Miners' Journal.

POTTSVILLE, PA.

SATURDAY, MAY 28, 1859.

ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT.

The death of this illustrious man in his ninetieth year, is an event which falls sadly upon the heart of the world. He was a man old in years, yet with a mind young and untouched by time; great, yet unconscious of his greatness; illustrious, yet simple.

Frederick Henry Alexander, Baron Von Humboldt, was born at Berlin, September 14, 1769.—His father, Major Von Humboldt, who had been an officer in the service of Frederick the Great, died in 1779. Alexander Von Humboldt was educated partly at the university of Frankfort-on-the-Oder, and partly at Goettingen; at which latter he had the benefit of the instructions of Heyne and Blumenbach. In his university vacations he made scientific excursions along the Rhine and into the Harz Mountains, the result of which was his first work, published in 1790, entitled "Mineralogical Considerations on certain basaltic formations on the Rhine." He then betook himself to Freyberg, to study mining under the direction of the celebrated Werner. In 1792 he was appointed to an office connected with the mining department under the Prussian government, and lived at Bayreuth. Here he remained till 1795. The duties of his official position did not interfere with the ardent pursuit of scientific knowledge. Besides contributing scientific articles on various subjects to German periodicals, he wrote and published a work on botany, in the Latin language. He had always felt a strong desire for foreign travel; and on the death of his mother, in 1796, he determined to gratify it. The troubled state of Europe interposed many obstacles to his plan; and while waiting for the realization of his hopes he published a work on the process of life in the animal and vegetable world, and another on subterranean gas. A plan for visiting upper Egypt in 1798 was reluctantly abandoned after having been ardently embraced. In the same year he made at Paris the acquaintance of Bonpland, a young man inspired, like himself, with the love of travel and the love of science. They schemed a journey into North Africa; but that failing, they visited Spain together in the early part of 1799. Here, fate which had so long frowned upon him, began to smile. Through the Minister Urquijo, he gained access to the King of Spain; and was fortunate enough to secure his interest and co-operation in a proposed visit to Mexico and South America.—The two friends set sail from Corunna on the 5th of June, 1799, in a Spanish corvette, the Pizarro; and escaping the English cruisers, got out to sea.

They visited Teneriffe, ascended the Peak, and made some researches into the natural history of the island. They reached Cumana, on the Coast of South America, July 16. The next five years were spent in a very extended course of travel, rich alike in personal adventures and scientific results. The region watered by the Orinoco was fully explored, and the connexion between that river and the Amazon traced. They visited Cuba, where they remained some months. In March, 1801, they returned to the continent of South America, sailed up the Magdalena as far as they could, and pursued their route by land to Popayan and Quito, and thence as far south as Lima. The chain of the Andes was five times crossed, its volcanoes were carefully studied, and the lofty peak of Chimborazo was ascended to within about thirteen hundred feet of the top. From Lima they sailed to Guayaquil, and then to Acapulco. From Acapulco they went to the city of Mexico. There and in the other parts of the province they spent some months in scientific explorations, and in arranging their specimens. They sailed from Vera Cruz for Havana, March 7, 1804, and remained two months at the latter place. From Havana they went to Philadelphia, visited Mr. Jefferson at Washington, and sailed for Bordeaux in France, where they arrived in August, 1804, bringing an immense amount of new knowledge in geography, geology, climatology, meteorology, botany, zoology, and every other branch of natural history, as well as in ethnology and political statistics.

The next twelve years of his life, during which Humboldt resided at Paris, were occupied in preparing for the press and publishing the splendid results of these rich five years of travel. These appeared in successive years under the general title of "Voyage de Humboldt et Bonpland dans l'interieur de l'Amerique meridionale dans les annees 1799—1804;" comprising seven different works, and making twelve volumes in quarto, three in folio, with two collections of maps, and one of engravings.

