heart;
It bleeds to think, that, henceforth and forever,
A ghastly doubt must follow at thy side.
That confidence and holy trust can never
Beneath the shelter of our roof abide;
For, unto thee a deep trust I had given,
That, in our darkest moments, cheered me on.
No gift, no fortune, nothing under heaven
Can offer repayment that doubt, it bring gone!
Naught but distressing doubts, suspicions, fears,
Can fill the measure of our coming years.

II.

I love thee, yet! for Nature's ties are stronger
Than I had dreamed! I strove to break the chain,
Feeling I had no right to love thee longer!
But, in its prompt, unerring, instinct, patriotic,
My heart turned to thee, though I scorned and hated
Thy weakness and thy sin. Although, to me,
Thou wert the very thing I most abhorred—
Pride of all my youth, my agony,
My heart turned to thee, and I could have wept
Had tears upon thy bosom be my enough.
Within thy circling arms I could have slept—
For slumber had been banished from me long.
I do forgive thee—yet the world I've given
Could I forget, even as I forgive.

TRANQUILLA.

☞ *The Rockville Blacksmith.*—This gifted son of Vulcan,—a daily laborer in our County, at his anvil—has written several poems teeming with thought, and alive with the true spirit of poesy. During the last Presidential campaign, Mr. Parker's pen dashed off some of the most spirited stanzas, it was our good fortune to observe during the canvass. In different vein he now writes about

"Sweet Jennie."

Sweet Jennie's voice is silent now,
Hush'd is its silvery tone;
And Jennie's eye is darken'd now,
Where light once brightly shone;
And Jennie's cheeks that once contrived,
The roses blushing fair,
Are pale and cold, for death has set,
His icy lillies there.

Within the village church-yard now,
The grass grows o'er her grave;
And sparkling drops of pearly dew,
The flowrets gently lave;
And the sweet lark she loved so well,
Starts from his dewy bed,
To carol forth his morning hymn,
Above sweet Jennie's head.

No more her merry laughter rings
As wont to do of yore;
Her sunny smiles of youthful glee,
Light up her brow no more;
And never more can grief or care,
Her gentle spirit move,
For Jennie is an angel fair,
In yon bright realms above.

THE ROCKVILLE BLACKSMITH.

☞ *Second Up.*—So far, the snow storm of the season has tipped its white hat to us, with a hearty, "how d'ye do?" On Sunday afternoon last, while the mercury was paying a chilling visit to zero, the flakes began to fall, and continued falling thick and fast, during the entire night, until far into Monday. Boreas had a hand in the matter. In his freaks he laid an embargo on the contents of hydrant pipes, wash pitchers, etc., piled the newly fallen snow to the height of several feet, in fantastic shapes, while in spots he bared the ground, and invariably swept the roofs clean. Several bachelors amused themselves on Monday morning by shaking shafts in the underlying strata of the interior of their water pitchers, while their blue looks and shivering frames as they appeared at the breakfast table, contrasted dismally with the comfortable appearance of several neighboring Benedicts. Should the winters increase pro rata, in severity, during the next half dozen years, as they have in the half dozen just passed, a bachelor will be a *rara avis*, for which a premium will be offered by some Barnum possibly in embryo. The inveterate will be frozen to death, while those more yielding, will per force, fly to the means offered for an escape from an untimely end. Monday, we were completely "snowed up." On the various railroads and turnpikes of the county, snow drifts to the depth of several feet existed, rendering travel utterly impossible. Communication with the neighboring towns, was cut off, while the morning train of the Reading Railroad for Philadelphia, vainly essayed a start at the usual hour. Two hours after the time it should have started, the train containing no passengers, left the depot here. It returned shortly after, and essayed a fresh start. The train must have had a delightful, time for twelve hours after, a telegraphic despatch conveyed information of its presence at Tuckerton, some miles this side of Beslen. No train left here in the afternoon for Philadelphia, Tuesday morning. The Valley train started for Tuscarora on Tuesday morning, after an intermission of one day. The snow completely disarranged the running of the Coal and Passenger trains of the Reading Railroad Company, from which they have hardly yet recovered.

The quantity of snow that fell, was about a foot, on a level, which piled as it is on that which had previously fallen and frozen, will give us good sleighing, undoubtedly, during the remainder of the winter. A quiet snow yet on top, would however, make the sleighing very fine.

