Wit and Humor.

PAYING FOR A SLEIGH RIDE.

AN INCIDENT OF THE LATE SNOW STORM.

A snow storm has produced more folly than a moonlight sleigh ride of happy lovers, but we doubt if a young gent was ever in a more unenviable situation than the hero of — FEBRUARY 14, 1857.

In the afternoon — SHAVERS AND CHEAT TRAFFICKERS.—These subjects are fertile. To communities interested in a generous circulating medium, they afford food for thought and action. It is a striking fact that money diverted from legitimate business, into the channel of "shaving," amounts in the aggregate to as much as is invested in banking.—The evils which grow out of this diversion of capital, affect to a fearful extent, the welfare of regular business, for no business legitimate in its character, will yield more than 6 or 7 per cent. profit to its conductor, consequently when the "shaving" rates reach the mark of from 1 to 2½ per cent per month, no business can submit to the extortion and yield a profit. Under a well regulated government, every facility is offered the manufacturers, the producers, who build up the wealth of a country, to carry on and increase their business. The Bank of England, which controls the rates of interest in Great Britain, keeps those rates down to the lowest point to benefit and sustain the manufacturers of that country. This is the true policy, for by accumulating the capital of a country into the hands of "shavers," the business of that country is placed at their mercy, and bitter experience even in this community, proves that it is "the mercy vultures show to lambs, covering and devouring them."

It is difficult to realize that any respectable banking institution would entertain collusion with these business leeches, accommodating them at the expense of the public. Yet it is the case. Money at times has been advanced by certain banks at the legal rate of interest to these men, who used the same to fleece at usurious interest, the needy and hard pressed. Banks who thus favor the "shaver" at the expense of the business public, should be discountenanced. And the people when they submit to extortion in this shape, lose ground where they need to stand firmest. "Shaved" to death, banks anxious to accommodate the business public, fight shy of their notes, and learn to be suspicious where they should for the interest of all, have perfect confidence.

It is the interest of every man whether he submits to heavy "shaves" or not, to oppose the whole system. As a great evil, it must be crushed, as evils of an equal magnitude have been eradicated in other communities of the country. The question is, will the "shavers" continue to be encouraged, or shall the people be protected. In Vicksburg when the people were afflicted by a nest of gamblers, they rose and by prompt measures crushed them. San Francisco was purified by its Vigilance Committee. To remove the cancer we must cut deep. Refuse further to countenance usurious rates of interest. Let the community sustain those who refuse to take up their paper, upon which there is more than a legal rate of interest. Appropriate a sum of money in that community where usurers exist, and enforce the laws against them. It is only by prompt action, that the legitimate business of a place can be protected against the extortionists, and they be compelled to respect the laws.

In regard to cheap traffickers, who are in reality as great a bane to the prosperity of a community as the "shavers," it must strike every man of business whose motto is "live and let live," that they check a healthy flow of the circulating medium of a place which grows out of the fair profits of its business. Incorporated companies who monopolize the business of a place by large sales and low profits, are detrimental to its prosperity. Any monopoly whether individual or incorporated, of any business, is an incubus, effecting every ramification of a community, from the property holder, to the laborer. People naturally seek to purchase cheap articles, without considering that really it is of no benefit to them, for the more liberal the profits of the business of a community, the better will be the condition of the circulating medium of that community. The laborer may purchase cheaply, but he will find his labor depreciate in a greater ratio, while property-holders will find that as their tenants suffer in the depression of business consequent upon a check in the healthy condition of the circulating medium, they themselves are equally affected by depreciation in the value of their property. Why was money scarce last year? All know that it was caused by Coal yielding no profit to the producers. Commencing with the Coal Trade, and running through every branch of business in the Region, it is the same. Low profits affect all. This is the reason why cheap traffickers are baneful to a community, and should be avoided rather than encouraged. We do not advocate high prices in any branch of business, but urge as the best policy, a fair remuneration for the investment and labor of our business circles.

THE REPEAL OF THE USURY LAWS.—The assertion that money is merely merchandize, and consequently markeable at any price it will command, is untrue. It is not merchandize, as it has a fixed standard of value, established by law, while the value of merchandize is regulated by circumstances, not law. Every well regulated government perceives the necessity of having money cheap, for by that policy the producing interests are fostered, and the wealth of the country enhanced. While European capital seeks investment abroad, here money is scarce—and would be if the usury laws were repealed, confined to the hands of shavers to the detriment of the legitimate business of the country. It is evident since the question of the repeal of the usury laws has been agitated, that reckless borrowers and money lenders are alone in favor of their repeal. The mass of the city press advocate the repeal to benefit the drones of business, who to some extent, as far as exchange etc., are concerned, are necessary, but who constitute an evil when they increase to formidable numbers. These drones control the money articles of the city press. Hence the tone favorable to the repeal of the usury laws which pervades them.