It was not until 1817 that Humboldt found leisure for any considerable work not connected with his travels in America. In that year he published an essay on the distribution of plants. In 1818 he visited Italy with Gay Lussac, and afterwards spent some time in England. In 1822 he accompanied the late King of Prussia on a visit to Naples. In 1823 he published an essay on the superposition of rocks in both hemispheres. In 1826 he took up his abode in Berlin, where he has ever since resided. In 1829, when in his sixty-first year, he accepted a pressing invitation from the late Emperor of Russia, Nicholas, to join a scientific expedition into the Asiatic regions of that empire. He visited Siberia and the shores of the Caspian, and advanced as far east as the frontiers of the Chinese Empire, returning by Moscow and St. Petersburg. The scientific results of this expedition appeared in various works published by Humboldt or under his superintendence. In 1836—'39 he published an elaborate work in five volumes, entitled, "Examen Critique de la Geographie du Nouveau Continent." Of late years he has been devoting himself to the crowning labor of his life, the composition of his world renowned "Kosmos."

The great rank which Humboldt has held in the world of science, remarks the Boston *Courier*, is due to a wonderful combination of faculties, rather than to the predominance of any one. He was equally remarkable for the accuracy of his observation and the brilliancy of his generalizations. His careful inspection of details never imparted anything minute or microscopic to his understanding. His literary abilities were of the highest order. He had a poet's sensibility to nature, which no familiarity ever wore away. His descriptions are not more remarkable for accuracy of delineation than for richness of coloring. The charm of ideal beauty—of the serenest and highest philosophy—hangs over his page, and exalts and dignifies his speculations. To his penetrating philosophical glance every insulated phenomenon is part of a grand whole, and springs from a universal law. In his "Kosmos," his most character istic work, we see the poet and the sage expounding the facts of the naturalist—Plato interpreting Aristotle—and blending the accumulated researches of a long life of unparalleled scientific activity into an exquisite mosaic of beauty and truth. It would be impossible, within any reasonable compass, to give the merest outline of his scientific labors and results. We can only indicate the spirit that presided over his scientific life as the noblest character. The vast fabric of science which he reared was crowned by a spire which, with silent finger, pointed ever to Heaven and to God. Never was there a more beautiful life than his; never was there a life in which each successive portion was bound to that which preceded it by more harmonious laws. His old age was like a Norway twilight at midsummer, where midnight itself is but a veiled and softened noon. His life wanted but the seal of death to make it perfect.

AGGRESSION!

We were in doubt in regard to the existence of a Democratic party in our midst, previous to the issue of the last number of the *Standard* of this Borough. We knew there were a couple of cliques in the County, each emulous to be recognized as orthodox in the faith. We had some recollection of their last *harmonious* gathering at the Court House, in which coats and usual appendages were pulled alternately in the attempt to chair the gentlemen who were both elected to preside. But really, until the appearance of the last number of the Post office *Standard*, we were ignorant of the fact that there *is* indeed, a Democratic party among us. We acknowledge the fact with all the frankness that attended the acknowledgment of Davy Crockett's coon, before its memorable descent to capitulate to the great hunter. But not only is there a Democratic party among us; but it has had a custom from time immemorial, of holding its annual meeting in the Court Room of the County, on the first Monday in June. [An interesting fact to antiquarians, and to the select party of Democrats that last year held its annual meeting on the outside of the Court House.] However, we will not touch on private grievances; but proceed to the point in question. It appears that this immemorial usage of the Democratic party keeps the Court Room sacred to its use on the first Monday in June, no matter whether it issues or does not issue a notification to time, to that effect. So the People are to understand, according to the *Standard's* pronunciamento. Now we cannot understand how the Democratic or any other party can claim any peculiar right to the Court Room on a fixed day, without having given the first public notification. Mr. O'Conner states that the County Commissioners granted the use of the Court House to the Democracy for the 6th of June, before the Standing Committee of the People's Party fixed that date. As however, the fact was not known publicly, we have but Mr. O'Conner's assertion to that effect. We have no proof that such is the fact. Therefore, we hold that the People recognizing no immemorial custom of the Democratic or any other party, have the right of precedence, when public notification of the fact that they intend holding a meeting at the Court House, has been given first. And we think that under the circumstances, all the aggression in the case is on the part of the Democratic Standing Committee, which aware that the State Convention of the People's Party is called for the 8th of June, also know that the County meeting for the appointment of delegates from Schuylkill County, must necessarily be fixed at an earlier period than the second Monday of June. The matter is probably, not of much moment, nor will occasion any unpleasant occurence on the 6th of June, as the People will meet at a later hour than the Democracy; but we protest against the unworthy manner in which that distracted party endeavors to annoy their too courteous antagonists, for to treat the faction leaders and wire-pullers with courtesy politically, seems like casting pearls before swine.

