Miners' Journal.

POTTSVILLE, PA.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1858.

CENTRAL AMERICA.

There has been much unnecessary excitement in regard to the fact of the visit paid by British naval officers to the steamer Washington in the waters of San Juan. A correspondent of the New York *Times* referring to the visit, says Commodore McIntosh addressed a letter to Capt. Aldham, of the *Valorous*, against the proceeding as unwarrantable, and that it would not be allowed. Capt. Aldham, in reply, claimed the right to visit ships and institute an examination at San Juan, for it was within the Mosquito kingdom, which Great Britian was bound by its treaties to protect. Commodore McIntosh sent a second communication to Capt. Aldham, the nature of which had not transpired; but the person who carried it, said he had had an interview with Capt. Aldham and Sir William Gore Ouseley, the British minister, and that he considered the recent affair of boarding the Washington as now satisfactorily settled, as far as it could be, by fling off cer McIntosh; and that he had no doubt there would be no difficulty in future in that respect—the boarding and examination of American merchant vessels by British cruisers in the waters of the Mosquito coast. Capt. Aldham and the Minister's Secretary afterwards visited Commodore McIntosh on board the Roanoke, and were cordially received, and remained on board all night.

When we recognize the fact that perfect harmony exists between the United States, England and France, in regard to the best means of transit across the Isthmus, and that we are bound by the provision of the Bulwer Clayton treaty, to assist in maintaining inviolate the neutrality of the Isthmus, exciting phrases come with ill grace from the official paper at Washington. We will be among the foremost of the American press to resent any outrage upon our rights, either upon the sea or land. Upon the high sea we concede to foreign vessels of war no right to board and search our merchantmen; but in the case which recently happened in the harbor of San Juan, with a threatened inroad of filibusters, allowed by our Government to escape from Mobile, we contend that the British naval commander had a right to know the character of every American vessel that entered the port. If we are so late in our duty as to permit a graceless band of adventurers and pirates to set forth from our shores, with flying colors, on a foray upon a country with whom we are on amicable terms, then we must expect nations with whom we are in alliance to check piracy, to assume our work. We hope that our cruisers will capture the supposed filibusters. If unfortunately, they should not, then we trust British or French vessels of war will effect it, with the understanding of course, that no foreign Power shall undertake, under pretext of such a capture, to intervene in the affairs of Central America, to the detriment of American interests in that quarter.

It is absurd to suppose that any difficulty between the Anglo-French allies and the United States can grow out of the arrest by either government of pirates. The union between them on the Central American question is too close to permit them to be set by the ears for outlaws. Caught by whoever they might be, their fate would not be undeserved if they swing at the nearest yardarm. We believe the policy of the Administration at present, to be bluster for home consumption, but war in reality to be considerably removed from its thoughts.

The London *Herald*, the government organ, in an article upon the Central American question, says:—

We stated on Monday last, with reference to this delicate question, that although examples had been made to represent antagonism in the policy pursued, there was nothing of the kind, and we showed *that the utmost harmony between France, England and the United States prevailed. They have all one object in view, namely to obtain the best means of transit across the Isthmus.* The French government have, we believe, no particular *penchant* for M. Belly. In common with England and the United States, they wish the route established as speedily as possible. This is the great object of all the parties concerned. Let the means of communication be thrown open quickly, and protected when completed. There can be no necessity for a joint note in the matter. France and England can act independently, though with the same view, and this is the course pursued by the government of the United States. This is evident from the stringent proclamation against Walker and his associates brought by the last mail. In the interest of commerce and civilization it is necessary that the construction of the means of transit should be no longer delayed. *Whether an English, a French, or an American company undertake the work is not of the slightest consequence.* An American company was supposed to have accepted the contract, of which it is reported not to have fulfilled the conditions. Be this as it may, the chief thing is to have the thing done, and by whom it may be executed is a point of minor importance.

Other extracts equally to the point, might be given, to prove that the three governments, England, France and the United States are on the best terms in regard to checking filibustering and opening to the world the Nicaragua route; but the above we think, sufficiently conclusive. Presidential bluster, official paper excitement and general newspaper comment and fearful anticipation to the contrary. We are an easily excited nation—too often about nothing.

NECESSARY REFORMS.

The legislators selected here at the last election were pledged to certain reforms. It was so understood, and the people will hold them strictly to account, until those pledges be redeemed. But we have no fears of them. We believe them good men and true. We believe that cognizant of evils in connection with administrative matters in this County, that they will use every exertion, aided by tax-payers here, to effect reform. Before the election meetings of the tax-payers were held, at one of which a committee was appointed to obtain the necessary facts and statistics in regard to the management of the County affairs, from which a start in the direction of reform might be made. An adjourned meeting was called for Monday last, at which it was anticipated the committee would report, but owing to the inclemency of the weather the meeting was postponed. We hope that the meeting will be held at an early day, as the statistics will be important to aid in obtaining legislative reform. We desire very much, to see them. There can be no question of the fact that now is the time for the tax-payers of the County to make preliminary arrangements, to enable their representatives in the Legislature to act. There is ample time enough, surely, when the fact stares us in the face that of the County taxes amounting last year to $40,000, upwards of two-thirds of that sum was expended for Alms House purposes. We unpendingly, the cry can an economical admin[illegible] of the affairs of that Institution, demand[illegible] passage of a bill transferring the management of the Directors to the Commissioners [illegible] our County. If in addition, workshops [illegible] attached to the Alms House, they would [illegible] one-half the expenses from the start, at least able to [illegible] an actual benefit to its inmates.

