Wit and Humor.

PAYING FOR A SLEIGH RIDE.

AN INCIDENT OF THE LATE STORM.—

A new storm has produced [illegible] moonlight sleigh ride of happy [illegible] John if a young goat was ever in [illegible] visible situation then the here [illegible] PA.

In the afternoon [illegible] AT MARCH 7, 1857.

DR. KANE, THE ARCTIC NAVIGATOR.—At the early age of 34 years, died in February, at Havana, one of the most remarkable men of modern times. Young, ardent, enthusiastic, every zone witnessed his active duties in his country's service, and the Arctic Regions of the North were the scene of his philanthropic and self-sacrificing endeavors to penetrate the mystery which envelopes the fate of Sir John Franklin, and relieve the agony of a courageous, yet despairing wife.—Impaired in health he returns from his last Northern cruise in search of the remains of the English commander and his brave crew, seeks a European climate for relief, and finally drops anchor in the haven of Eternity, after wasting away beneath the sunny skies of the Queen of the Antilles. Dr. Kane received every attention in his last moments, from the American citizens there, and the Spanish authorities paid marked respect to his remains after his death. From Havana to New Orleans, up the Mississippi and Ohio, through Pennsylvania to Philadelphia, everywhere the greatest attention is shown the remains. The pulpit, the bar, the forum and the press have rendered feeling tribute to his memory—the nation mourns while the inanimate form of the gallant Kane is borne in silence and tears to the city of his birth.

Elisha Kent Kane was born in Philadelphia, on the 3d of February, 1822. From his earliest years remarks the New York *Dispatch*, his spirit was devoted to investigation and adventure, and while yet a youth mastered the most difficult sciences.—To him, the labyrinths of chemistry, geology, mineralogy, astronomy and surgery were as familiar as the avenues of his native city. Knowledge came to him, as it were, by intuition. His mind penetrated to causes, and results were not difficult of comprehension. He matriculated at the University of Pennsylvania, and entering the Navy of the United States as a surgeon, his career of usefulness commenced. He had previously scaled the Blue Mountains of Virginia, in search of geological knowledge. Availing himself of his position in the Navy, he successively visited China, the Phillipine Islands, Ceylon, etc., and penetrated the interior recesses of India.—Suspended by a bamboo-rope around his body, he descended—the second person who had ever attempted the daring deed—the crater of Taal of Luzon, from a projecting crag two hundred and three feet above its scorise and debris. While in the Indian Archipelago, he narrowly escaped with his life from the Ladrones, who assailed him; and he sustained, successfully, hardships under which a kindred spirit, the learned Baron Louis of Brussels, succumbed and died in Java. His adventurous disposition next brought Dr. Kane to Egypt. Ascending the Nile, he passed a season on the confines of Nubia, among the favorite scenes of antiquarian explorations, inspiring deep draughts of archeological knowledge from the inexhaustible fountains of the past—remnants of the works of mighty nations, whose coming and going are almost as mysterious as the wrecks they have left behind them. Next he traversed the historic fields of Greece, Italy, and returned to the United States, through Europe, in 1846. In the following year we find him on the coast of Africa; but taking the African fever, he was sent home in an exceedingly precarious state of health. Recovering soon after his return, he took an active and much-merited part as a volunteer in the war then pending between the United States and Mexico. In 1850 he sailed as a senior surgeon and naturalist of the American squadron sent by the government in search of Sir John Franklin. His success in this expedition as an archeological and scientific contributor, are well known and thoroughly appreciated by the learned societies of Europe and America, to many of which he was admitted a member. While he thus devoted himself to the various branches of knowledge, he did not neglect his profession, as his essay Xyestine, written in 1843, which attracted considerable notice from adepts in medical lore, attests. As a lecturer, his name is familiar to not only those who congregate at the Smithsonian Institute, but to the learned and unlearned of the great cities of the Atlantic in North America. To him are we indebted for that renewed effort to reclaim the missing English explorers; and which was to eventuate in crowning his own active life with the chaplet of death. We might here dwell upon his almost superhuman efforts in the Arctic region, during the years 1852, '53, '54 and '55, in the little brig *Advance*, but we shall refrain. His long confinement in the regions of the cold and dreary north are familiar to the public. His last fatal search was fruitless; but he has added tones of knowledge to science, which the world will not soon forgot. It is enough that he returned with the seeds of disease too firmly implanted in his system to be eradicated; and in the sunny clime of Cuba, on the 16th of February, 1857, Dr. Dick yet in the morning of life, he breathed his last.