THE WAR IN ITALY.

We make up from our late foreign files the following interesting extracts:

The Austrian Generals.

The Paris Siecle gives an account of the Austrian Generals under whose direction the campaign in Piedmont has been opened;

General Gyulai, now the actual governor of the Austro-Italian provinces, and commander-in-chief of the troops in all Lombardo-Venetia, was, in 1848, a simple general of brigade. He fought under the orders of Radetzky, especially at Custozza, on the 25th of July, and unless he has forgotten the particulars of that battle, he should cherish some respect for the Piedmontese troops. Custozza is the name of one of the villages included in the line occupied by the Sardinian army.—The Austrians, commanded by Radetzky, assailed four Piedmontese brigades, the collective strength of which was 20,000 men. One of these brigades was commanded by the Duke of Genoa. The fight lasted from eight o'clock in the morning till four in afternoon. The Piedmontese performed prodigies of bravery; they defended step by step all their position, and retired facing the enemy, whom they never allowed for a single instant to break their ranks. One understands how King Victor Emmanuel in his recent proclamation to the army, recalled with pride this glorious retreat. Gen. Gyulai commanded on that day one of the Austrian Brigades; he knows consequently, what the Sardinian soldiers are worth, and he is about to learn the quality of the soldiers of France.

The writer next introduces General Hebel. His rank in 1848 was Colonel. After the retreat of Radetzky across the Adige he was entrusted to keep open the communications of the General-in-chief between Verona and Trent by Rivoli and the Garona. He took part with a battalion of the regiment of the Emperor's chasseurs, in the action of Pastrengo, where the Austrians were beaten. He is the same, if we are not deceived, who caused to be shot in the losses of Trent the patriot Italians. He found that an easier task, apparently, than beating them on the field of battle.

General Hess is the next individuality. If we are to credit the latest Italian letters, it is General Hess or Hess who has incurred disgrace by having blamed the offensive movement across the Ticino. He took part in the campaign of 1848, in quality of *chef-de-stat major* of Marshal Radetzky. Vast military talents were ascribed to him at that time. He had not then attained the height of his reputation.

Of General Benedick, the historian of the Siecle says: He enjoys a European reputation almost equal to that of his celebrated colleague, General Haynau, the woman flogger.

Various Rumors.

The Duke de Chartres, after a brilliant examination at the military academy in Turin, had been appointed underlieutenant in the dragoons of Nisa, and was to follow the Piedmontese army. Would it not have been a singular destiny to see the grand son of Louis Philippe fighting for the independence of Italy between King Victor Emanuel and Emperor Napoleon? The latest advices, however, state that the intention of the Duc de Chartres to serve in the Piedmontese army has been *overruled, by the advice of the Orleans Princes, his uncle, and he is about to leave Turin for England.*

The correspondent of the London Times at New-Castle-on-Tyne, writing on the 4th of May, gives the following, which is somewhat significant:

"The Russian government has contemplated an extensive order for five motives and machinery, and a large firm in this town has been obliged to pay off 200 or 300 hands."

The Paris correspondent of the Brussels Independance says that the Emperor has given a private audience to a cardinal sent on a mission to the French government, and that his Holiness persists in retaining the power of leaving Rome in certain eventualities.

An English squadron, consisting of four ships-of-the-line, and a frigate, under the command of Admiral Freemantle, had arrived at Gibraltar.

A Russian squadron is reported to be in the Adriatic.

The French officers, having quitted France unexpectedly, had not time to supply themselves with the most indispensable necessaries, and it was in Genoa they purchased their mules, saddles and baggage carts. A fair for the sale of mules was held every day in the market place. The Genoese horse dealers, like their brethren in other countries, extorted extravagant prices; as much as 500f. and 700f. were paid for a mule.

In consequence of the fact that wherever the Austrians make their appearance, they ravage everything, carry off hostages, impose contributions, and, in short, behave in such a way that Marshal Canrobert, it is said, has written to Gyulai, and asked him whether he means to carry on the war like a barbarian, or in accordance with the principles of modern civilization.

The French government, it is said, have contracted for the immediate delivery, at Marseilles and Toulon, of 20,000 casks of beef and pork, and a vessel is now loading in George's dock, Liverpool, with 3,000 casks, the remainder of the orders being distributed among the principal ports of the kingdom.