☞ *Destruction of Tenant Houses by Fire.*—On Monday morning last about 2 o'clock, in the midst of the violent snow storm raging at the time, flames were discovered bursting from the three story stone tenant house, occupied by John Marrow, and being one of a row of six dwellings, situated on Centre street, opposite the old Gas Works,—about a square above the residence of G. S. Peppler, Esq. An alarm was speedily communicated, and our fire companies hastened to the spot. Owing to the severity of the night and the fact of the fire plugs being frozen, the firemen were unable to get into effective service, and the fire spread rapidly through the entire row, eventually leaving nothing standing but the bare walls. The property destroyed was owned as follows:—Thomas Mullen, 2 houses, upon which there is an insurance of $200 in the Lycoming Company; Widow Brennan, 1; Mrs. Fahy, 2, and Patrick Cullen, 1 house. On the last named properties there is no insurance. At the time of the fire, the houses were occupied by the following named persons, and their families:—Thos. Mullen, Joseph Kitchen, Martin Mullen, John Marrow, Widow Brennan, Mrs. Fahy and John Martin. Some of the furniture of the houses and clothing of the inmates was rescued, but in a damaged condition. The entire loss may be estimated at $1000, which falls heavily on the poor Irish inmates who are illy able to bear at this season, the catastrophe which has overtaken them. The scene on Monday morning during the progress of the fire, was distressing. The eddying gusts of blinding snow, chilled the scantily clad men, women and children, who were suddenly driven forth from their dwellings, the bitterest night so far, of the present winter. Temporary shelter was obtained in transoms near by, waist deep, they found temporary shelter beneath the roofs of their friends in other sections of the town. Still the relief is but temporary, and their cases call for that active charity in their behalf, which those of our citizens who have the means can bestow so worthily.

In connection with this fire, we would urge upon the Borough authorities the absolute necessity of protecting the plugs of the Borough, as far as in their power, from freezing. If the fire of Monday morning occurred in the heart of Centre street, where so many frame buildings exist; the destruction would have been frightful. A few dollars judiciously expended in keeping the plugs open, may save thousands to our citizens. This matter should be attended to promptly. The entire Borough is interested in having some means of defence against the attacks of the Fire King, especially when his visits are paid in the depth of Winter, with the thermometer at zero.

## VOICE OF SCHUYLKILL COUNTY.

**Election of Gen. SIMON CAMERON, United States Senator.**

## PUBLIC MEETING.

At a meeting of the citizens of Schuylkill County, friendly to the recent action of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, in the election of Gen. SIMON CAMERON as United States Senator, held at the Public House of Daniel Hill, in the borough of Pottsville, on Saturday, January 17th, 1857, in pursuance of public notice, on motion, Gen. DANIEL LAREER, was appointed President.

The following gentlemen were appointed Vice Presidents:

| | |
|---|---|
| Benjamin Haywood, | William Bellaven, |
| Charles Denger, | John Rupp, |
| Benjamin T. Taylor, | Michael Bright, |
| William Becker, | Solomon Lord, |
| Jeremiah Reed, | Stephen Rogers, |
| James Nagle, | Samuel Sillyman, |
| John Jones. | G. W. Good. |

Robert M. Palmer, James W. Bowen, John Z. Shoener and Theodore Garretson, were appointed Secretaries.

The President stated the object of the meeting.

Robert M. Palmer and Hon. Charles Frailey, were called upon and addressed the meeting.

Robert M. Palmer offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

*Resolved,* That we have heard with sincere regret of the unexpected decease of our fellow-member, Mr. Joseph D. Meredith.

*Resolved,* That we place upon the minutes of the Association, this record of our high appreciation of his character and scientific attainments.

*Resolved,* That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the family of the deceased, and published in the papers of this borough.

C. LITTLE, *Recording Secretary.* *President.*

☞ *The Second M. E. Church* desires us to say that the failure of their Lecture on Tuesday evening last, was owing to the disarrangements caused by the storm. As John G. Saxe the poet, wrote to Albany last winter on his failure to be present to Lecture, so they feel. They had no design in its postponement, but in truth every motive to have been punctual but a locomotive. Mr. Crook did not leave Wilmington, fortunately, or like that Master Minister, St. Paul, he would have been "a day and a night in the deep" (snow.) The mails have been so irregular that they cannot announce when Mr. C. will lecture, but they anticipate the presence of Bishop Scott on next Monday evening to lecture upon Africa. The Bishop recently visited Africa and will doubtless furnish a very interesting discourse upon the subject.

☞ *"Tranquilla."*—The accompanying introduction and sonnets we extract from the *Home Journal.* The little inspiration cordially contains the fire of genius. We would question the identity of the writer. It cannot be, it is not her first public effort. The *Home Journal* says:

We wish that the lady-writer who sent us the two following sonnets, her letter dated at "Pottsville, Pennsylvania," would send us her name, or a *nomen de plume* which she is willing to attach to them. We are sure there is a fame to chronicle in the genius which inspired such lines. We are glad to recognize and speak prophetically of its rank, curiously enough, it comes from the same interior of a State whence we have already hailed *three* new lumers who have since gone prosperously on their way—GRACE GREENWOOD, BAYARD TAYLOR, and ROSE MAY—all from the interior of Pennsylvania, and, all, of our first heralding to fame. It is possible, of course, that the fair writer may have already a signature, in use elsewhere; but, in case this is, as we suppose, her first appearance in print, it is better to have some sign by which she will be identified with those sonnets hereafter, and we venture, therefore, to suggest one—expressive, at least, of the spirit breathed in her poetry—TRANQUILLA. Thus runs the music of her two sonnets:—

I.