Of the many allusions to Dr. Kane's decease, which have come under our observation, none strike us as being more beautiful than the address by the Rev. Charles Wadsworth, uttered on Sunday evening last in Philadelphia, in the course of an expressive discourse from the text, "Jesus wept:"

"Yes, Death is an evil and a bitter thing! Who does not know it? who has not felt it? and tonight, perhaps, more keenly than in our wont, we know it and feel it. We are, this holy hour, a city of mourners. Before another Sabbath comes with its blessed light, we shall have gone forth to pay funeral honors to one whom we all loved as a man, and honored as a citizen; in whose living deeds we all gloried, and whose early death we deplore with lamentations and tears. I am not thinking here to utter his eulogy; the occasion does permit it; the man does not need it; but it were a forgetfulness of God's great voice in his Providence, not to render here and now brief and humble tribute to the honored dead.

"Dr. Kane's career was a matter of national pride, and his death is a matter of national lamentation. He was a character singularly grand in its separate elements, and matchlessly beautiful in the harmony of their combination. The powers of a naturally keen and comprehensive mind had been strengthened by earnest culture, and developed in the widest range of practical and esoteric attainments—and these in all their fullness consecrated to the loftiest aims of beneficent usefulness.

"His *intellect* was at once strong and beautiful—keenly analytical with the severest philosophy—and exquisitely imaginative with the loftiest poetry. The combinations of his *moral* character were still more remarkable and wonderful. To the truest and tenderest sensibility were added the most iron will and the most indomitable decision; and with a dauntless bravery that equalled the glorious chivalry of the old ideal and fabulous heroism, was blended a calm, practical judgment—a marvellous and majestic patience—a beautiful simplicity and modesty—all rarely equalled in human biography. Meanwhile suffusing all this character *as* with a heavenly light, and blending all its rare qualities as with a Divine solvent into one exquisite amalgam—there was a living and controlling *purity* which made the whole man a living sacrifice to his fellows, and laid down all the spoils and trophies of his triumphs at his Master's feet. Qualities seldom combined, and indeed, seemingly antagonistical, were found in his heart and life, each in fullest power, and all in loveliest harmony. He thought like a philosopher—he wrote like a poet—he acted like a hero—he felt like a child—he lived like a man—he prayed like a Christian.

"He was at once the giant oak that battles with the *storm*, and the gentle vine that beautifies its gnarled trunk with its green leaves and purple clusters, and makes sweet alike zephyr and storm with its exquisite aroma.

"And as such he has died in the early prime and promise of his manhood—in the morning twilight of his brightening fame—just as his powers were reposing for loftier toils, and his benevolence kindling for broader enterprises—just as we were beginning fondly to appreciate the wonders of his past, and exultingly to prophecy the splendors of his future—just then he died; and we mourn for him—we weep for him—and why should we not weep? Science weeps! Humanity weeps! The world weeps! And it were unnatural—it were ungrateful—it were to prove ourselves cold, stolid, unsentient, dead to all generous impulses, false to our loftier and holier instincts, if we went not forth to his burial in tearful sorrow. For the Divine man of Nazareth was a pattern in all that is alike lofty and lovely in magnificent manhood, and over a tomb no gentler in its beauty—no loftier in its glory—JESUS WEPT, JESUS WEPT."

INAUGURATION OF MR. BUCHANAN.

HIS ADDRESS.