The Pope is about to address a circular letter to all the Catholic bishops, inviting them to order public prayer for peace. Cardinal Antonelli has delivered a diplomatic note to the governments of France and Austria, declaring the intention of the Pontifical government to maintain the strictest neutrality.

Orders have therefore been sent from Vienna to advance into the Sardinian territory another corps of 50,000 men, now concentrated round Pavia. They will be replaced in their positions by troops drawn from Bohemia and Hungary.

All applications coming from strangers to be admitted into the French service as officers, have been and will be refused. Major Kearney, of the United States, has entered the staff of Gen. Morris, commander of a division of the cavalry of the Imperial Guard, but it is only as a volunteer and as a friend. He has no official title there.

A French journal announces that M. Nicholas Clary, a gentleman in possession of an income of $60,000 a year, has engaged as a private soldier in a cavalry regiment which is about to take the field.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

IRVING'S LIFE OF WASHINGTON.—This fine work is just completed by the publication of the fifth volume. A full sett can be obtained at Bannan's store. It is a beautiful work, typographically, and no library should be without it.

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE for May has been issued by Leonard Scott & Co., 79 Fulton street, New York. The number contains "Popular Literature-Tracts;" "A Cruise in Japanese Waters" (continued); "The Luck of Ladysmede" (part three of the best novel since the publication of Ivanhoe); "The Witch of Walkerne;" "Only a Pond;" "The Competition System and the Public Service;" "Tidings from Turin;" and "The Appeal to the Country." A fine number this.—Those who do not read the English Reviews and Blackwood, deprive themselves of a rich intellectual treat. They are re-published by Leonard Scott & Co., at a very reasonable price.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY, June, 1859. Boston:—PHILLIPS & SAMPSON.

A fine number of the Atlantic. The opening essay on "Shakspeare's Art" is thoroughly appreciative. "A Trip to Cuba," by Mrs. Howe, of Passion-Flowers memory, is vividly written. An article on Smollett contains new and interesting facts. "The Differential and Integral Calculus" is more attractive than its title would indicate.—The ingenious "Bull and Bears" is gracefully brought to an end. Higginson, who won so much credit by his "Souls and their Bodies," contributes a graphic sketch on Prince Rupert. "Bloodroot" is the subject of a short ode with metre very happily imitated from one by Horace. Dr. Holmes is prolific this month—furnishing not only his "Breakfast Table" instalment, which as usual, is, truthful as well as racy, but a lively and suggestive article on the "Stereoscope and the Stereograph." "The Minister's Wooing" brings Mary Scudder in contact with Aaron Burr, and of course the interest of the story is heightened. Several vigorous book notices close the number. Single copies of the Magazine can be obtained at Bannan's store.

THE FORTUNES OF NIGEL. *By Sir Walter Scott. Being the twelfth volume of T. B. Peterson & Brothers' cheap weekly issue of Waverley Novels for the Million.*

The world-wide reputation of the Waverley Novels will insure a ready sale of this cheap edition, and prove, we trust, remunerative to the enterprising publishers. It is commendable to do anything that will, even in a small degree, stay the present raging appetite for pernicious light reading. By satisfying the cravings of those who desire fiction with some of the healthiest of its order, is preventing evil, and negatively, at least, doing good. There are no works of the imagination which can so effectually accomplish this as the novels of Sir Walter Scott. They, to say nothing more, are harmless. It is even astonishing that through so many volumes there should be found so little that religion or morality would disapprove. For beauty of style, copiousness of expression, vividness of description, and interest of subject, Scott stands in the foremost rank.—His works will be read always with interest, and not unfrequently with profit. One volume is issued every Saturday, and each one is got up in a neat style, all of the same size, and are printed at the rate of 25 cents a volume, or the whole twenty-six volumes for five dollars, and sent free of postage to all, on receipt of this sum. This low price should place a sett of them within the reach of everybody in the land.

HINTS TOWARD PHYSICAL PERFECTION:—Or, the Philosophy of Human Beauty; showing how to Acquire and Retain Bodily Symmetry, Health, and Vigor; secure Long Life; and avoid the Infirmities and Deformities of Age. By D. H. Jacques. New York: Fowler and Wells, publishers, 308 Broadway. Price $1.