Were the usury laws of Pennsylvania repealed at this time when half the landed property of the State is mortgaged, money being scarce the price would go up, while property would depreciate.—Property-holders would suffer with a landed aristocracy springing up based on capital, multiplied at their expense, and to the injury of the producer and trader, whose business will not warrant the payments of high rates for money.

Wherever money does not by law possess a fixed valuation, the money-holder enhances his power, while the business man is impoverished. Very properly, the majority of the States place a valuation on money, regulated by position and circumstances. Paper growing out of money, is a different matter, as it is but the representative of money, based upon the credit of the person who issues it. The standing of that person, and the risk run in accepting it, regulate its value in market. Money is different. Its value can be fixed upon it, and ought to be for the benefit of all classes.—Laws should protect the producers, those who add to the wealth of a country by their labor, while the drones, who are an incubus on its prosperity, yet clamor the loudest for rights and privileges, merit no consideration for their Shylock propensities. "Shavers," middle-men, and others of the same kidney, who step in between the consumer and the producer, are adverse to the interests of both, enhancing the price to the former, while they leech-like, extract the life-blood of business from the veins of the other. If distress must be brought with lightning speed into our borders, crushing to the earth the producing classes, then repeal the Usury Laws. Money-holders can then exult, as they lay out, cold and stiff, the form of a once thriving, healthy, cheerful business.

THE POPULATION OF SCHUYLKILL COUNTY.—In our recent statement of the remarkable growth of this County in population, we neglected to give a comparison of the population at stated periods from 1820 up to the present time. Schuylkill was erected into a county, in 1811, and in 1820 the first census was taken. To show how rapid our increase in this respect has been, we give the annexed statistics:

Population in 1820,	11,339
" " 1830,	20,744
" " 1840,	29,053
" " 1850,	62,212
" " 1856, (est.)	96,900

In the estimate for 1856 we rate the population at 5 persons to a taxable. The list of taxables being 19,380, gives the total stated.

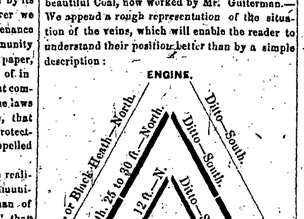
In noticing the population of a radius of four miles from the office of the *Miners' Journal*, some of our cotemporaries have fallen into an error.—While we included only the Boroughs within that radius which contain a population of 28,950, they sum it up as the total population of that radius.—The total population of a radius of four miles from the spot at which we pen this, is 36,700, or 7,647 more souls than the entire county contained in 1840. The increase in the total population of the county, is certainly remarkable,—a parallel to which cannot we presume be found in the last twenty years history of any other county in the State.

REAL ESTATE SALES.

VALUABLE PROPERTY for Sale.—The house and lot now occupied by John R. Dehm, in Norwegian street, 50 feet front by 110 feet deep. Also, a lot 30 by 110 feet, now occupied by E. Ber the North, to the adjoining the above. Terms to suit purchaser. Apply to the South. Mr. McGinnes

Pottsville, October — successfully established the theory that this celebrated White Ash Vein was accessible at the saddles of the Basins while traversing the Region, and this fact at each successive proof of its truth, tends to enhance the value of the lands in the Southern portion of our Coal Basin. It was thought that the Mammoth Vein as it ran South into the lower Basins, would when opened, be found crushed, and not prove so valuable as it is at the Broad Mountain. The fallacy of this impression is fully established, by the shaft at St. Clair, by the boring at the North American Coal Tract, by the evidences of the Vein in the 3d Basin, and finally by the opening of the Mammoth Vein, by Messrs. John G. Howes & Co., owners of the Eagle Hill Tract, (316 acres) in the centre of the great Schuylkill Coal Basin, 2½ miles above Port Carbon, and ¾ of a mile below the most Southern opening of the Mammoth vein up to the period of its opening on the Eagle Hill Tract. The opening in this instance has been effected on the North anticlinal of the Peach Mountain Basin,—also known as the 5th Basin of the series.

By a very nice mathematical calculation, Mr. Howes bored down to the Vein, and struck it on the saddle. After striking the vein, Mr. Howes sank down on the Black Heath or 7 feet vein, which pitches at about 80 degrees. He went down 100 yards with a pitch at bottom of 78 degrees. A tunnel was then driven South 75 feet to the Mammoth vein, which has a pitch of 58 degrees, and is only 5 feet where cut, evidently in a pinch, being on the North pitch of the Basin. In the upper side of the gangway however, it widens out and increases in thickness so rapidly, that at 44 feet up the pitch there are 14½ feet of splendid Coal, including 3 inches of slate over the bottom bench. Upon inspection of the Coal at the Mine we found it as pure as any at the Broad Mountain. At the face of the working on the Eagle Hill Tract, the pitch of bottom slate is 40 degrees, regular and undisturbed, while the top slate has a pitch of 60 degrees. By driving a few yards further, present appearances indicate that the vein will widen out to the usual thickness, between 20 and 30 feet. By driving the East gangway a few yards, Messrs. Howes & Co. will get into this thick Coal, as the Basin inclines East. An interesting fact in connection with this opening is that the 7 feet or Black Heath Vein, overlaying the Mammoth on which they sunk, crops out at the surface right over the saddle, at a distance of only about 30 feet, from the outcrop of the Southern pitch of the same vein, leaving a space sufficient between to erect the necessary power to work both slopes North and South. Immediately under the Mammoth lies the Skidmore Vein, which contains 12 feet of beautiful Coal, now worked by Mr. Guiterman.—We append a rough representation of the situation of the veins, which will enable the reader to understand their position better than by a simple description:



Tunnel Across, 320 feet.

The shaft on the 7 feet vein is sunk to the depth of 300 feet at the point where they started the Tunnel North to strike the Mammoth Vein. They propose extending this tunnel South so as to cut the Southern pitch of the Mammoth a distance of 171 feet and also the South dip of the 7 feet vein, which would be 75 feet further. They can then run up a slope on the South dip of the 7 feet vein and work this Colliery from both slopes. The tunnel cut across at the bottom of the slope would also cut the North and South dip of the Skidmore or 12 feet vein, which also could be worked from the same opening. The extent of breast on the North pitch of the 7 feet vein would be 300 feet; on the North pitch of the Mammoth, about 180 feet; on the Skidmore, about 100 feet. On the South pitch which is not so steep, it would be about 150 feet on the Skidmore, 300 on the Mammoth and about 400 feet on the 7 feet vein, making one of the most extensive White Ash Collieries in the Region, only 2½ miles from the landings, from which the Coal can be delivered in the cars at Mount Carbon, for only 16 cents per ton transportation. The Schuylkill Valley which has been going backwards for some time past, ought evidently to begin to look up again.

Messrs. Howes and Innes, who have been active in making this development, which has consumed a year's time, and considerable means, deserve much credit for the addition they have made to the knowledge possessed of the condition of the Mammoth Vein in the various Basins of the series. By its development in the 5th Basin, this splendid White Ash Coal is brought nearer to a market where its purity must always command for it ready sale. A year will probably elapse before the Vein will be properly opened, suitable machinery erected, and the necessary improvements put up at the Eagle Hill Tract.—When worked it must prove most profitable to all interested, as the Coal is a splendid article.

A GENERAL IMPROVEMENT LAW.—Applications to the Legislature are being made for the incorporation of mining companies, with special privileges. We have always opposed special acts of incorporation, as unjust to the community where a large number of persons are engaged in the same business. When recently a furore existed for the incorporation of Mining Companies, we fought them off here, while a number were obtained for other Regions. Experience has demonstrated that no sane person would think of mining, associated in a company. Such associations are capitail plans for speculations and to sell stock, but in mining they fail. The proper plan in every Coal Region is simply—let the landholders make the necessary improvements, and lease to individuals. In the Shamokin, on the Broad Top and in the Wyoming Regions, this plan has been adopted, and works well. It must eventually, be so everywhere.

In this Region so far, individual enterprise has developed its mineral resources, and has answered every purpose; but the time at last has arrived, when with large tracts of undeveloped land, and expenses of mining greatly increased, individuals find it impossible with limited resources to operate with advantage. Under these circumstances improvement companies can very properly step in under the liberal provisions of a general improvement law. In the Southern portion of the Schuylkill Coal Basin, where the Coal is very generally worked out above water level, tracts are small and won't pay in some instances. Now to work to advantage, shafts should by means of combined capital be sunk to the red ash measures in the deeper portions of the Basin. To effect this a liberal improvement law is necessary. It is true that a general mining law is projected at this session, but it is not liberal enough to invite the association of capital to develope the Region to the extent desirable. To make the needed improvements and lease them to individual operators, can only be effected with advantage to both, by the enactment of a liberal general improvement law stripped of special privileges. No opposition to such a law would be experienced in Schuylkill county, as especially the Southern portion needs developing which can be effected only by companies, as far as making the improvements is concerned. If an improvement law should be adopted, let it be one that we need, liberal in its provisions, one in which an association of capital combined with the exertions of individual operators, shall fully develope our mineral treasures.

A general improvement law embracing in it to a reasonable extent the individual liability clause, is preparing, especially adapted to this County. It will we think, meet the wishes of the people of this County, who were perfectly satisfied as long as individual enterprise met every business contingency; but who now very naturally feel favorable to an association of capital to make improvements needed by individual enterprise.

AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST.—This monthly occupies a prominent position among the Agricultural publications of the country. The publication office is, 191 Water street, New York. *Orange Judd, A. M.*, is editor and proprietor. The terms are $1 00 per annum. The contents for February embrace almost every subject of interest to the farmer and gardener, while the editorials evince a vigor of style and familiarity with the practical branches of the profession, which must have the happiest effect upon its readers.—Those wishing to receive a reliable, spirited agricultural publication should subscribe for the *American Agriculturist*.