Again, [illegible] is one reform which is needed. The [illegible] legislative action in regard to this County, [illegible] required of public officers in [illegible] the several [illegible] Territories, the amounts [illegible] were fixed, when the population was less [illegible] present, and the taxes proportionately less [illegible] bail required of the County Treasurer is ridiculously low—$10,000—when we consider the heavy [illegible] of public funds that at one time he may [illegible] possessed. When the term of office of the late [illegible] expired, he was a defaulter to the State [illegible] the sum of $35,000. His bail of $10,000 [illegible] ched, and that amount paid, leaving an unsettled balance of $25,000, for $14,000 of which the S[illegible] will hold the tax payers of the County responsible. This is too much! Our tax payers are [illegible] enough already, without being compelled [illegible] the result of the delinquencies of public [illegible]. The bail of the Treasurer of the Borough of Pottsville is only $5,000, while the duplicate [illegible] in his hands for collection, amounts to $16[illegible]. We contend that the interests of the tax-payers of this County require that the bonds of their Treasurers shall be sufficiently heavy to prevent the possibility of loss by defalcation, and that we require legislative action in the matter.

Again, a legislative act is required, providing for the appointment of Auditors to audit the accounts of the Treasurer of the Borough of Pottsville, and to re-open and settle up the accounts of ex-Treasurers. It is rumored that there are public moneys unaccounted for, and an investigation into the matter cannot be instituted too soon.

The first is, that under ineffectual laws touching these matters, the tax payers of the Coal Region have for a series of years, been systematically fleeced. Defaulters have grown bold, and the people suffer almost unexplainingly. But this is not the worst of it. The impurity which pervades the official atmosphere, tends to shake the best honest officers, and defalcations become common that they cease to excite astonishment.

This is not a party matter. The evil practices are not confined to a single party, nor is reform desired solely, by there partisans. It is true that as far as this County is concerned, defalcation commenced with Democratic office holders; but it has not been confined to that party. It has wormed its way into all parties, and its venom has spread to such an extent that the honest and law-abiding without regard to party, are called upon to extract the fangs of the viper. We hope then, that the people will persevere in the work in which they are engaged, and insist not until the necessary reforms in County matters are secured by legislation. Let tax-payers resolve that they will be no longer swindled, and it is in their power to inaugurate in this Region, a new state of affairs. Will they in a mass, so resolve?

A UNION OF THE OPPOSITION.

The New York *Tribune* publishes the following:

Can there be a substantial union of the Opposition to the Sham Democracy in the Presidential canvass of 1860? This is a question which we have not raised, but, finding it under discussion, we propose to do our part toward elucidating it.

The facts to be primarily considered are as follows:

I. There were in 1856 a majority of the American People opposed to the self-styled National Democracy.

II. That party is less popular and weaker now than it was in 1856.

III. It has been in the ascendant quite long enough, and in every sense deserves to be, and ought to be, turned out.

IV. This can easily be done, if its opponents can generally and heartily unite.

But is such union practicable? and on what basis can it be effected?

The *Louisville Journal* thinks it can and may, and purposes by way of bases the following:

I. That the Republicans shall discard their distinguishing name;

II. That they shall abandon their peculiar "idea;" and

III. That they shall not present or urge any Republican for the Presidency.

On these conditions, the *Journal* thinks a union may be effected, which will sweep the country, accomplishing all manner of political good.

Considering that the Republicans, though stigmatised as "sectional," polled over Four Hundred Thousand more popular votes in 1856 than the "National" Americans and old line Whigs, who gave Electoral Tickets in sixteen States to Fillmore and Dayton, and that the Republicans carried eleven States and gave Col. Fremont 114 Electoral Votes, while the combined Whig-Conservative-National-Union-American vote for Mr. Fillmore was but 8, we must think that the *Journal* displays no very striking magnanimity or self-sacrificing devotion to the success of the Opposition cause. We cannot encourage the *Journal* to cherish any very sanguine hopes of uniting the Opposition on its basis.

Let us state, on our part, what we think the Republicans would generally be willing to concede for the sake of harmonizing and securing triumph to the Opposition.

