Miners' Journal.

POTTSVILLE, PA.

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 1857.

LEGISLATIVE action has grown as far as Pennsylvania is concerned, to be a mere farce—a burlesque on legitimate legislation; but too serious a matter indeed, when we note its effects on the wants and rights of the people. Not content until it had adopted the $500 system,—$10 per week for the year—the Legislature seems determined to sit until $200 additional is added to the salary of each member. It is bad enough to have the people's money robbed by men who will not look beyond their private interests, in a public capacity; but insult is absolutely added to injury when they flood us with bank bills, and measures that do not possess the merit of being wanted by anybody. The fact is, that the plan upon which legislation is conducted at this day, is simply withholding from the people what they ask for, and according them what they do not want.

The system of pickings has grown to be a institution peculiarly legislative. Billinery and particular interests, are through—the highest corruption passed, and then go the subject of bidder. Private bills are promises effect the traffic—money, threats—legislature adjourns after object, and finally the bills, not ten of which would passing hundreds—were adopted, have passed an in- in the shape the legislative body. Men whom we would corruptible, trust with a five dollar bill, are elected by the house politicians—for in the delegate election lies the nominating power, and a nomination in many districts is the precursor of an election—and go to Harrisburg to make laws for the intelligent citizens of Pennsylvania. Many members go there, and unblushingly put up their votes and influence, in the market to the highest bidder. Starting with the borers, through the whole ramification, the Legislature is a reeking mass of ignorance and corruption. It is true that in both the Senate and House, there are a few incorruptible men, whom no earthly dross could induce to swerve from the path of rectitude and honor; but they are too weak in number to leaven the mass, and their influence goes for naught. Things have reached such a stage in our halls of legislation, that a respectable citizen would esteem it an insult to have his name mentioned in connection with a nomination for the Legislature. It should cause regret that such is the case, for it places in the hands of the unscrupulous and dishonest, the reins of government.

It is not surprising that legislative action is growing yearly more and more unpopular and unsatisfactory. It has reached that stage in rascality and villainy, when the penitentiary growing too good for the mass of the men who represent us in the Legislature, the people would be justified in journeying to Harrisburg, and hanging one-half the members. They certainly merit that fate, and we are confident that some of them would grace a scaffold, better than a seat in the Legislature.

If a measure is demanded now-a-days, no individual or committee, thinks of going to Harrisburg to lay the matter before the Legislature, without expecting to experience demands upon the purse. The man indeed would be verdant, in the eyes of the modern legislator, who reached Harrisburg without such an idea well fortified by the "shiners." Now all this is wrong, and we wonder that the respectable, intelligent citizens of Pennsylvania, who are largely in the majority, submit to the outrage. The remedy is in their hands and should be applied forthwith. Let the Legislature be transformed from a place of traffic, into halls where honest men will not be ashamed to participate in the proceedings, and where law in its true sense, shall be dispensed. Participate in your delegate elections; select delegates, equal in calibre to the candidates you propose nominating, and nominate no man, but one who can stand before his fellow-citizens, intelligent, upright and honest to a fault. Then will the character of our Legislature be elevated; then will the people witness the passage of bills which they need; then will Reform fling to the breeze her standard, which is now furled in shame.—Would to Heaven that our people would reflect upon this matter in a serious, determined manner, and resolve to act at the proper time, to the purpose. It is no light reward to seek—the rescued honor of Pennsylvania, which has been tarnished in her halls of legislation.