This is a work which, if we mistake not, is destined to command almost universal attention, and awaken everywhere a deeper interest in the physical improvement of the race than has yet been manifested; as it shows how certain and easy this improvement may be made by the use of the perfectly legitimate means therein pointed out. Its revelations of the laws of human configuration, on which symmetry and beauty depend, are not less interesting and important than they are novel and surprising; showing, as they do, that the form and features of even the mature man or woman (and much more those of the child) may be modified at will, and to an almost unlimited extent—that we have the power to change, gradually but surely, the shape and arrangement of bone, fiber, and fluid, thus growing, day by day, more beautiful or more ugly, according to the direction given to the vital forces.

It will be found deeply interesting to both sexes (but especially to women) and to all ages; and we earnestly commend it to all for whom health strength, and beauty have any attractions; to parents, as a guide to the right performance of their all-important functions and duties; to teachers, who may learn from it how to develop the minds and bodies of their pupils harmoniously together; to young women, who will not look in vain in its pages for the secrets of that womanly beauty and personal attractiveness which they very properly desire to possess; and to young men, who will find in it a manual of rules for the development of those high qualities of physical vigor and manliness which will command the admiration of their own sex no less than the love of the other. Illustrated with twenty plates and a large number of cuts, executed in the highest style of art.

Local Affairs.

WEEKLY ALMANAC.

1859. May.		SUN RISES	SUN SETS.	MOON'S CHANGES.	D. H. M.
28	SATURDAY	4 33	7 22	New M.	5 5 Sev.
29	SUNDAY	4 32	7 23	First Q.	9 0 Sev.
30	MONDAY	4 31	7 24	Full M.	16 4 Mev.
31	TUESDAY	4 31	7 24	Last Q.	24 5 Sev.
1	WEDNESDAY	4 31	7 24		
2	THURSDAY	4 30	7 25		
3	FRIDAY	4 30	7 25		

Thermometrical Record for the Week.

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

		8 A. M.	2 P. M.	7 P. M.
Sat.,	May 21,	63°	69°	59°—rain.
Mon.,	" 23,	63	64	66 —clear.
Tues.,	" 24,	65	74	68 — "
Wed.,	" 25,	68	80	73 — "
Thurs.,	" 26,	72	81	75 — "
Fri.,	" 27,	77	80	64 — "

Why not remove the market house in Market Square? It is unsightly, of no use, and destroys the beauty of one of the finest streets in town. Down with it.

The net profits of the Reading Railroad Company for the five months of the present year's business, is $399,059, an excess of nearly $70,000 on the net profits of corresponding time last year.

The Committee on contributions to the fund of the Humane Hose Company, is meeting with good success. The new "spider" of the Company will be brought up next month from the city.

Cricket.—Next month the Pottsville Cricket Club will play a match with the Germantown Cricket Club. It will be played in this County. The place however, has not been decided upon, we believe.

Henry Davis employed at the Franklin Colliery, near Forrestville, and John Kelly working at the Phœnix Colliery, were injured by accidents on Saturday last, the first so seriously by the kick of a mule, that he is not expected to recover.

On the 20th instant, William Roberts, employed at the Tunnel Colliery, Ashland, was instantly killed, in consequence of the hoisting wire rope falling down the slope and striking him.—He leaves a wife and four children in destitute circumstances.

The Schuylkill Chorister Society of St. Clair, which has been formed under the instruction of Prof. John A. Phillips—meets twice a week at St. Clair for the purpose of practicing.—The Society proposes shortly giving several Concerts, of which due notice will be given.

The Strawberry Crop promises an abundant yield this season, and we learn that the patches in this vicinity will soon be ready for picking. This will be good news for the lovers of this luscious fruit. The thought of "strawberries and cream" causes one's mouth to water!

Death of a valued Citizen.—Mr. William De Haven, one of the most enterprising and respected citizens of Minersville, died on Sunday last, and was interred on Tuesday. His death is not only a severe loss to his immediate relatives and friends, but to the community at large.

A young lady from Philadelphia, expressed her surprise the other day that such a "natty" town as Pottsville, should have so many "characters" (pigs) running at large. She thought it derogatory to our reputation for cleanliness. We looked *pen-sive*; but had no reply to make.—Shame that our citizens should tamely tolerate such a nuisance, made us dumb.