We propose that the Republicans, as the larger section of the Opposition, be permitted to name one of their number for President, to be sustained by the entire Opposition, while the American and National Whigs propose the Vice President.—The ticket thus formed shall be supported by the entire Opposition, each party and each State making its own platform, and none being committed to any but his own doctrines or proposition, and the United Opposition to be designated "Republican," "American," "Union," or "People's party," or whatever else its voters in any locality may choose.

We suggest this first, because it is the basis on which the late beneficent triumph in Pennsylvania was achieved. There the Opposition was heartily organized on a separate platform and a union ticket, headed by John M. Read, who was notoriously a Republican pure and simple, and a very earnest one. The Tariff question was a powerful element in the canvass; but nobody pretended that Mr. Read was personally a better Protectionist than his opponent, Judge Porter. In the North and West the Opposition tickets were generally designated Republican; in the South and East, they were known as "People's;" but the name was of no consequence. Suffice it that the State was carried throughout, by majorities ranging from Twenty to Forty Thousand. The next Presidential election may be carried as sweepingly and in the same manner. Why not?

But suppose this fair and conciliatory proposition prove unacceptable, we suggest another, which would be heartily acceptable to us, and which, if satisfactory to the other wing of the Opposition, we would heartily urge upon the acceptance of the Republican party—namely:

Let the other wing of the Opposition name the President, conceding the Vice President to the Republicans, with this single condition, agreed to on all hands and proclaimed to the public, that *the Administration thus formed shall do all in its power to confine Slavery within the limits of the existing Slave States.*

Is this asking too much? Consider that we propose no party Shibboleth, no profession of faith. We do not require the President to do anything which he deems unconstitutional, but simply to exert whatever power he may have in the premises to prevent the Extension of Slavery. We know, and all know, that a President clothed with the power of appointing all the Governors, Judges, Marshals, Land Officers, &c. &c., in the Territories, can easily make and keep them Free if he will, in spite of all the Senates, Supreme Courts and Dred Scott decisions that may be arrayed against him. We ask for no warfare upon any States or their rights—no assent to a Republican creed, but simply the exercise of whatever power the President may have to keep the Territories—as Jefferson proposed and Washington approved—sacred to Free Labor evermore.

Is there, then, a sincere desire on the part of the Americans and Old Line Whigs for a union and consequent triumph of the Opposition? Their response to the above suggestions will go far to determine this question.

The above is certainly liberal, almost too much so to satisfy all parties, but it presents a basis for discussion. The present proposition of the Louisville *Journal* is characteristic of the South in trying to monopolize everything in favor of its peculiar institution. It never could be acceded to. The present proposition made by the *Tribune*, taking into consideration the existing state of parties, is as fair and liberal as could be made, with the further understanding, that the different parties should be represented in the Cabinet.—This would be probably, more acceptable to the whole country, North and South, than the latter proposition; because each State could then take its own Platform to suit itself. A ticket thus formed, with JOHN C. FREMONT for President, and KENNETH RAYNOR for Vice President, would, we think, give general satisfaction.

Now is the time to discuss these questions before the people, in order to head off disorganizers, who are trying to bring out candidates based on selfish considerations only, without regard to the expressed desire of the people.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENCY.—The *Harrisburg Telegraph* of Saturday last contained at article, commenting with severity, upon the action of Mr. Hickok, the State Superintendent, in removing Mr. Krewson, late Superintendent of the Public Schools of this County. The tenor of the article proved that the editor was not acquainted with the facts of the case, or the cause of the removal, and elicited the following reply from Mr. Hickok:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMON SCHOOLS,
Harrisburg, Dec. 11, 1858.

DEAR SIR:—In justice to the School System, you will oblige me to state through your columns that all the material allegations against myself with regard to the removal of the County Superintendent of Schuylkill County, for "neglect of duty, and incompetency," and the circumstances attending it, which you have published editorially, and apparently endorsed, in this evening's *Telegraph*, are sweeping misrepresentations of the facts of the case. Let me add further, in reply to your remarks, that this power of removal, conferred upon the State Superintendent by the express terms of the law, has rarely been exercised—not unless enough perhaps, for the good of the system—and never upon political grounds, or to accomplish any personal or political purpose whatever.

The 46th section of the general school law provides that the State Superintendent "shall have power to remove any County Superintendent for neglect of duty, incompetency or immorality, and to appoint another in his stead until the next triennial convention of directors." This remedial power has been and still is regarded by the framers of the law, and its leading friends throughout the Commonwealth, as obviously necessary for the protection of the System and the preservation of its interests. Experience has confirmed their impressions. In the present instance I am entirely satisfied that I have done no more than to perform an act of official duty, painful to myself, but obligatory; and I cheerfully assume whatever of responsibility may be devolved upon me in consequence of it.

Mr. Krewson having, in the exercise of an undoubted legal right, of which I certainly do not complain, obtained a writ of *quo warranto* to judicially investigate the legality of his removal, and the validity of his successor's commission, it may be proper to add, "for the credit of the system," that the defences will be conducted by Attorney General Cox, and Robt. M. Palmer, Esq., of the Pottsville Bar.