The streets of Washington City presented a brilliant appearance on Wednesday, the 4th of March, 1857. Flags waved from buildings in every direction. A number of military companies from abroad, with those of Washington, and some United States troops, had their places in the line of procession—all under the command of General A. Quitman. The procession with the President and President elect, commenced moving about 12 o'clock. It was an imposing cortege.—On reaching the Capitol, the military opened ranks, facing inwards and presented arms—through which the President and President elect, drove to the gate. There they alighted, were received by the Committee of the Senate, and ushered into the Senate Chamber, which was occupied by the chief dignitaries of the government by ladies, and by members of Congress. On the announcement of the arrival of the President and President elect, all rose to their feet. The President and President elect took the place assigned to them, and in a few minutes, all being prepared the venerable Roger B. Taney, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States advanced with a Bible in his hand. The President elect, rose, and that took the oath of office, as follows:

"I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

A line was then formed and all in the Senate Chamber proceeded to the eastern portion of the [illegible] o'clock, the President delivered his inaugural address, as follows:

The Inaugural Address.

FELLOW CITIZENS:—I stand before you this day to take the solemn oath "that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States." In entering upon this great office, I most humbly evoke the God of our Fathers for wisdom and firmness to execute its high and responsible duties in such a manner as to restore harmony and ancient friendship among the people of the several States, and to preserve our free institutions throughout many generations. Convinced that I owe my election to the inherent love for the Constitution and the Union, which still animates the hearts of the American people, let me earnestly ask their powerful support in sustaining all just measures calculated to perpetuate these, the richest political blessings which Heaven has ever bestowed upon any nation.

Having determined not to become a candidate for re-election, I shall have no motive to influence my conduct in administering the Government, except the dictates of my conscience. This will be my reward—this will be my ambition—and these in all their fullness consecrated to the loftiest aims of beneficent usefulness.

"His *intellect* was at once strong and beautiful—keenly analytical with the severest philosophy—and exquisitely imaginative with the loftiest poetry. The combinations of his *moral* character were still more remarkable and wonderful. To the truest and tenderest sensibility were added the most iron will and the most indomitable decision; and with a dauntless bravery that equalled the glorious chivalry of the old ideal and fabulous heroism, was blended a calm, practical judgment—a marvellous and majestic patience—a beautiful simplicity and modesty—all rarely equalled in human biography. Meanwhile suffusing all this character *as* with a heavenly light, and blending all its rare qualities as with a Divine solvent into one exquisite amalgam—there was a living and controlling *purity* which made the whole man a living sacrifice to his fellows, and laid down all the spoils and trophies of his triumphs at his Master's feet. Qualities seldom combined, and indeed, seemingly antagonistical, were found in his heart and life, each in fullest power, and all in loveliest harmony. He thought like a philosopher—he wrote like a poet—he acted like a hero—he felt like a child—he lived like a man—he prayed like a Christian.

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Local Affairs.

☞ *Fire.*—On Thursday evening, about half past 8 o'clock, the dwelling of Samuel E. Kepner, Esq., in East Market street, was slightly damaged by fire. It originated in a closet which was accidentally set on fire. The alarm being speedily given, the fire was extinguished before doing much damage.

☞ *Pott Carbon American Library Association.*—A course of four lectures for the benefit of this Association, will be held during the present month, the last one to be delivered on the 1st proximo. The names of the lecturers and their subjects will be found in a Notice published in our advertising columns. As these lectures promise to be very interesting, our Port Carbon neighbors would do well to accord them liberal patronage.

☞ *The Sillyman Forgeries.*—On Wednesday, James Wallace, the Coal Merchant of Philadelphia, who is charged with forging the name of Samuel Sillyman, Esq., to sundry promissory notes, was before our Court. As it was impossible to hold him for trial here on the charges against him, he was remanded to Philadelphia in charge of Constable Christ. Subsequently, before an Alderman of that city, Wallace entered security to answer.

☞ *Almost every* phase of weather has sojourned with us during the week. Not at all agreeable. The mud still remains uncomfortably deep. Our thermometrical notations for the week, are as follows:

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

Sat.,	Feb. 28,	8 A. M.	—33	degrees above zero—	clear.
Mon.,	March 2,	" "	—13	" " "	cloudy.
Tues.,	" 3,	" "	—12	" " "	clear.
Wed.,	" 4,	" "	—28	" " "	cloudy.
Thurs.,	" 5,	" "	—32	" " "	"
Fri.,	" 6,	" "	—44	" " "	"

☞ *Charge of Arson.*—On Thursday evening, George Wallace appeared before Squire Reed, and gave evidence in the case of James McGovern, charged with setting the store house of the Navigation Company, at Mount Carbon, on fire some weeks since. Wallace made a full confession of the whole thing, fully implicating McGovern as principal in the affair, and himself as accessory, although he states that he was drunk at the time of the act. Wallace gives a minute account of the affair, in which he states that he set McGovern apply fire to a bale of hay in the store-house. After setting the place on fire, they retreated to Ridgway's wharf in the vicinity, and after a crowd had collected on the alarm being given, they mingled with it. McGovern has been fully committed to answer the charge of arson, while Wallace is held to be dealt with as the Court may see proper.