A PERIODICAL MANIA.—With truth the Pittsburg *Gazette* says that the rage for growing suddenly rich, is a sort of madness that appears to take possession of the people about every fifteen or twenty years. Unwilling to wait for the sure and steady gains of careful industry and fruitful economy, they risk their prospects even for a life of comfort, free from the corroding care incident to a life of debt, upon the cast of a die, the rise of fancy stocks, the continued appreciation in the price of lands which they have never seen, of town lots, which have no existence except on paper, of Mississippi bubbles and South Sea Shares. It is now just about twenty years since the mania for land speculation raged in the Eastern States much fiercer even than now in the Western.—Vast tracts of rocks, pools and blasted timber, facetiously called "wild lands," were held at fabulous prices. They were bought to-day for $1000 per acre and sold to-morrow for $2000. No detail as to quality, situation or real value was demanded. All the purchaser asked was, a general idea of the plot, as run by the compass, that he might have some limits whereby to describe it to his next customer. Frequently, land covered by the waters of a Lake were sold at enormous prices. Many swindlers who never owned a foot of land came into possession of almost fabulous amounts of gold by selling a paper town which had no more existence than Sancho Panza's Island of Barataria, or Sir Thomas More's Utopia. Mill privileges without water, garden lots where there was no soil, pasturage without grass, timber lands where a tree never took root, such were the wild fancies for which gold was given.—Men in full chase pursued the phantom wealth, until they too frequently found a mad house and a straight jacket. The mania was epidemic. The bubble was expanded by thousands of ambitious slowers. All other business was suspended to puff this windy nothing into unwonted size and span. It absorbed into it whatsoever came within its sphere. It was to the finances of the country a maelstrom that sucked in everything which came within touch of its influence. Honest debts were left unpaid that the money might be devoted to speculations in land. Manufactures languished, ships lay idly at the wharves, the farmer forsook the plow and the field to talk about the price of lots in Arcostic or Penobscot, and thus while all the avenues of production were choked up, the bubble grew larger and larger and the madmen kept still puffing away at it. At last it burst. A hundred had grown rich; a thousand, yea ten thousand were beggared. Then to accustom the hand that had grown soft and tender by months of idleness and money-making, to the axe, the plane, the saw, the plow—that was the hard part of it, and many who in the height of success had rolled in carriages and wallowed in wealth, would not return to productive labor, and so the country lost many a good, hearty worker who would have contributed to its substantial wealth by pushing some honest business in the paths of industry. It took years for the country to recover from this blow, as all the world knows. Its finances were deranged; trade had stagnated or flowed in unhealthy channels.—It was as when a man recovers from a fever; months, years are needed to replace the fibre and muscle which disease has wasted away.

Is any thing like the matter described, about to occur again? How is it that five heavy failures in the city of Boston are reported in a single day, and all their newspapers and all their people are complaining that they cannot collect the moneys due them in the North-west because what has been heretofore embarked in business there, is now invested in lands? This speculation is not confined to the matter of land. All kinds of speculations have been started. A. has made a fortune in a day; B. tries his hand at the same; the imagination, the hopes are inflamed; the picture of sudden wealth dazzles; the curse pronounced against him who hasteth to be rich is upon him. It is to be hoped that there is time yet to restrict this over-haste, this over-trading, this wildly venturesome spirit within due bounds before it shall result in a catastrophe. The legitimate wants of trade, the high price of labor on the truly valuable centres of business and of manufactures must and will attract from doubtful investments, money which has flowed thither while yet there was every prospect of a sure return.

There are other causes of regret for the present apparently unhealthy state of the public mind in the matter of speculation in lands. It gives to the American people a sort of nomadic character. No sooner is a home found, a place rescued from the forest, a pleasant cottage built and some of the comforts of a better life collected, than the glowing tales of "Eldorado" in some distant wilderness demolishes all the fairy scene which taste and industry had created.—The home feeling finds no sphere of operation; in distant miasmatic regions, among logs, in forests, by some lonely tarn or lake, children are born and grow up beyond the influence of schools and the sound of Sabbath bells. Under such circumstances the savage lives and bequeaths to his heirs his gun, his dog, and his desire for constant roving, and for that barren life which has no hopes, no aspirations beyond the passing hour. Such are the wandering habits which our people are fast acquiring, that at length no land will be properly cultivated, and much that has been rescued and brought under liberal culture will again like those of Virginia, be dotted with patch and fruitless jungle, where not a year with Wize's stump tailed steer can pick sich floats The wave will still roll westward it wrecks of it the restless freight of home course for new upon its crests, leaving sillhits and new specu- industry abandoned in the scenes, new lands, new lations.