Respectfully Yours,
H. C. HICKOK.

To GEO. BENSON, Esq., Editor *Daily Telegraph*, Harrisburg.

FRANCE at present is a delightful country for authors. Charles, Count de Montalembert, recently wrote an article for the *Correspondant*, entitled, "*Un Debat d'Ame au Parlement Anglais*," in which he reflected indirectly, though severely, upon the present Government of France. He was arrested, tried, convicted, and the *Persia* brings us intelligence that he was sentenced to six months imprisonment and a fine of 3,000 francs. The editor of the *Correspondant* was sentenced to one month imprisonment and 1,000 francs fine. The result caused a slight depression of the funds in Paris and London. The case excited much interest in Europe, and much sympathy was expressed for Mr. Montalembert. Louis Napoleon is a tyrant, and a very one; but even his powerful hand may grasp the liberties of the French people too tightly. The recoil would be fearful.

THE COSMOPOLITAN ART ASSOCIATION.—We would impress the fact upon all who wish to subscribe this season, that the books here will positively close on the evening of the 30th instant.—After that time the names will go over to next year's list. The beautiful engraving, "The Village Blacksmith," is alone worth double the price of a single subscription, three dollars. It is considered the finest ever issued by the Association.—When we consider that in addition, the *Art Journal*, and a chance in the annual drawing of works of art are given, we are surprised that any should hesitate to subscribe. Those who have resolved to subscribe, but have so far neglected to enter their names, should call at once at B. Bannan's store. In a fortnight they will be too late, as the list here must be closed on the 30th, in order to enable the agent to forward it to New York by the 1st of January.

A young lady of New Bedford, who had been receiving the addresses of a gentleman in opposition to the wishes of her parents, eloped with her lover on Wednesday night, escaping from her residence by her chamber window. The pair proceeded to Sandwich and were married.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

"THE PILGRIM."—The eighth No. of this monthly has been issued. It is a beautiful publication; well conducted, of much service to the cause of preservation of all arts, and appears to prosper.

MOORE'S RURAL NEW YORKER.—We ask attention to the Prospectus in our advertising columns, of this capital agricultural paper. There is variety and spice in every department, and its agricultural matter is highly useful. We heartily commend the New Yorker to our farming friends, as a literary, respectable, first-class agricultural journal.

LADIES' AMERICAN MAGAZINE.—This is the title of a new monthly, published by Henry White, 7 Beekman street, New York, at $2 a year. The January number contains a steel engraving of the latest fashion and pattern plates, and a large quantity of literary matter. Its "Easy Talk" is similar to that of Godey's Magazine, although we are not aware that Lelandpen has been involved in quarter.

LADY'S HOME MAGAZINE.—The January number of this Magazine is remarkably fine in point of illustrations, and as usual, unexceptionable in its literary department. The plate "Dress Are My Jewels" is beautiful, while the fashion and pattern plates must be acceptable to the lady patrons of *Home*. "Climbing Stairs" is a charming sketch, neatly illustrated. The magazine we consider, one of the best in its peculiar line, in the country and decidedly the cheapest, the price being only $2 a year. No home circle in our opinion, can be entirely complete, without a regular visit from this excellent Magazine. The publishers are T. S. Arthur & Co., 323 Walnut street, Philadelphia.

GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK for January, 1859. One of friend Godey's best efforts, since we have been the recipient of his fine Magazine. "Neglected Flowers" is a pleasing artistic; "The Seven Ages of Woman," beautiful; the principal fashion plate superior to anything we have seen this season, and the patterns in ladies' dress numerous, will be highly appreciated by Godey's patrons. Godey now encompasses his receipts with his readings. There is an originality in this opening number of the Lady's Book, in its illustrations, combined with finish of style, that strikes us very favorably. And we think, give the Book a great impetus. It is unquestionably one of the cheapest as it is far superior to many of magazines published in this country. We congratulate friend Godey upon the beauty of his January number, and advise our readers to procure it if they are not already subscribers. Address, L. A. Godey, 323 Chestnut street, Philadelphia. Single copies can be obtained at Bannan's store.

THE NORTH BRITISH REVIEW.—The American edition of this publication for November, is on our table. We have frequently alluded to the peculiar excellence of the British Reviews and Blackwood's Magazine, and to the enterprise of the American publishers, Leonard Scott & Co., of 54 Gold street, New York, by which the American public is enabled to obtain for ten dollars publications for which they pay thirty-one in England. We always do so cheerfully and earnestly, for we consider that the dissemination of works of this character, most important, first to obtain a fair knowledge of English politics and literature, and next to foster the taste in this country for solid, useful reading.