Soap is an important article in household economy. Cleanliness is next to godliness. Now we have a home manufactured article—A. M. Allen's Double Distilled Soap—for washing and bleaching linen, muslin, etc., which is highly recommended by many ladies of this Borough, who have tested its qualities. The price is six cents a pint. It may be obtained at B. Bannan's store in this Borough. Mr. Allen's toilet soap is also a fine article.

Fatal Accident.—Mr. John Robinson was accidentally killed at his mines at Centreville, near his Borough on Friday last. He was engaged in mining, and a fall of coal and dirt happened, which caught him between the coal and a wagon, smothering him before he could be extricated. Mr. Robinson was in the 69th year of his age, and leaves a widow and three grown children. On Sunday last his remains were interred in the Odd Fellows' Cemetery of this Borough, by the Order of Sons of Temperance, of which Mr. Robinson was a member.

Pottsville Saving Fund Association.—Some of our citizens are about starting a new Saving Fund Association, for which they have applied to the Court of Common Pleas for a Charter of incorporation. The law of April 12th, 1859, regulating these institutions is decidedly advantageous to the members therof, and the proposed Constitution we understand, is very liberal in its provisions. Those wishing to become stockholders in this Association, may apply to John G. Brown, D. G. Yuengling, Dr. Charles Hassler, John C. Conrad, Esq., or G. P. Lippe, either of whom will impart further information.

Explosion of Fire Damp.—On Monday morning last an explosion of fire damp took place in the colliery of Wm. Milnes, Jr. & Co., at St. Clair, by which five men and four boys were burned, some severely, others but slightly. It appears that gas had accumulated in considerable quantity at a point in the mine between Saturday and Monday, and although warned of the fact, one of the miners persisted in entering with a naked lamp. The result was, as stated. None of the men or boys were fatally injured, we are glad to learn, although the force of the explosion was of a character to warrant such a result.

Grover & Baker's Sewing Machines are said to be superior. There is much reliable testimony to that effect. They will hem, fell, gather, bind, stitch and fasten off their own work which *no other Machine does.* The work will not rip even if every fourth stitch is cut. These Machines are warranted for one year or longer if desired. Printed directions accompany each Machine by which any one can learn without difficulty. Or practical instruction given by Green & Hoffman, Jewelers, Centre street, this Borough, who are agents for the sale of the Machine in this County.

Shooting Match.—We learn from the *Reading Daily Times* that a pigeon shooting match between Mr. Cornell of Philadelphia, and Mr. Cox of Pottsville, came off on Monday last on the North Western slope of the Neversink, near Reading. The following is a correct summary:

Cox, 011111110111111—12 out of 14.
Cornell, 110111010101111—10 out of 14.

Everything, says the *Times*, was conducted in the most becoming manner, and the Pottsville sportsman was of course well satisfied at winning the prize. Messrs. Schuyler and Woodruff of Philadelphia, and Mr. Anthony of Schuylkill County, acted as Judges.

The Washington Artillerists, Captain James Nagle, have under consideration, the propriety to make an excursion to New York City next Autumn. The corps would on route, pay its respects to its commander-in-chief in the Mexican War, Gen. Winfield Scott, whose residence is at Elizabethtown, N. J. Although the proposed excursion has not been acted upon decisively by the Artillerists, it is quite probable that the excursion will take place, as the members generally, are in favor of it. If the corps decides to go, no new member will be elected after the 4th of July. This precaution will be necessary to preserve the precision of the Artillerists' drill, and the perfect steadiness of its ranks when on parade.

The Ashland Cornet Band was disbanded in May, 1858, but this year. We make this statement at the request of the former members of the corps, with the addition that an attempt is now being made to reorganize it. We trust that the attempt may be successful.

*We are pleased to learn that Dr. Robert L. Weber, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, and son of Mr. J. W. Weber, of this Borough, has passed the requisite examination, and received from the Navy Department, a commission as Assistant-Surgeon in the United States Navy. Mr. Weber is one of ten, who were successful out of sixty applicants. We congratulate our young friend upon a success which is a just recognition of his studious habits and acquirements.

Lecture in St. Clair for the Benefit of the Mount Vernon Fund.—We announce with satisfaction, that the Rev. David Price of Utica, N. Y., an eloquent and popular orator, will deliver a lecture in the Town Hall, St. Clair, on Thursday evening, June 2d, the proceeds of which will be devoted to assisting in the purchase of the home and tomb of Washington. Subject of the lecture, the Rise and Progress of Christianity in Wales. Lecture will commence at 7½ o'clock. Price of tickets, 25 cents. It is we think, unnecessary to predict that there will be a fine audience on the occasion, for our St. Clair neighbors we feel assured, will do the honors creditably, to a gentleman whose mission is so patriotic in its nature.