BOOTS, SHOES, [illegible]

SHOES, [illegible] Running [illegible] made in the *Register*, [illegible] We hope it will lead to an investigation which will in all probability, elicit the [illegible] falsity of the charges. We are no [illegible] of the management of the Poor [illegible] our readers well know—but a [illegible] time, we are willing that all [illegible] heard through our columns so that [illegible] may be done to all parties, and the naked truth elicited if possible:

NORTH MAHANOY, Feb. 9th, 1857.

The Mining Register—Sir of the 7th inst., contains an article in relation to the ill treatment of the insane at the Schuylkill County Alms House. The writer of that article was misinformed, for it contains statements that are not correct, and unjustly censures the steward, Charles Mullen, who has recently received the appointment of Prison Warden. Rumor says that the Court will not confirm this appointment, but we place too much confidence in their good sense, to imagine for one moment that their judgment can be biased by rumor alone.

The committee appointed by the Court, to inquire into the charges made against the management of the Alms House, whilst there, fully exonerated Mr. Mullen from any blame whatever, and it is passing strange that their report did not agree with the statement they then made. The Directors authorised an exception, to the report of said committee, be printed to the Court and published. For the non-appearance of the same, probably their Attorney can give satisfactory reasons; or will it like the report of the committee, be held a year. Of course we would not intimate, that either had anything to do with the election of Prison Warden.

Upon the authority of two persons of "high standing," the writer of the article contained in the *Register* states that a German woman was confined unclothed, in a cold cell, without a bed, day and night. This is not correct, for never did that woman pass a single night, without a bed. The cell she occupies, is the warmest in the Hospital, being situated in the centre of the building, and is well warmed, day and night; and during the coldest weather we have had this winter, was not once uncomfortably cold. At the present time every inmate of the Insane department is well clothed, and all have comfortable beds to lie on at night. The German woman referred to is, and has been for some time past clothed, and walks during the greater part of each day, in the hall of insane department. The inmates, of the Alms House were never better provided for, than at the present time, and a more humane, upright man than Charles Mullen, never had charge of the same, whose wish is, that one of those gentlemen of "high standing," had received the appointment some three years since, when he was a rival candidate for the stewardship.

N. M.

We would here take occasion to remark, that if something is not done to arrest the increase of pauperism in Schuylkill County, the taxation required to support the Paupers, will in a few years, amount to $40,000 a year—which is more than the present assessment of taxes for capacity of the County purposes, and the present buildings will have to be doubled. Every cell, we learn, is now occupied in the Insane Department, some with two inmates—every hole and corner is filled with beds—about 80 lodged in the loft of the Insane Hospital—and some are compelled to sleep on the floor in the Hall of the Hospital.

Clergymen seldom go near the Alms House unless sent for—Public Officers seem to avoid it—our Judges of the Courts never visit it, as many of them do in other counties, and the Steward informs us it is not visited by Editors to find fault with it any longer. It seems to be a forsaken and God-stricken Institution in our midst, rapidly eating out the substance of the people. And what is the cause of nine-tenths of this Pauperism, Degradation and Misery? We answer—*Rum!* RUM!! RUM!!! The people cry, open the flood-gates of Liquid fire and damnation—the tax-gatherer cries, *Money!* MONEY!! MONEY!!! to support drunkards and those pauperized by Rum, and all seem to fold their arms and look on with indifference at this sad spectacle of human woe and misery.

HIGH TONED, HONORABLE MERCHANTS.—For years, Philadelphia has enjoyed an enviable mercantile reputation. The word of a Philadelphia merchant is high as good as his bond, while the Southern or Western purchaser deals confidently with him. Prominent among the high-toned, honorable, manly mercantile firms of Philadelphia, stand M. L. Hallowell & Co. During the last Presidential contest, when a strict political surveillance had the temerity to question the principles of Philadelphia's men of business, the firm of Hallowell & Co., returned an answer, which for its independence lost them in the extreme South a business amounting to $80,000 per month, yet stamped them as men not to be intimidated into a cringing, servile position. The Card they published awakened the admiration of true men, North and South, and gained them eventually a custom far exceeding that which they previously enjoyed. We point to the position this firm occupies, as a bright example to the young merchant who wishes to succeed in business, and be distinguished as high-toned and honorable.

RASCALLY PROCEEDINGS.—It is the practice of members of the Legislature to pass acts of incorporations, for instance railway, unasked for by the public, for the purpose of interfering with companies in existence, and frightening them into a purchase of bogus charters. This is a species of robbery that cannot be too severely condemned. It is rascally. There are some instances of this kind of work this session, we regret to say.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

GRAHAM'S MAGAZINE for March is on our table. The principal illustration is superb. There's much literary matter, original and selected, finely illustrated. The fashion and pattern plates are interesting, while the Editor's Easy Talk is not the least pleasing feature of the March number. This Magazine maintains the enviable reputation, which Watson & Co., have secured for it.—Copies can be obtained at Bannan's.

GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK.—"Hitherjies Bairn," is the title of the principal embellishment of the March number. It is really very fine—worth indeed more than the price asked for a single copy of the Book. Friend Godey merits no cial praise for the liberality he exhibits in the department of his popular Magazine. The fashion and pattern plates are numerous, useful and interesting, while the literary and editorial departments are up to Godey's mark of excellence. Copies can be obtained at Bannan's.

Local Affairs.

About four inches of snow fell on Thursday night. Yesterday morning, rain. In the afternoon, clear.—Variety enough in the weather line.

The Gas Difficulty.—The difficulty between the consumers and the Pottsville Gas Company has been amicably settled, by the Company making the improvements demanded by the consumers. The gas is now furnished at $3 per 1000 cubic feet, with 5 per cent. off for prompt payment of bills, and no charge for use of meters.

Washington's Birth Day.—This anniversary comes this year on Sunday. An appropriate, instructive and religious observance of the day, will take place in the First Methodist Church, on which occasion, the pastor, Rev. Mr. Gray, will deliver a discourse to the members of the Washington Artillerists, Scott Rifles and Pottsville Brass Band.

Young Mens' Christian Association.—The third lecture of the course before this Association will be delivered, on Tuesday evening next, by Rev. Dudley A. Tyng. Subject, "Young America." The ability of Mr. Tyng will enable him to do justice to the subject. We earnestly hope that one of the most brilliant audiences of the season will on Tuesday evening next, welcome the talented gentleman to our Mountain Borough.

Store Robbery.—Kleiner's store at Mt. Carbon, was entered on Saturday night last through the back window, and robbed of two gold and one silver watch, and about $25 in money. Michael Lanegan was suspected of committing the robbery, and on Thursday was arrested by Constable Christ. The three watches were recovered—Lan gan was subsequently, held to bail to answer, and finally absconded, thereby forfeiting his recognizances.

The furniture of Mr. Fisher's dwelling in Morris Addition, was damaged to the extent of $300 in the early part of the week, in consequence of the old works of a mine on Sharp Mountain, back of the house, filling up with water, which overflowed and ran down the hill into and through Mr. F.'s dwelling. It was caused by the heavy thaw experienced on Saturday and Sunday last.—Almost too moist a visitor for comfort.

The Judge's new deputy is *au fait* in his duties. To him we are indebted for a meteorological notation of the current week:

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

Sat.,	Feb. 7.	8 A. M.	—40 degrees above zero—	cloudy.
Mon.,	" 9,	"	—24 " " "	— "
Tues.,	" 10,	"	—16 " " "	—clear.
Wed.,	" 11,	"	—10 " " "	— "
Thurs.,	" 12,	"	—18 " " "	— "
Fri.,	" 13,	"	—36 " " "	—snowing.

Arrest of Alleged Highway Robbers.—Recently James L. Yoder was stopped on the highway below Mt Carbon, and robbed of a watch and chain and some money. The act was perpetrated by four men. John Killeen and James McGovern, charged with being concerned in the robbery are under arrest. It appears that the watch and chain were pawned in Philadelphia subsequently, for some $40; and that after the arrest of these men, the tickets received from the pawn-broker, were found in a pocket of Killeen's clothing at Mr. Dooley's below Mt. Carbon, where Killeen boarded. The men have been committed to answer.

The Harmony of the Bible and Science.—On Tuesday evening last, the last lecture of the course for the benefit of the Second Methodist Episcopal Church, was delivered by the Rev. Geo. R. Crooks, of Wilmington, Del. His subject was peculiarly interesting, treating as it did, the revelations of the Bible compared with the truths of science. The scientific character of the lecture renders any attempt to give an adequate idea of its merits and tenor, in a brief space, entirely futile. Mr. Crooks ridiculed the theory to be found in "Vestiges of Creation" that man is but an improved form of animal life, which commenced originally with the "capital oyster," and that the earth was originally particles of matter in space, having a rotary motion from west to east, finally combining, and throwing off here a planet, and there a satellite. In Mr. Crooks' opinion, some scientific men in their wild vagaries would actually shove the Creator out of his sphere, to establish the truths of their theories. Mr. Crooks adduced many interesting facts in the vegetable and animal kingdoms, and in science, all proving the wisdom of God, and the harmony which exists between Divine Revelation and science.

A fair audience was in attendance, and listened with attention and interest to the lecturer, whose efforts to establish the truths of that he urged, were we think, most successful.