These periodicals ably represent the three great political parties of Great Britain—Whig, Tory, and Radical—but politics form only one feature of their contents. As organs of the most profound writers on Science, Literature, Morality and Religion, they stand, as they have ever stood, unrivalled in the world of letters, being considered indispensable to the scholar and the professional man, while to the intelligent reader of every class they furnish a more correct and satisfactory record of the current literature of the day, throughout the world, than can be possibly obtained from any other source.

The following offer for 1859, '57 '58 and '59, together, are made by the publishers to new subscribers. They are extremely liberal:

For Blackwood's Magazine,	the four years, $6 00
" Any one Review,	" 6 00
" Any two Reviews,	" 10 00
" Blackwood and one Review,	" 10 00
" Blackwood and two Reviews,	" 15 00
" Three Reviews,	" 15 00
" Blackwood and three Reviews,	" 17 00
" The four Reviews,	" 15 00
" Blackwood and the four Reviews,	" 20 00

As the publishers will never again be likely to offer such inducements, as those presented above, now is the time to subscribe. Address them at their number given above.

Local Affairs.

☞ *Venison* from the upper part of the State, was for sale in our market this week.

☞ *Postponed.*—The case of Mr. Krewson testing the right of Mr. Field to hold the office of Public School Superintendent of this County was adjourned yesterday in consequence of Judge Hegins being indisposed. The case will be heard this morning, if the health of Judge Hegins will permit.

☞ *Young Men' Union Prayer Meeting.*—A very interesting meeting of the Association was held last evening at the room of the Good Intent Fire Company.—The next meeting will be on Friday evening, 24th instant, in the same room. Services will commence at 7½ o'clock, to continue an hour.

☞ *Mining Accidents.*—On the 9th instant Thomas James was severely burned at the mines of Milnes & Co., St. Clair, and on the 10th, John Wagner had his leg broken and was otherwise severely bruised at the colliery of C. Frantz, Wadesville, by a fall of coal. Both sufferers were attended by Dr. J. T. Nicholas.

☞ *The Humane Hose Company* of this Borough, is negotiating for a new hose carriage. The Company has adopted the New York style of fire hat, painted white, gray shirt, etc. This Company is rapidly springing up, and promises to be a strong and active member of the Fire Department of this Borough.

☞ *Holiday Presents.*—A superior assortment of useful and fancy goods suitable for Christmas presents, will be found at the "Bee Hive" Furnishing and Variety Store, Centre Street, adjoining the Pottsville House, comprising Hosiery, Gloves and woollen Goods; Embroidery, Perfumery and Toilet articles; Fancy Hair Pins, Bracelets and Combs; Jet Ornaments, Toys, Dolls and Gaiters for children.

☞ *It is* anticipated that those who visit the Fair and Festival of the English Lutheran Church, at the Town Hall in this Borough, on Friday evening next, and also during Saturday day and evening, will have a delightful time. Every preparation has been made to have gifts to suit both young and old. The room should be crowded during the entire time that the Fair is held, and we anticipate that it will be.

☞ *Poetry, Literary Society.*—The exercises on Tuesday evening last consisted of an exceedingly useful lecture on "Education," by the Rev. Nr. Edwards; a read'ng by F. P. Dawes, Esq. and a debate on the question—Do the writings of Thomas Hood possess more merit than those of Oliver Wendell Holmes?—with Messrs. H. Shippen, Green and Dawes in the affirmative, and Messrs. Boyle and Bartholomew in the negative. The decision was in favor of the affirmative.

☞ *The Mozart Musical Society* is flourishing. Its weekly rehearsals are interesting, and exhibit decided improvement on the part of the members. The Society contemplates adding to its instrumental performance, a melodeon. Our citizens at least those of musical taste, should take an active interest in the operations of the Society, in order that by next season, Pottsville may possess a first class musical organization. It can be effected, for we have here in abundance, both taste and talent.

☞ *The* weather of the week has not been particularly noteworthy. It was shocking in the commencement, and winds up by giving us some fair specimens of brilliant moonlight nights. It is moderate for a winter month. Annexed is our thermometrical record for the week:

	R.	H.	F.	A. M.	2 P. M.	7 P. M.	
Dec.	6	18	28	24°	30°	28°	cloudy.
Mon.	12	38	51	31	32	31	rain.
Tues.	14	34	40	40	40	40	"
Wed.	15	34	50	40	44	40	"
Thurs.	16	34	30	30	28	28	clear.
Fri.	17	22	35	24	24	24	"

☞ *Not present.*—On Monday evening at Pennsylvania Hall in this Borough, the personal friends of Mr. C. H. Tyson, of Tyson Colliery, near Llewellyn, presented to him a cane, expressive of their regard.—The cane was presented by Eli Bowen, Esq. The body of the cane is whalebone; the head is composed of gold finely chased; to the head is superb ornament.—Upon the band is engraved the following, facetious—"*Presented to Mr. Tyson as a slight estimation of the great entertained for him, by his Friends in Pottsville, 1858.*" Upon a golden band encircling the stem, is engraved so minutely, that a magnifying glass is required to read it with readiness, the annexed motto—"*Tyson, may all thy ways be ways of pleasantness, and all thy paths of peace.*" The cane was made by Bailey & Kitcher, the well known jewelers of Philadelphia.—Our opinion of the affair is, that Mr. Tyson is in every respect, worthy of such a valuable mark of friendly regard, and that the donors could not have hit upon a clever person to cane as in manner set forth.