☞ *Young Men's Christian Association.*—The next lecture before this Association is to be delivered by Dr. Wythes of Port Carbon, next Tuesday evening, at the Lutheran Church, in Market street, upon the subject, "A Drop of Water." Rather an insignificant subject it would at first seem, but a moment's reflection will show us that it is not so small a subject after all, and if there are any whose reflection does not lead them to this conclusion, we should advise them to go, by all means and learn what there is in a drop of water. It is really one of the most wonderful and powerful agents in nature, and we feel confident that Dr. Wythes will make the lecture one of the most interesting and instructive of the whole class. We understand that the subject will be illustrated by various experiments, showing the composition of water and the properties of the gases of which it is composed.

☞ *Death of Dr. Kane.*—At a meeting of the Pottsville Scientific Association, held at their rooms on the evening of the 28th ult., the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

WHEREAS, God, in His all-wise providence, has taken from the scene of his earthly labors in the cause of science and of Truth, *Dr. Elisha Kent Kane*, of Philadelphia.—

Resolved, That we, in common with others who have derived profit and pleasure from the perusal of his works, and the study of his example, feel called upon to express our profound regret at his early death.

Resolved, That the devotion of this man of science to the labors of his calling should teach us to follow his example, and to dare and do, for the cause of humanity and truth, regardless of our own personal comfort and temporal advantage.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the papers of the Borough, and a copy thereof be transmitted to the relatives of the deceased.

JAS. S. CARPENTER, *President.*

C. LITTLE, *Record. Secretary.*

☞ *Court* for the trial of criminal cases, commenced in this Borough on Monday last. There is a large amount of business on hand, that will keep the Court busy until the close of next week. The cases up to Wednesday, were of a petty character, in many of which sentence was deferred until to-day. Next week we will give a full report of the cases.

On Wednesday, the trial of Capt. Wernert, John Jones and John William, of the Minersville hotel, charged with killing an Irishman named Purcell, in Cass township, last October, was commenced, and was in progress up to last evening. The Court got through with witnesses yesterday afternoon, and speeches were delivered by Mr. Walker, for the Prosecution, and Messrs. Palmer and Bartholomew for the defence. The evidence in this case does not show that Capt. Wernert ever ordered his men to fire, but remonstrated with them after the discharge, saying "My God, men, what did you fire for, without orders?" Who fired the shot that killed Purcell, is not known, nor is it proven that it came from the military under Wernert's command. No verdict had been rendered when we went to press last evening.

☞ *Fire—Restruction of Four Tenant Houses.*—On Tuesday morning about 1 o'clock, flames were discovered issuing from one of the row of four stone dwelling houses situated at the extreme westerly end of Minersville street, owned by Moses Perrot and occupied by eight families. The names of the occupants were as follows: Mr. Hinkson, Rachel Daniel, Stewart, David Biggs, Mr. Bord, Frank Moyer, and Mary Ann Levan. The houses in the course of a couple of hours were destroyed, and the occupants turned out in the freezing air, homeless, and some of them with no other property than the clothing they hastily put on while escaping from the flames. But a small quantity of furniture was saved from the fire. Moses Perrot's loss is about $2000, upon which there is no insurance. Water was scarce in the vicinity, and none was thrown upon the fire. Several frame buildings contiguous to the fire were only preserved by the unceasing exertions of the neighbors, who saturated the roofs with water. The wind being high, had the fire happened in the heart of the Borough a destructive conflagration would have been the result undoubtedly. There is a dearth of fire plugs in that part of Minersville street, where the fire occurred. The Borough should remedy this.