THE TABLE.

GRAHAM'S for June is upon our table. The engraving, "Young Germany," is a beautiful production; literary contents are as usual, interesting, bits of illustrations, pattern plates, etc., are numerous and useful. Watson & Co., are unsparing in their endeavors to publish a first class magazine. Copies of the June number can be obtained at Bannan's.

Local Affairs.

A *Flurry* of snow visited the mountains a few miles north of this Borough on Monday night last.

During the week, fires have been devastating some of our hills. On Sunday last quite an excitement was created during the prevalence of a high wind, by the rapid passage over the Borough, of huge volumes of smoke. It was soon ascertained, however, that the cause was only brush burning on a hill a short distance north of the Borough.

Laying of a Corner Stone.—On Friday, 29th inst., the corner stone of a Public School building will be laid in Pinegrove, this county, the ceremonies to be conducted Masonically. Lodges of the Masons and I. O. O. F., from adjoining counties, and several distinguished public gentlemen will be present. The Pottsville Brass Band has been engaged for the occasion.

The Osage Orange, for hedging purposes, is well adapted to the hills of this Region. It forms an impervious fence, and is also quite ornamental. We planted some last season, and they bid fair to flourish with increased vigor this year. As wood is becoming a scarce article, we advise our farming friends to substitute the Osage Orange for hedging purposes. The plants can be obtained at Bannan's store.

Arrest of an Alleged Incendiary.—On Tuesday last, Patrick Whittaker, charged with setting fire to some buildings at Westwood—the property of Michael Murphy—in November, 1855, was arrested at Swatara, this County. On Thursday he had a hearing before Squire Reed, and was committed to prison in default of bail, to answer. Patrick removed suddenly after the act of incendiarism, and although Mr. Murphy has been sharply on his track ever since, did not succeed in capturing him until the time stated.

Rain and mud were the characteristics of Thursday and yesterday. Yesterday morning about 10 o'clock, the rain fell in torrents accompanied by vivid lightning. Our Meteorological record for the current week is as follows:

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

Sat.,	May 9, 8 A. M.	—63 degrees above zero—	clear.
Mon.,	" 11, "	—43 " "	cloudy
Tues.,	" 12, "	—34 " "	clear.
Wed.,	" 13, "	—36 " "	"
Thurs.,	" 14, "	—40 " "	rainy.
Fri.,	" 15, "	—52 " "	"

Going a fishing is being revived, as the season grows milder. It is will afford an incentive to others to endeavor to coax the speckled beauties from the numerous little rills of the County, we will state, that a day or two since, a friend of ours invested some three dollars in tackle, etc., and sallied out on a piscatorial expedition. Result—he fell into a briar bush—not exactly scratching out both his eyes—but fracturing his continuations, beyond the hope of decent remedy; scratched his hands, and caught one trout about four inches long. Expenditures, $3. Receipts, a trout four inches long.

The Arcadian Institute at Orwigsburg, under the control of Prof. E. Schneider, opens the present season, with a large number of new pupils. In fact so prosperous is the Institute, that at this time it has room for but one boy more in the male department; and six young ladies in the female. Unfortunately, the Institute is rather limited in its accommodations, or the Professor would receive many more pupils from abroad.—The location; pure country air; the instruction, are features that commend the Arcadian Institute to the attention of parents. The prosperous career of the Institution warrants its enlargement, and we trust that Mr. Schneider will be enabled ere long, to effect it.

Austin's Patent Ice Cream Freezers are highly commended by those who have used them. They are considered and justly so, the best articles of the description ever invented. Housekeepers having them in their possession, find them very rapid and convenient, and would not be without them on any account. The small, three quart ones will freeze Cream on the old, natural plan, in six minutes. They will also freeze custards, ices, etc., in from four to six minutes. B. Bannan has the Agency for these articles in Schuylkill county, at the following prices:—3 quarts Freezers, $3 25; 4 quarts, $4 25; 6 quarts, $5 25; 9 quarts, $6 25; 14 quarts, $8 25, and 20 quarts, $11 25. Call at Bannan's store and look at the Freezers. A single trial will convince you of their merits.