Drinking Fountains.—At the last meeting of the Borough Council, as our readers are undoubtedly aware, a petition from the Young Men's Christian Association and numerous citizens, was read and referred to the Committee of Fire Apparatus. It prayed for the erection in our Borough of public drinking fountains, so that the thirsty pedestrian or stranger in town who desires nothing but a glass of water, may not be driven into a tavern and compelled by a mistaken sense of right, to purchase a glass of liquor. We know from the experience which has attended the keeping of a water cooler in our store, numbers coming in continually, to quench their thirst at it, how important this matter is to the public, and we believe that if the Borough should see proper to erect the fountains asked for, they will be a great public accommodation, and that the citizens will take especial care that the water shall not be used improperly.

Distressing Occurrence.—Yesterday afternoon about 3 o'clock, a painful occurrence happened in the house adjourning the Middle Ward Hotel, Market street, this Borough, occupied as a residence by John A. Kalbach. It appears that Mr. Kalbach who is a tailor by trade, and worked in his house, suddenly left the table upon which he was working, and started up stairs, remarking to his wife that he was going to load his pistol.—Not deeming it an extraordinary act, his wife did not pay particular attention to it, until she was startled by the report of a pistol. She hastened up stairs to the garret and there beheld the body of her husband weltering in his blood. A portion of the skull on the right side of his head had been blown away, exposing the brain, while the pistol laid some two or three feet from the body. An inquest was held on the body last night, and a verdict rendered that "the deceased came to his death from a pistol shot, the pistol at the time being in his own hand." Mr. J. A. Kalbach was about 30 years of age, and was formerly in the employ of Mr. Lippman, of this Borough. He leaves a wife and four children.—The occurrence created considerable excitement, as Mr. Kalbach was well and favorably known.—His health was not good for some time previous to the fatal occurrence.

Military.—On Monday, the 6th of June next, a general election for field and staff officers, and commissioned and non-commissioned officers of each and every company, will be held throughout the State. In this County the excitement in regard thereto is rapidly rising to fever heat, and by the time the election day arrives, the respective candidates will have marshalled their hosts in battle array. The following comprise all the candidates for brigade and regimental offices we have heard named:

Brig. General—Col. Washington Reifsnyder.
" " —Col. Thomas Johnson.
" " —Col. W. W. McCuigan.
Col. 1st Regiment—Lieut. Jas. Wren.
" " —Capt. A. Lesser.
" " —L. Womelsdorf.
Lieutenant Colonel—J. J. Seibert.
Major—J. Claude White.
Brigade Inspector—Capt. James Nagle.

The election for Major General of the District will take place on Monday, the 4th of July. The present occupant, Gen. George M. Wynkoop, it is generally conceded, will be re-elected. Gen. Wynkoop is a fine officer; an ornament to the position. The contest for company officers, is in some instances, quite lively, and the various candidates are as busy as a bee in flea time.

Public Schools.—On Wednesday evening last the following Teachers were elected for the Public Schools of the Borough of Pottsville, for the ensuing year, commencing June 1, 1859:

Superintendent and Teacher in the High School—J. P. SHERMAN.

High School—J. GRAVES.
Grammar, No. 1—WILLIAM A. FIELD; Miss E. STRAUCH, Assistant.
Secondary, No. 2—Miss T. STRAUCH; Miss J. HARTZ, Assistant.
Secondary, No. 3—Miss R. DEWALD; Miss E. MCCOOL, Assistant.
Intermediate, No. 4—Miss S. BOYLE; Miss E. EILER, Assistant.
Primary, No. 5—Miss E. BOYLE; Miss E. LEER, Assistant.
Intermediate, No. 6—Mr. DAVID E. GERMAN.
Primary, No. 7—Miss SALLIE MARVIN.
Grammar School, No. 1—Miss S. A. MCCOOL; Miss E. MCCOOL, Assistant.
Secondary, No. 2—Miss F. A. COUCH; Miss V. DOUGLASS, Assistant.
Intermediate, No. 3—Miss E. COLT.
Intermediate, No. 4— " E. HIGLEY.
Primary, No. 5— " M. J. JAMES.
Primary, No. 6— " E. HEATON.
Primary, No. 7— " J. WILSON.
Primary, No. 8— " E. DOWNING.
Intermediate, No. 9— " C. SMITH.
Primary, No. 10 (*Fishback*)—Miss S. B. CONNOR.