☞ *The Buckville Blacksmith* sends us a few thoughts poetically expressed, on the subject of "Hold up Your Head." The lines and sentiments are good. Our hard-fisted friend scatters from his teeming mind truths as easily as he rattles off sparks from his anvil:

Hold Up Your Head.

Hold up your head! what need to cower,
Hold up your face to the world, I say,
For the' your worldly wealth be poor,
You've got the glorious form of man;
Let it be erect, let your head be high,
Erect your head towards the sky.

Hold up your head! that gilded thing
With all its gorgeous pomp and show,
That bears the tarnish'd name of king,
To which he has no more done to do,
Without the *toys* that gild it now,
Is only flesh and blood like you.

Hold up your head! 'tis no disgrace,
To show a visage mark'd with toil;
'Tis better—sweat-drops wet thy face,
Than live by rapine, fraud and guile;
Than live by rapine, fraud and guile;
Than live by rapine, fraud and guile;
Thou'rt useful to the world, and thou
May'st well afford to lift thy brow.

Hold up your head!—move boldly on;
To right or left turn not aside;
Keep honor's beauteous path, and shun
The cheqnered ways of worldly pride;
Then, those who may thy actions scan,
Will say behold an upright man.

THE BUCKVILLE BLACKSMITH.

BUCKVILLE, *March 2d, 1857.*

LETTER FROM TAMAQUA.

FOR THE MINERS' JOURNAL.

TAMAQUA, *March 4th, 1857.*

MESSRS. EDS.:—Our Borough has again suffered from the ravages of fire. About midnight of Monday, the machine shop belonging to the Little Schuylkill Company, was discovered to be in flames. How it originated is not known. It was first seen in the pattern shop, but remote from the stove in that room. The watchman had but a few minutes previously left the same room to attend to some other duties. Notwithstanding an almost immediate application of water it was impossible, from the dryness of the wood, and the strong wind then blowing, to save anything combustible. Although the walls, which are of stone, are still standing; it will be necessary to take down a great part of them in consequence of the lintels of the doors and windows being burned out. The total loss is estimated at about $10,000, on which there is an insurance of $5,000.

That Buchanan and Breckenbridge pole which the *perfect* part of the democratic party would not permit to be disgraced by standing in front of Mr. Lebo's store, was raised this afternoon in front of the Swan Hotel. There was assembled a good representation of those two branches of that party who so powerfully supply its ranks, and on whom it so much depends for success at the polls. The pole went up well, notwithstanding the difficulty there, was among those brethren in politics to understand each other. There was some trouble in raising the flag, it constantly folded itself as if unwilling to show the stars and stripes and spread itself to the breeze. After all, a rather gloomy idea is conveyed to the mind upon looking on it, and especially if the person looking has been accustomed to seeing ships in mourning. The flag reaches but little more than half-way up the pole or more properly speaking, it is at "half mast." This might be accounted for however, when we consider the divisions among the party during the history of this pole, so that *one half the broken elevation* may be regarded as the present proper standard. After the pole, flag and "air" by the German Band, a Major Lutz was called to the chair, when *another* gentleman introduced them, (the audience,) to Mr. Byon, who, after three loud cheers which were called for by a noble looking son of Erin, eloquently addressed the meeting, faithfully warning them to adhere to their former doctrines, and to fight manfully against all opposition.

S. M.

[Want of room compelled us to curtail a portion of the above letter.—THE MINERS' JOURNAL.]

COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT.—Three years ago the Amendments to the School Law provided for the election of a School Superintendant, in each County, to aid the Public School System in the different Counties, to exercise a supervision over the same, and also to examine Teachers. In a few Counties where *live, active* and *competent* Teachers were elected, with sufficient salaries to enable them to perform their duties faithfully, the system has worked admirably—in a great many counties the schools have not been benefitted, owing to the mistake made in electing persons who *tried* to perform their duties, but were incompetent to the task—and in some Counties the School System has been positively injured by incompetency, neglect of the Superintendent to perform his duties, and the withdrawal of the usual Supervision of the Directors, in consequence of the election of that officer, whom they supposed would take their place to a great extent in the supervision of the Schools. In some instances, the Superintendants, knowing and feeling their incapacity for the Station they occupy, while at the same time they desire to enjoy *the salary of the office*, have turned politicians and endeavor to secure party interests, to sustain them in their position. This is deeply to be regretted wherever it exists—the schools ought to be kept as remote as possible from all political influences, and every man who bases his claims for this station on *political* grounds, ought to be rejected by every friend of education. Merit, and a desire, with the necessary ability, to impart instruction to Teachers as well as Scholars, together with a great devotion to the cause of Education generally, ought to be the only passports to such a responsible office.