If all the world had told me thou wert false,
I had defied the world and ta'en thy part;
But when, from thee, the confirmation comes,
The arrow stabs, deep, deep, within my heart;
It bleeds to think, that, henceforth and forever,
A ghastly doubt must follow at thy side.
That confidence and holy trust can never
Beneath the shelter of our roof abide;
For, unto thee a deep trust I had given,
That, in our darkest moments, cheered me on.
No gift, no fortune, nothing under heaven
Can offer repayment that doubt, it bring gone!
Naught but distressing doubts, suspicions, fears,
Can fill the measure of our coming years.

II.

I love thee, yet! for Nature's ties are stronger
Than I had dreamed! I strove to break the chain,
Feeling I had no right to love thee longer!
But, in its prompt, unerring, instinct, patriotic,
My heart turned to thee, though I scorned and hated
Thy weakness and thy sin. Although, to me,
Thou wert the very thing I most abhorred—
Pride of all my youth, my agony,
My heart turned to thee, and I could have wept
Had tears upon thy bosom be my enough.
Within thy circling arms I could have slept—
For slumber had been banished from me long.
I do forgive thee—yet the world I've given
Could I forget, even as I forgive.

TRANQUILLA.

☞ *The Sunbury Gazette and the Gas Company.*—A stated meeting of the Borough Council was held Friday evening, January 16th, 1857, for the purpose of considering the propriety of lighting gas in the street lamps of the Borough, at the present price charged by the Gas Company.

Present—Messrs. Hinkley, Heffner, Heaton, Ebert, Kopitosh, Shoener, Shartel and Derr. The object of the meeting being read, on motion of Mr. Shartel, the committee on Lamps and Watch were discontinued on the subject of conferring with the Gas Company in reference to the price of Gas, until the Gas Company have come to terms with the committee of citizens, or until the said committee of citizens report to the Council. On motion of Mr. Shartel it was

*Resolved,* That the President of the Council be directed to sign the petition and resolutions in the hands of the committee of citizens in reference to the use of Gas on the part of the Council.

On Motion Adjourned.

☞ *Pioneer Public School Library.*—With considerable satisfaction we announce that the Directors of the Public Schools of this Borough, have with the beginning of 1857, established a library for the use of the pupils of the Schools. The library embraces at the start, some 300 choice volumes selected from valuable library books published in neighboring States. This library will be an additional tax upon our citizens, as it has been established in the following manner:—Under the school law it is provided that two officers, a Collector and Treasurer, may be selected to attend to the collection of the school tax, and disbursement of the fund for school purposes. Two per cent. was allowed each officer, on the amount collected and disbursed, as a remuneration for his service. By a plan adopted by the Board, the services of a Treasurer have been dispensed with, and a responsible and active man, acting as Collector and Treasurer, now fills the position formerly occupied by two. He receives 3 per cent., which is a saving of 1 per cent. to the school fund. This amounts to from $70 to $80 per annum. The sum saved so far by this plan, has been devoted to the formation of a good library, for the use of the pupils of the public schools. Without being a direct tax upon the community, we have the commencement of a Library, to which as the fund increases, 100 to 150 volumes can be added yearly, and the benefits from which to the rising generation, will be incalculable. A taste for reading, good reading, should be fostered.—Old habits are strong, and we can hope little from those adults who prefer frivolety and injurious amusement, to solid intellectual pleasures; but it is the duty of parents to bring up those now children in a different manner, and to urge them to cultivate a habit of reading. We hail the establishment of this Public School Library, the first in the County, as the introduction of a new and most praiseworthy feature in our system of public instruction, and hope that parents will lend their hearty endeavors to inducing their children to seek its treasures, in place of wasting precious hours, in unprofitable amusements.

Annexed are some of the Rules and Regulations of the Pottsville Public School Library, which will govern those who receive books from it:

5. Every book must be returned to the Library within as many weeks after it shall have been taken out as it contains hundred pages; but the same person may again take the same book, if application has not been made for it while it was out, by any one who may have previously had it.

7. For each day's detention of a book beyond the time allowed by these regulations, the forfeiture of one cent shall be incurred by the borrower, and shall be payable forthwith to the Librarian.

8. For the destruction or loss of a book, a forfeiture shall be incurred by the borrower equal to the cost of the book, or of the set, if it be one of a series: and on the payment of such forfeiture, the party paying it shall be entitled to the remainder of the series.

9. A forfeiture of not less than three cents shall be incurred by the borrower for every spot of grease or dirt upon the cover, or upon any leaf of the book; and a forfeiture of not less than six cents, nor more than ten cents of the book, for writing in or defacing any book, or cutting or tearing the cover, binding, or any leaf of the book

10. If any leaf be torn out, or any leaf be defaced that it cannot be read, or anything written in it which renders it unfit for general circulation, the same forfeiture shall be incurred as in case of the loss of the book.

11. If the book be detained two weeks beyond the time allowed by these regulations, the book may be considered as lost, and the forfeiture imposed in such cases incurred accordingly.

## LETTER FROM TAMAQUA.

[FOR THE MINERS' JOURNAL.]

TAMAQUA, *January* 20th, 1857.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Perhaps you may entertain some objections to entering the name of another correspondent on your list from