☞ *Commendable Action.*—By a "Burial Ground Notice" published in another column of this paper, it will be observed that the Trustees of the burial ground in the upper part of the Borough, have resolved that in future there shall be no interments in the ground, except by those who are entitled to its use by the gift of the late John Pott, and furthermore, that no interment shall take place, until the Trustees have been notified of the intention. The reasons for the step, are, that the ground is now so filled, that in digging a grave some days since for a fresh interment, bones of a former well known citizen were dug up, and although the grave-digger placed them together in a pile, some boys obtained entrance to the yard, and scattered them about; and again, that any more interments to any extent in the ground, would be prejudicial to the public health. The Trustees acted wisely. Such decency and health demand that some restraint should be exercised, and their action will undoubtedly, have the desired effect.

☞ *Saturday* next will be Christmas, and it is to be hoped that we may have an old-fashioned "merry Christmas," this season. It will be a bad day for us as a nation and as individuals, when the approach of this blessed holiday finds our hearts cold and our hands idle. There is a threatening of that dreary day. We are fast learning, in the selfish hurry and stiff strut of modern life, to forget each other. Kindness and joy are taking leave of our hearts. The garlands of love are fading on our hearths. We are all so busy. We all have so many "matters of importance" to think about. Our charity is spasmodic and monstrous and boisterous. We throw a dollar at a poor fellow-creature, now and then, but never a cheap smile. Our demonstrations of good will towards men are sudden and clumsy. Christmas is about our only chance to thaw out, and be happy in the good sunshine. Heaven forbid that we should ever let it go! Let us all warm up, and help to have a right jolly Christmas this year.

PROCEEDINGS OF COURT.

REPORTED FOR THE MINERS' JOURNAL.

Com. vs. James Roag.—Surety of the Peace on oath of Margaret Hood. After hearing, deft. was ordered to pay the costs.

Com. vs. John McKearnon.—Surety of the Peace on oath of Mrs. McGinness. This case was dismissed after hearing, and no order made as to the costs.

Com. vs. John A. Kehl.—Surety of the Peace on oath of Samuel Reinhuth. The deft., a Justice of the Peace in Union Township, was complained of by prosecutor for threatening him. It appeared that deft. had got into the habit of using intoxicating drinks too freely, and whilst under their influence was turbulent and threatening. He had lain in prison for several months, and was ordered to pay the costs.

Com. vs. Washington Schropp.—This was a charge of Forcible Entry and Detainer against the defendant for violently ejecting and dispossessing Adam Brown, the prosecutor, from a house in Pinegrove Township. There was a disagreement between the parties as to which of them had the actual possession, and who was entitled to it. The Court ruled that the question could not be decided in this form of action, and therefore that the charge could not be sustained. The jury put the costs on the prosecutor.

Com. vs. Mary Knerr.—The deft. was found guilty of keeping a Disorderly House and was sentenced to pay 6 cents fine, and undergo 5 days' imprisonment.

Com. vs. Thomas Cooper.—The deft.'s wife complained that her husband while intoxicated had committed an Assault and Battery upon her to which he plead guilty. He appeared to regret the occurrence and was sentenced to pay 6 cents fine and the costs.

Com. vs. Michael Brennan.—F. W. Richardson complained that deft. had stolen a chicken of his, but the proof not coming up to the charge, the deft. was acquitted.

Com. vs. Benjamin Adams.—Taking Conveyance without Owner's Consent. The deft. was engaged in painting a counterfeit dollar on the Bank of Wilmington or Brandywine. She passed one at Mrs. Berryman's store in Pottsville, and offered others at various places. The jury found her guilty. Not yet sentenced.

Com. vs. Bryon McAvoy.—Surety of the Peace. After hearing the case was dismissed without any order as to costs. David Philips preferred a charge of Assault and Battery against him, in hitting him with a stone, to which after a hearing he plead guilty and was sentenced to pay $5 fine and the costs.

Com. vs. John Morrissy alias John Morris.—The deft. was indicted for an Assault and Battery with intent to kill Owen Connahan. He plead guilty to the charge of Assault and Battery, and a *nol pros.* was entered as to the charge of intent to kill. The offence was committed during a drunken spree. He was sentenced to pay 6 cents fine and undergo 30 days' imprisonment.

Com. vs. John D. Jones.—This was a charge of Larceny on the 6th of Michael Weaver. The deft. was acquitted on the ground of insanity, and was ordered to be given in charge to the Directors of the Poor.

Com. vs. Richard Budds.—The deft. plead guilty to a charge of Assault and Battery on Jas. Love—to pay 1 cent fine and costs.