The Second lecture of the course before the Young Men's Christian Association of this [illegible] Methodist Church, by Rev. J. A. Brown of Reading, on the subject of Woman's Rights. It was fairly and ably handled, the lecturer neither adopting the views of those masculine feminines, who contend that woman should be on a perfect equality with men in every respect, nor defending those who would degrade woman into the condition of a serf. Mr. Brown endeavored very successfully to show that woman taken from her proper sphere which is the social and home companion of man, and placed in the active duties of life, now the peculiar care of man, would not only unsex her, but destroy that beautiful harmony between the sexes, established by the Creator. Its place of elevating, it would degrade her as man would lose that tender interest and respect for her, which her physical weakness now claims for her, and which she receives at his hands. In proportion as the opposite sexes move in their peculiar spheres of life, in proportion they harmonize, fulfill the laws of God and Nature, and become mutually elevated. Let their worldly interests clash, and they contend for honors, riches, fame and the emoluments of office in the arena of life, woman would relapse into an Amazonian state, while man would become barbarian.

Mr. Brown alluded to the condition of woman among the various nations of the earth, and pointed to the Bible as a friend that woman should cherish. To its influence is woman indebted for the position she occupies in Christian lands. Loved, respected, cherished, aye, fairly idolized, she is the object of man's tenderest solicitude. She does not it is true, enjoy co-equal with many political rights, and share with him the cares and honors of office, but she is his bosom friend, the soother of his sorrows, and partaker of his joys. This in Mr. Brown's opinion, is a right which is peculiarly woman's, and one that elevates her and conduces to her greatest happiness.

The lecture was very interesting, and was listened to with marked attention by the auditory present. The audience was not as large as it should have been. We trust that the next lecture will attract a better attendance. This course of the Association is certainly, most entertaining and instructive.

Movements of an Alleged Murderer—His Sojourn in Pottsville.—On Monday, the 20th of January, a stranger entered our Borough, via the Reading Railway. On the 27th after inspecting the town, and being, we presume, pleased with its location, inhabitants, etc., he selected a comfortable dwelling on Callowhill street, which was for rent, and subsequently called upon the proprietor, Mr. L. Womelsdorf. To that gentleman he expressed his desire to lease it; stated that he was a boss carpenter of Philadelphia, wishing to remove here and go into business. He gave excellent references, and paid Mr. Womelsdorf $100 in advance as part of the contract.—In signing the terms of the lease at the Squire's office, he while in trembling, nervous style "Thomas Bragg." In appearance he is about 6 feet high, square build, rather dark, beard under his chin, and altogether, was a pretty good looking fellow. After securing the house "Bragg" proceeded to furnish it in splendid style, and then introduced into it, in the course of the week, two females that it appears he picked up in Reading, but whom he represented here as being his wife and sister. Things progressed quietly for a few days, until Mr. Womelsdorf began to suspect the character of the occupants of his house, and on Sunday, the 1st inst., Mr. W. called upon "Bragg," and informed him that he wished to speak with him the following morning. The man trembled and looked confused. Mr. W. left. In the first train next morning for Philadelphia the man took his departure, actually slipping through the fingers of those who were after the $1000 reward offered by the Governor for his arrest. The following day, officer Blackburn reached Pottsville, supposing him to be under arrest, but the bird had flown.

The man it appears, is charged with murdering Norcross, near Altoona, Pa., on the line of the Pennsylvania Railroad, on the 10th of January, and then robbing his victim of $3500. He might readily have been arrested here or while *en route* to Philadelphia; and the three or four days start he had after leaving Pottsville, has undoubtedly by this time, placed him far beyond the reach of immediate pursuit.

On Saturday last, the furniture, etc., in the house here were seized by the Sheriff, for the benefit of the estate of the murdered man and the women who were with "Braggs" went down the road to Reading. It is possible however, that officer Blackburn who went down in the same train, compelled them to continue their journey to Philadelphia, where their evidence may be important.

The Borough School Statistics.—In our Report recently, we omitted the following schools:

School for Little Boys and Girls, in the Lecture Room of the English Lutheran Church, Miss A. Strauch, Teacher.

No. pupils on roll,	40
Average attendance,	35

Studies.—Primary English branches.
(Of course we were in error in stating that this school had been broken up.)

German Reformed Sunday School.—Rev. J. E. Graeff, Superintendent; Morgan Reed, Secretary.

Pupils on roll,	136
Average attendance,	90
Teachers (male, 17; female, 20,)	37
No. vols. in Library,	225

First Methodist Episcopal Church—W. L. Gray, Pastor; Benjamin Haywood, Supt.; Wm. D. Hodgson, Asst. Supt.; D. L. Dodson, Sec.; W. Mortimer, Treas.

Pupils on roll,	225
Average attendance,	200
Teachers (male, 13; female, 20,)	33
Infant school, Mrs. Chas. Bushar, teacher,	
No. of scholars,	41
Total No. of Vols. in Library,	770

School for Misses, Second street, above Norwegian—Mrs. Young, teacher.