An Excellent Movement.—Among the first official acts of Mr. Crist, Chief Burgess, we perceive, is a notification to those persons who congregate on the Sabbath in this Borough to play ball, pitch pennies and quoits, and who are guilty of other acts of desecration, that if they are not discontinued, the offenders will be prosecuted. This is proper. The example set in this matter, to the youth of this community by those of adult years, is most pernicious in its consequences, and it is full time that the law should step in and check it. Let Mr. Crist persevere in this matter, and we pledge him the aid and co-operation of every good citizen. If there are those too thoughtless, ignorant or wicked to respect the sanctity of the Sabbath and the good name of our Borough, they must be taught a lesson they have yet failed to learn—obedience to the laws of God and man.

A Battalion of Schuylkill County Volunteers paraded for inspection at St. Clair on Monday. The troops appeared to be in excellent condition. The several companies turned out well, and looked admirably. They appears to be a creditable spirit of emulation among the Minersville corps. We really, must compliment Captains Werner and Christ, upon the numerical strength and appearance of their respective companies. They speak well for the martial feeling of the citizens of our sister Borough. The Pottsville companies—five in number—also turned out well. In the afternoon, the Battalion, marched in from St. Clair, and through our Borough, presenting quite an imposing appearance. The military organization of our County we have reason to believe, is admirable. This is well, for we are never so secure in peace, that we may not be called upon at any moment to take up arms for the defence of our country's honor.

Improvements.—Year after year our borough continues steadily to improve. Pottsville of to-day is not the Pottsville of five years since. Centre, Market, Norwegian, and other streets, are steadily being extended and built up compactly, and "The Orchard" side-hair to present rows of finely built houses, in the course of a season or two. Mr. Lauer is just completing a fine dwelling there. As these improvements progress, it is well to look at what will shortly be the best, and in fact, only building room left. All the hills of Pottsville have been more or less improved, and we are surprised that neat dwellings have not ere this been erected on Greenwood Hill. Situated almost in the heart of the borough, commanding an unsurpassed view of the charming valley which contains the Schuylkill River, the Canal and Reading Railway, and laid out in good sized lots, which can be obtained by those wishing to improve, at reasonable rates, it presents inducements to build, which it is surprising have been so long neglected. A gently ascending carriage road to lead to the summit of the hill, can be made. That Greenwood Hill will, eventually, be built upon, there can be no doubt, and those who have neglected to avail themselves of the opportunity of obtaining a good location at reasonable rates, which are now offered, will regret that they hesitated in the matter. The appearance of the borough would be much improved by building up with neat cottages, Greenwood Hill, and it is to be hoped that the matter will receive the attention it deserves from those wishing comfortable residences in a splendid location, with water conveniences, etc. Shall Greenwood Hill be improved?

Bright, Beautiful May.—The cheerful, sunny tone of the following lines, from the Buckville poetical Vulcan, seems to imply that fair May is consenting to do the honors of Spring in the right spirit, at least in the Eastern section of the County. If our friend of the anvil and hammer is half as well satisfied at the advent of respectable weather, as ourself, we do not wonder that he finds vent for his enthusiasm in a carol, whose sentiment and expression—we must do our communicant full justice—are charming:—

May.

Now May, lovely May, with her buds and sweet flowers,
Hath come to make gay, our gardens and bowers;
And the forest where lately bleak winter hath been,
Shall smile in a mantle of beautiful green;
And its depths where at present still silence doth reign,
Shall start to the echoes of music again;
For the warblers will trill forth their wood-notes so gay,
A tribute of welcome, to beautiful May.

The bright sun shall send forth his radiant beams,
To rest on the fountains or dance on the streams;
And the butterfly basks in the warmth of his ray,
While the lambs o'er the meadows go bounding in play;
And the honey-bee's hum in the garden and bower,
Be heard as she flutters from flower to flower;
'Tis the hey-day of nature, and all things look gay,
The season of sunshine—'tis beautiful May.