Com. vs. Thomas O'Boyle.—The deft. was found guilty of selling liquor without License on oath of John Walsh, and was sentenced to pay $10 fine and the costs.

Com. vs. Shaughaun and John Gaya.—Larceny of chickens and some other things on oath of Daniel G. Barnet. Gaya plead guilty and was sentenced to 4 months' imprisonment, and Shaughaun was convicted of receiving the goods, knowing them to be stolen, and was sentenced to 6 cents fine and 3 months' imprisonment.

Com. vs. Alice Smith.—This was also a case of Larceny, in which the deft. plead guilty. Not yet sentenced.

Com. vs. John Iga.—Deft. was convicted of keeping a Disorderly House in Palmyra. Fine 1 cent and costs. Not yet sentenced.

Com. vs. Wm. Kane, Edward Haughey and Charles Doyle.—The defts. were indicted for rescuing a prisoner from the officer arrest. It occurred at the mines of J. M. Lewis, Palmyra, and during a disturbance there about their wages. The defts. plead guilty and they were sentenced to pay the costs and fine and $100 bail for their good behavior for one year.

Com. vs. Henry Gressang.—The deft. was indicted for an Assault and Battery on John Fitzpatrick, the Catholic Priest, residing in Ashland. It appeared that the prosecutor's house in Ashland, called at the deft.'s and got into an altercation, when the latter ordered him out of his house, and laid his hands on him to effect it. The prosecutor then struck him a blow in the face which drew the blood. The deft. was sentenced to pay a fine of $5 and the costs.

Com. vs. Anna Zulop.—This prosecution for Assault and Battery brought by Henry Gressang, was the sequel of the above. The deft., who is the wife of the prosecutor, and a Protestant, sought the dispute between Mr. Gressang and the priest, went into the yard and struck Gressang a blow on the shoulder with a pole. It occurred during the altercation, and after the prosecutor had been ordered to leave. The jury found a verdict of not guilty, and the prosecutor to pay the costs.

Com. vs. Jacob Brennan.—The deft. plead guilty to the larceny of some articles belonging to John Bowen. He was sentenced to a fine of 6 cents, the costs, and 3 months' imprisonment.

Com. vs. Wm. Beaumont.—This deft. was indicted for larceny, but no evidence appearing against him the jury found a verdict of not guilty.

Com. vs. John Lawler.—The deft. was charged with the larceny of some timber upon the land of Spencer Bullitt, near Mahanoy. The timber which had been in the woods was cut away and was seen by a boy in the road near the deft's house. The deft. claimed that he had not brought it there, that it was not in his possession, and that he had not claimed it. The jury found a verdict of not guilty.

Com. vs. Randal Lewis.—Larceny of property belonging to Jos. Bressler. The deft. plead guilty, and was sentenced to 6 cents fine and four months' imprisonment.

Com. vs. John Sands.—The deft. was complained of as a nuisance. He is in the habit of bringing liquor to excess, and was complained of by the neighbors on account of indecent exposure of his person. He was sentenced to pay the costs, and give $200 bail for his good behavior for one year.

Com. vs. Mary Litler.—Disorderly House, on oath of John Hanley. After a hearing, she was found guilty, and was sentenced to pay the costs and give $200 bail for her good behavior for one year.

Com. vs. Mary Sullivan.—Surety of the Peace on oath of Margaret Sullivan. Case was dismissed, and no order made as to costs.

Com. vs. Jane Sands.—Public Prostitute. After hearing the deft. was directed to pay the costs.

Com. vs. Daniel Fultz.—This deft. was indicted for obtaining goods under false pretences from John Brandt, a merchant doing business in Tremont. The deft. moved to Tremont and commenced dealing with Brandt. After a time he told Brandt that he would want more goods, that he had purchased a house and was going to keep boarders, that the Mine Hill Railroad Co. owed him some money, and that some was coming to him from the old country. He ran up a bill of nearly $150, which he left unpaid and then removed to Mt. Carbon. It did not appear that deft's representations were entirely false, and the jury thinking the prosecution was perhaps instituted to collect a debt, found a verdict of not guilty, and put the costs on the prosecutor.

Com. vs. John Durkin.—The deft. plead guilty to a charge of larceny in taking away a lot of iron from the operation of Voorhies. He had previously sustained a good character, and on account of that and his infirmity, he was sentenced to pay only a fine of 6 cents and the costs.

Com. vs. Daniel Edwards and Wm. Davis.—The defts. were indicted for Malicious Mischief, in tearing down a fence which the prosecutor, Thomas Ferguson, alleged to be his. The defts. did not deny that they had torn down the fence but contended they had a right to do it, Edwards having put it up, and having at the time it was torn down a lease for the ground on which it stood, from the owners. The jury found them not guilty, and put the costs on the prosecutor.