No. of Pupils on roll,	22
Average attendance,	18
Average age of pupils,	12

The number of scholars in Mrs. Young's school is not large. It has just been opened, and was started under disadvantage. Her school however, is steadily increasing in the number of its pupils, and in popularity.

Recapitulation.

AND COMPARISON WITH FORMER YEARS.

		1854.	1855.
Public Schools—Male Pupils,		590	833
	Female "	516	686
		1106	1519
Private Schools—Male Pupils,		139	40
	Female "	250	62
	Mixed "	214	272
	Females, "	—	280
		603	654
		2100	1914
Total in Borough receiving instructions,		2704	2568
No. vols. in S. S. Libraries,		5980	6275

All the Sabbath Schools are Protestant, except one—the Irish Roman Catholic. The day school of the German Catholic Church, is combined with the Sabbath School.

There are 14 Public Schools in the Borough:—1 High School, 5 Male, 8 Female; 11 Private Schools:—1 Male School, 4 Female Seminaries; and 6 mixed; and 13 Sabbath Schools:—12 Protestant and 1 Roman Catholic.

	1851.	'52.	'53.	'54.	'56.
Public Schools,	1027	1194	1102	1106	1519
Private Protestant,	289	290	257	303	203
Private Catholic,	229	240	355	436	280
Sabbath,	1097	1958	2348	2100	1914
S. S. Volumes,		4917	5709	5980	5505

Winter in the Country.—"Puddleford Papers" says—"At sunrise, the blue-jays and other birds gathered about the door and garden, to peck the dry seeds that the weeds were shedding on the earth. What are snow-birds? Where do they live? See them chirping in yonder ray of sunlight—darting hither and thither, like motes in a beam of light. See them go whirling through the tempest, like angel spirits, beautiful in the very midst of the storm. What are they? Do they sleep on the wings of the wind, or hide themselves in a scroll of snow? How is it that these little singing harps live on amid such dreary scenes. The blue-jays, however, were very petulant. Their gorgeous summer plumage was exceedingly mussed and they went about from bush to bush, and tree to tree, screaming and fretting at each other and themselves. They acted like so many Siberian prisoners, who were forced to brave the blasts as the penalty of some crime they had committed.

Sometimes, a keen, frosty night would be succeeded by a still sunny day, when the eaves pattered their sleepy music, and the cows strayed away into the forest, as though they smelt approaching spring—when the cats flew out of the house, and chased each other up into the trees, and the dog went away by himself wandering along the river-banks for reasons known only to himself.

There were visiting days, holidays, jubilee days! for those animals that were housed in trees, and burrowed in the earth. Go forth into the woods. You may, on such a day, see the squirrel push out his head from the door of his castle, where he has been confined for a month, and cautiously look over the landscape—then dart to again. Soon he pushes himself out farther, and farther, and timidly glides down to the foot of the tree. Then he tries the snow, and then again, and finally goes cantering to the nearest stump, and chirruping, up he goes with a flirt, throws his tail over his back, sits down, and breaks forth into a burst of song.

Do you believe that squirrel remembers his last summer ramble in those woods—you rivulet where he frank, now sleeping beneath its silver frost-work, and chanting its low, muffled dirge—you icy knoll, that stood, last June, a pyramid of flowers—you Hickory where he knawed his nuts? Is his song for the present or the past?

Look a little farther—the solemn tread of the turkey—who is busy disinterring some of the buried mast of autumn. Such a day is a bright page in the winter life of the turkey. She comes forth from beneath the roots of upturned trees, from thickets, or hollow logs, where she has been so long cowering and starving, to hail the blessed warmth. She disarmed away the summer, stalking about from wood to stream, and stream to wood—she passed the provident squirrel often, in October, and saw him roll in his winter stores, but she didn't know why; and now she is shovelling the snow, scattering it right and left with her feet, with a melancholy twit! twit! to get a kernel of bread.

Farther on, is a little gorge sloping up from the brook, and on such days the snows melt off, and the banks grow warm, and the green grass shines as brightly as it did in May. It is soft and spring-like *there*. The sunbeams seem to be all tangled together in that spot.—There are clusters of winter birds sporting in this temple, and occasionally one breaks forth with a note or two of her last June's song, as though she were just twanging her harp to try its strings. They think those tangled sunbeams are the foot-fall of April, and so they chirrup, and flutter, and bow to them, and seem to ask where gentle May is, and when she is coming with her music and flowers.

Sometimes the fog from the river would freeze upon the trees during a night, and the sun would rise upon a forest all burst out into a white bloom. As the sun rose higher, the little particles glittered and flashed, and then it was a forest of silver—every shrub, every bush, every twig, was silver. The woods were a frozen poem—written in a night by invisible fingers to be read for an hour of two, and then scattered away in shining scales forever. These natural changes and beauties were all that there were to attract attention, and arrest our out-door thoughts. How different is all this from the life of a resident of some large city—where the life of a man is read in the street—and where each day shifts its pictures with its revolutions, like the changing colors of a kaleidoscope!