By the brook the sweet primrose shall spring in full pride,
And the violet giant from the mossy bank side;
The wild woodland rose in its richness and bloom,
Shall scent the deep glens with fragrant perfume;
And the silvery stream with a murmuring song,
O'er beds of bright pebbles leap gaily along;
While the sky like an ocean of azure doth lay,
Serenely above us, in beautiful May.

Oh, blithe are thy smiles loveliest month of the year
And fragrant thy sephyrs that float on the air;
How healthful thy breezes! and oh, how I love
To trace the fair scenery of meadow and grove;
To roam on the hill-side—to muse by the stream—
To dose by the fountain in some happy dream;
Once more to revisit the scenes far away,
Those scenes of my childhood's bright beautiful May.

Buckville, May 12, 1857. THE BUCKVILLE BLACKSMITH.

Improved Machine for making Fire Brick.—A few days since, we examined at the Pioneer Fire Works of this Borough, James B. Patterson's patent machine for making Fire Brick, invented by Carnell, of Philadelphia, and patented ten hours since. The simplicity of the machine for the purpose at once commend it to favorable notice. If patent fees will make 12,000 brick per hour under and brought in use in this country, the machine is driven by a front of the machine, and readily prepares any shape out at the side of substance, such as stone or iron, in 10 hours. Coast with the operations of the machine, ingenious arrangement, its presence will tax machinery throw the machine out of gear. Mr. Patterson's arrangements for drying and burning the bricks, are of the most perfect and convenient description. By the aid of Mr. Carnell's invention, Mr. Patterson is enabled to turn out a fine article at $40 per M., the same quality formerly commanding $45. Operations at the Pioneer Works have been delayed for some days in consequence of high water in the Schuylkill interfering with the transportation of material, but by next week work will be resumed.

Mr. Patterson has in his establishment, an ingenious invention by our townsman, Mr. Henry Strauch, which facilitates operations, and is economical to the manufacture of Fire Brick. It is a stamping machine with shaking riddle attached, the first in operation in the country. Formerly the stamping of the conglomerate and crushing the fire brick, were followed by riddling operations by hand. The fine dust created was very trying to the lungs of the workmen, causing them to cough for hours after ceasing work. What the machine stamped in a day would require a man and boy half a day to riddle. Now this is avoided, much to the relief of the men. In point of economy, the machine pays three times its cost in a single year.

Mr. Patterson has devoted much time, money and labor in ascertaining and procuring for his works, machinery adapted to the perfect manufacture and cheap production of Fire Brick, and has at last, succeeded. He is now prepared to furnish Fire Brick for furnaces, stoves, etc., equal in quality to any manufactured elsewhere, and as cheap.

Testimonial to Elwood Morris, Esq.—His Remarks upon the Auburn and Allentown Railroad, as Originally Projected.—In view of the resignation of Elwood Morris, Esq., from the position of Chief Engineer of the Auburn and Allentown Railroad, a road which as a Coal bearing Improvement, is of the highest importance to New York as well as this Region, the citizens and business men of this County, extended to Col. Morris an invitation to meet them at a Public Dinner. Col. Morris accepted, and the evening of the 14th inst., was appointed for the occasion. Accordingly on Thursday evening last, a goodly number of our citizens assembled at Pennsylvania Hall, and at 9 o'clock sat down to tables. After discussing the substantials and delicacies, prepared in a capital manner by "our host," Mr. Beard, the company formally organized by the appointment of the following officers:—

President—JOHN BANNAN, Esq.

Vice Presidents—Samuel Shiltyman, Edward Yardley, Col. Brown, G. W. Snyder, Chas. Baber, Jeremiah Reed, and Michael Murphy.

Secretaries—ELE BOWEN and F. B. WALLACE.

The President in a few appropriate remarks, introduced to the meeting, Elwood Morris, Esq., and proposed his health, which was responded to by the Company with much enthusiasm. Col. Morris in acknowledging the compliment, made some interesting and important statements, of which the amount is as abstract:—

Gentlemen of Schuylkill County—

I thank you heartily for the honor you have conferred on me this day, and though I see around me upon every side gentlemen who have long honored me with their friendship, and who are high in my regard, I know too well the relation subsisting between communities of people and individual men, to presume that it is to personal favor alone, that this distinction is to be ascribed.