Com. vs. Thomas Ferguson.—The deft. was charged with keeping a disorderly house on oath of Mrs. Jenkins. The jury found him not guilty, but directed him to pay the costs. He was also complained of on a Surety of the Peace, by Margaret Edwards, and after hearing was directed to pay the costs and give $200 bail for his good behavior for one year.

Com. vs. John Ball.—This was a charge against deft. for having committed an Assault and Battery on Daniel Holan, on the night of the election. It occurred above St. Clair, near Reppler's mines. The parties were neighbors, and had feeling existed between them. The jury found the deft. guilty, and he was sentenced to 6 cents fine, the costs and thirty days' imprisonment.

Com. vs. Daniel Holan.—This was a cross action of Assault and Battery, brought by John Ball against the prosecutor in the last case. The jury found him not guilty but directed that he should pay the costs.

Com. vs. William Fisher.—The deft. was indicted for passing counterfeit money of the Bank of Syracuse, New York, on Israel Lindner. It was proved that Fisher passed the money on Lindner, but the Commonwealth did not able to prove that the money was counterfeit.—The jury found the deft. not guilty and put the costs on the Commonwealth.

Com. vs. Daniel Heffner, Jr.—Larceniens and Bastardy, on oath of Anna C. Lindenmuth. The deft. proved an alibi.

Commonwealth vs. Levi Seibert.—This was a charge of murder against Levi Seibert, for having killed a colored man named Bowers. The evidence showed that in August last Seibert and Bowers were together in the lower part of the county, known as the Pine Swamp, in West Brunswick Township, that there was an altercation between them, and that Seibert beat the deceased; and that two days after he died, Seibert privately told the witness that Bowers had received a blow from a companion of Seibert's about the same time so that it was impossible to tell who had caused his death and besides, the testimony hat that deceased died from the effect of the beatings was not conclusive, for the physician who attended at the inquest made only an external examination of the body. The deceased was a very intemperate man. The Jury found a verdict of not guilty.

Com. vs. Henry L. Cole.—The defendant, the Editor of the Mining Record and Emporium, was prosecuted for libel by John V. Taylor published during the last election campaign charging Jack Taylor with having been concerned in the riots in Philadelphia in '44, and in having assisted in the burning of St. Augustine's church and it was also charged that defendant had insinuated that Taylor was suspected of having had something to do with the recent fires in Pottsville. The defence alleged that what was said was true, and that it was published for good motives and for justifiable ends. A number of witnesses were produced to whom prosecutor had asserted that he was engaged in the riots of 1844 in Philadelphia, and to whom he had boasted that he had helped to set fire to St. Augustine's Church, and that he had left Philadelphia because he was obliged to do so; and further, that there some suspicions of his having been concerned in the recent fires, though as it proved, the suspicions were entirely groundless, the prosecutor not having been in Pottsville at the time the fire in Coal Street took place, when the printing office of the Mining Register was burned to the ground.

The Court charged in substance that the first inquiry for the Jury was to ascertain whether the matter published was true or false. If it was false, then the malice of the publication being inferred from its falsity, the jury need go no further; but if the matter published was true then it was for the defendant to show that it had been published with good motives and for justifiable ends, and that malice would be inferred unless the defendant showed this affirmatively. If the defendant could prove that the matter published was true and was published for good motives and justifiable ends, then under the Act of the Legislature, passed in 1856, the defendant would be entitled to a verdict of acquittal. The Jury, after deliberating for a short time, returned a verdict of not guilty, but that the defendant should pay the costs.

REPORT OF THE GRAND JURY.

To the Honorable the Judges of the Court of Quarter Sessions, in and for the County of Schuylkill:

The Grand Inquest, inquiring for the county of Schuylkill, December Sessions, 1858, respectfully report:

That they have had before them and acted upon fifty bills of indictment, viz.

For Assault and Battery,	17
" Larceny,	16
" Malicious Mischief,	1
" Fornication and Bastardy,	2
" Nuisance,	2
" Passing Counterfeit Money,	3
" Disorderly House,	4
" Selling Liquor without License,	2
" Enticing Prisoners,	1
" Obtaining Goods under False Pretence,	1
" Libel,	1
	50

Of the above they found *forty-five* true bills and ignored five. *Almost every case of Assault and Battery*, and also other cases that were brought before the Grand Inquest, were the fruits of drunkenness, clearly showing the degrading effects of intoxicating liquors, and the increased cost levied on the tax-payers of the county from its too free use.

We also feel bound to notice that many bills for petty offences were laid before us which, in our judgment, should have been settled by the committing Justices, thus saving the county unnecessary costs.

The Grand Inquest have visited the Public Offices and the Prison. In the former they found all things in good order, exhibiting due praise to the officers of the different departments.

In the latter we find a good system adopted, by which the institution is kept in perfect order, and the cleanliness of the prisoners secured, which we think should be accomplished in these years, if your views were carried out, that a contribution of a quarter of a cent per meal on 3 millions of times per year, the