Wonders [illegible] *Men's* Christian Association of [illegible] delivered on Monday evening at the [illegible] Methodist Church, by Rev. J. A. Brown of Reading, on the subject of Woman's Rights. It was fairly and ably handled, the lecturer neither adopting the views of those masculine feminines, who contend that woman should be on a perfect equality with men in every respect, nor defending those who would degrade woman into the condition of a serf. Mr. Brown endeavored very successfully to show that woman taken from her proper sphere which is the social and home companion of man, and placed in the active duties of life, now the peculiar care of man, would not only unsex her, but destroy that beautiful harmony between the sexes, established by the Creator. Its place of elevating, it would degrade her as man would lose that tender interest and respect for her, which her physical weakness now claims for her, and which she receives at his hands. In proportion as the opposite sexes move in their peculiar spheres of life, in proportion they harmonize, fulfill the laws of God and Nature, and become mutually elevated. Let their worldly interests clash, and they contend for honors, riches, fame and the emoluments of office in the arena of life, woman would relapse into an Amazonian state, while man would become barbarian.

Mr. Brown alluded to the condition of woman among the various nations of the earth, and pointed to the Bible as a friend that woman should cherish. To its influence is woman indebted for the position she occupies in Christian lands. Loved, respected, cherished, aye, fairly idolized, she is the object of man's tenderest solicitude. She does not it is true, enjoy co-equal with many political rights, and share with him the cares and honors of office, but she is his bosom friend, the soother of his sorrows, and partaker of his joys. This in Mr. Brown's opinion, is a right which is peculiarly woman's, and one that elevates her and conduces to her greatest happiness.

The lecture was very interesting, and was listened to with marked attention by the auditory present. The audience was not as large as it should have been. We trust that the next lecture will attract a better attendance. This course of the Association is certainly, most entertaining and instructive.

Movements of an Alleged Murderer—His Sojourn in Pottsville.—On Monday, the 20th of January, a stranger entered our Borough, via the Reading Railway. On the 27th after inspecting the town, and being, we presume, pleased with its location, inhabitants, etc., he selected a comfortable dwelling on Callowhill street, which was for rent, and subsequently called upon the proprietor, Mr. L. Womelsdorf. To that gentleman he expressed his desire to lease it; stated that he was a boss carpenter of Philadelphia, wishing to remove here and go into business. He gave excellent references, and paid Mr. Womelsdorf $100 in advance as part of the contract.—In signing the terms of the lease at the Squire's office, he while in trembling, nervous style "Thomas Bragg." In appearance he is about 6 feet high, square build, rather dark, beard under his chin, and altogether, was a pretty good looking fellow. After securing the house "Bragg" proceeded to furnish it in splendid style, and then introduced into it, in the course of the week, two females that it appears he picked up in Reading, but whom he represented here as being his wife and sister. Things progressed quietly for a few days, until Mr. Womelsdorf began to suspect the character of the occupants of his house, and on Sunday, the 1st inst., Mr. W. called upon "Bragg," and informed him that he wished to speak with him the following morning. The man trembled and looked confused. Mr. W. left. In the first train next morning for Philadelphia the man took his departure, actually slipping through the fingers of those who were after the $1000 reward offered by the Governor for his arrest. The following day, officer Blackburn reached Pottsville, supposing him to be under arrest, but the bird had flown.

The man it appears, is charged with murdering Norcross, near Altoona, Pa., on the line of the Pennsylvania Railroad, on the 10th of January, and then robbing his victim of $3500. He might readily have been arrested here or while *en route* to Philadelphia; and the three or four days start he had after leaving Pottsville, has undoubtedly by this time, placed him far beyond the reach of immediate pursuit.

On Saturday last, the furniture, etc., in the house here were seized by the Sheriff, for the benefit of the estate of the murdered man and the women who were with "Braggs" went down the road to Reading. It is possible however, that officer Blackburn who went down in the same train, compelled them to continue their journey to Philadelphia, where their evidence may be important.

The Borough School Statistics.—In our Report recently, we omitted the following schools:

School for Little Boys and Girls, in the Lecture Room of the English Lutheran Church, Miss A. Strauch, Teacher.

No. pupils on roll,	40
Average attendance,	35

Studies.—Primary English branches.
(Of course we were in error in stating that this school had been broken up.)

German Reformed Sunday School.—Rev. J. E. Graeff, Superintendent; Morgan Reed, Secretary.

Pupils on roll,	136
Average attendance,	90
Teachers (male, 17; females, 10,)	27
No. vols. in Library,	225

First Methodist Episcopal Church—W. L. Gray, Pastor; Benjamin Ha