You recognize in me an individual devoted to your interests (except a brief interval) for a period of twelve years, and who when drawn away by professional engagements in the West, returned to you on the earliest opportunity, as he hopes and trusts, to do.

I seem unnecessary here to recur to the reasons which led to my recent severance from those works of your County, with which I have been for some years connected, except to say that the steps taken were with deliberation, on consultation with friends, and from a conviction that I could not by a further continuance at my post, advantageously serve either your interests or my own, or even protect my Assistant Engineer from insulting interference.

My regrets at leaving the honorable positions lately held by me, are not of a personal character, except at parting with those faithful officers and men with whom I have so long been serving, and a beautiful mark of whose regard I now bear upon my breast, and value more, than any bauble which a foreign prince or potentate could confer.

But I confess I do regret it, so far as it deprives me of the opportunity of further advancing the interests of a community from whom I have received nothing but kindness, and in whose welfare I feel now and ever most deeply concerned.

And this brings me to speak of the peculiar feature of my recent services which bore so strongly on your future interests, *I mean the New York Coal Bearing line, through the Allentown Railroad and its connections.*

When my attention was first called to that line by the late *John F. A. Sanford*, Esq., then the President of the Dauphin and Susquehanna Railroad, (an able and honorable man, whose death has been a serious loss to our enterprise,) I found to my surprise that it was looked upon by him, and subsequently by the officers of the Penn Railroad of New Jersey, as a mere feeder to the passenger line, giving to the city of New York a somewhat more direct connexion through the Pennsylvania Railroad, with the head waters of the Ohio river, and the Railroad lines diverging from Pittsburg.

The idea that it should become a *great Coal bearing line*, (the very possession of importance of the future good,) did not then appear to be seriously entertained by the gentlemen upon whom the promotion of the Allentown Railroad seemed mainly to depend.

When however, I was called upon in July, 1855, to reconnoitre the route, with a view to its commercial merits, and the speedy construction of its works, I found upon a rigid scrutiny its sources of revenue, *that without a portion of the Coal business of Schuylkill county, it could not be a paying enterprise.*

This important point decided, the location was controlled by it; and then arose the great professional question, whether the contour of the ground between the Schuylkill Gap of the Blue Mountain and the town of Allentown, upon the Lehigh River, afforded such physical facilities as would enable an Engineer to locate a Railroad line across the country, which could in any proper sense be deemed a fitting one, *as a great Coal bearing road.*

I need not trouble you with the details of this elaborate instrumental investigation. Suffice it to say—it was *successful beyond our hopes.*

A Railroad line was found, extending from Auburn the Eastern terminus of the Dauphin and Susquehanna Railroad to the Lehigh Valley Railroad, at Allentown upon the Lehigh River, which gave a distance of 40 miles, and a cost for a single track railroad without equipments of only $1,600,000.

Upon no part of this route, does the grade against the coal trade exceed 12 feet per mile, ascending upon straight lines, diminished by a scale upon curves, so that on the curve of least radius (818 feet) it is reduced, to only 9 feet per mile ascending east!

This gives us the true element of comparison between our Allentown route, and the vast coal bearing line, the Reading Railroad.

For where the Reading Railroad turns a minimum curve about like ours, upon *level*, we have an ascent of 8 feet to the mile, upon the same curve, so that the difference between these works is the facilities they offer for the traction of the locomotive, may safely be set down, as the difference between a level grade and one ascending at the rate of 6, or at the most, *of seven feet per mile forward.*

As very exaggerated notions of the effect of ascending grade, upon a coal trade, were known by me to exist, upon coal region—exaggerations I will at a future date point out in a professional paper—it was incumbent upon me, to ascertain the actual effect, that a 6 or 7 feet grade would produce in limiting the train of the ordinary Coal *Locomotive*, as on other works, we were accustomed