In May next, a County Superintendant must be elected for a period of three years—and we were led to these remarks, in consequence of receiving the following communication from a live Teacher, one of the most able and devoted friends of Education in the County. He desires to bring the subject before the Directors of the County, who elect the County Superintendant, with a view of having the question properly understood and discussed, so that they can vote understandingly on so important a question:

[COMMUNICATED.]

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENCY.—And its workings in Schuylkill County.

The best and most efficient officers have not been able to perform all duties that devolve upon them in a manner that all parties can be pleased and satisfied. But that man who is prepared to meet the responsibilities of his work and enters into it with his whole soul, must be the recipient of the approbation and commendation of the great majority of people wherein his energies have been spent. Taking the above as the foundation of the principle on which I intend to offer a few remarks to Office Seekers and engineers to the School directors, Teachers and Parents of the County, for this is a matter that concerns all. The Directors, whose duty it is to elect the County Superintendent, ought to thoroughly investigate this subject, both now and when they convene to choose this officer, as it is their duty to elect a *live, active, and competent, thorough scholar* and a man of *energy*, the tone of their schools will partake of his nature and gradually grow better, but should the incompetent be elected to fill this post, their schools will become like him, as the schools will not rise higher than the teacher, nor the teacher far above the County Superintendent, who should be the fountain of Public School matters of the County.—He should be the pioneer in all conventions where subjects pertinent to our schools are discussed; he should lead off in our Teachers' Institutes and where they are not already organized, he should organize them; he should meet the Directors as precisely as duty and lay before them such improvements in their schools as his deemed necessary; he should talk to the parents at the school buildings in the evening, and at other evenings, showing them the benefits arising from our common schools, explaining to them the nature of our School laws, stating to them what has been discovered; he should encouraging the friends of the cause to weary not but labor on in their good work. The Superintendent should not only be a close observer of the operations of every school, but he should be a working man while there, not that he should take the place of the teacher in all cases, but he should assist the teacher and see that whether he would, ever be justified in visiting a school and leaving it without making some remarks to the pupils, encouraging them and inspiring them to feel the best course for them to adopt that they might reap the greatest benefit from their school. A man, to perform the duties of office in this County, will be a working man. There are 313 working days in the year, and according to our Superintendent's last report there are 212 schools in the County. Now we think that the Superintendent can, on an average, visit each school six days in the County. This will enable him to visit all the schools twice in 212 days and spend nearly or quite a half day in both visits. This would be a good work, and quickly the length of time our schools are kept open, and the Superintendent ought to have one day in each week at home and one day for writing up his reports. Deduct 52 days from 212 and this sum subtracted from 313 days will leave about sixty days to be spent in the examination of teachers and in a summer vacation.

This disposition of time may not be in accordance with the views of all, but in the main we think it will be found practicable to have a County Superintendent who has held the office near three years, and the questions that will now naturally arise with the Directors, before pledging themselves to any one, should be to ascertain what have been the results of the present Superintendent's labor; where his time has been spent. If he has been lecturing to the people, in attending examinations and public exercises of the schools, in holding auxiliary Institutes in various parts of the County, and in distributing educational periodicals, in traveling from school to school, or rather has a large share of his time been spent at home? Has he on an average, been out of his office one day in each week for three years of his office? The teachers of the schools in Minersville, Pottsville, Tamaqua, Schuylkill Haven, Pt. Carbon, St. Clair and Ringtown, are but too well prepared to answer this question, and we believe that the teachers in the Townships will generally relate the same story "in reference to our schools." Has the Superintendent held a single auxiliary Institute in the County during the past year in either of the three divisions of the County? Has the Superintendent, as Superintendent, ever lectured to the people? Has he been present at a single examination of the schools? Has he been present at a single lecture to the people? Has he been present at a single Teachers' Institute