The Fishback School will be opened on the first of June, under the superintendence of Miss S. B. Connor, who has been elected teacher.—This school is intended for the small male and female pupils in the primary branches, a sufficient number of whom will be found in that part of the Borough to fill it. The more advanced and larger pupils will be admitted into the classified schools of the Borough.

Tickets for admission to the schools are issued the last Saturday of every month by the Secretary of the Board, C. Little, Esq., and at no other time. To-day being the last Saturday of the month, the Tickets will be issued for the ensuing month.

A Pleasing Exhibition.—On Tuesday evening last a concert, and exhibition of their intellectual acquirements and articles of their handiwork, were given at the Court House in this Borough, by the pupils of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Blind, located in the City of Philadelphia. The pupils numbering twenty-eight, embracing a fine orchestra, and chorus of male and female voices, were accompanied by the Principal and teachers. The musical director was, Mr. E. Pfeiffer. The overture from *Fra Diavolo*, was executed remarkably well by the orchestra, while its other performances during the evening, were highly appreciated. The choruses exhibited the care with which the musical talents of the pupils have been cultivated, while the trios, duets and songs, were received with hearty applause by the large auditory. Mr. Karrigan's violin solo was very creditable. Among the female voices that of Miss McCulloch was distinguished for its faultless sweetness, fair power of execution, and expression. The song, "I've brought thee an Ivy Leaf, only an Ivy Leaf," was rendered by Miss McCulloch in a charming manner. In fact we have rarely heard a piece of vocalism more thoroughly pleasing. Several other songs during the evening by Miss McCulloch proved that she was worthy of the encomiums which were liberally bestowed upon her rendition of the song to which we have referred. Misses Haslem, Smart and Shale, and Mr. McCollin, also sang with effect. During an intermission in the musical programme, Mr. William Chapin, the accomplished Principal of the Institution, made a few interesting remarks in regard to the education of the blind, and illustrated by the aid of some of the pupils the system of instruction adopted in Philadelphia. It consisted of reading letters in relief by the touch; exercises on the slate; writing; pin-type printing; globe, etc. At the close of the exhibition various articles, such as brushes of all kinds, bead-work, etc., made by the pupils, were offered to the audience for examination, and we believe quite a number were sold. All the articles were well made, and reflect great credit on the instruction in the mechanical department which is a prominent feature in the beneficial character of the Institution. The Principal and teachers are evidently *au fait* in their respective departments, and to them our citizens are much indebted for the very interesting and pleasing entertainment of Tuesday evening, while the State is fortunate in having such competent gentlemen at the head of an important Institution.

At a Meeting of the citizens of Ashland and vicinity, held at the Mahanoy House on Wednesday evening, May 24th, 1859, for the purpose of appointing delegates to represent the interests of the region at a Railroad meeting to be held at the Pennsylvania Hall, Pottsville, May 26th,) the following persons were appointed officers of the meeting:—Dr. J. McKIBBIN, *President*; Charles Conner and L. P. Garner, *Vice Presidents*, and B. F. GRIFFITH, *Secretary*.

On motion, the President appointed J. H. McElwain, D. Maher and Lawrence Hanson, a committee to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting; after which the following preamble and resolutions were presented to the meeting and unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, We, the citizens of Ashland and vicinity, in the Mahanoy Coal Field, assembled in the capacity of a public meeting to devise measures whereby we may be relieved from the depressed state of our staple trade, and from grievances under which we labor, deem it expedient to thus set forth our condition and resolves—and

WHEREAS, On the opening of the Coal Trade from this region, the tolls charged by the Mine Hill and Schuylkill Haven R. R. Co., were high and onerous on the operators, but, with a good market price and brisk demand, they were enabled to pay reasonably remunerating prices for the labor attendant on the mining of Coal; but since the commercial revulsion of October, 1857, prices of Coal have been ruinously low, and competition strong and keen, while operators personally have been begging for orders at any price, and other carrying companies have made suitable abatements in their charges, thus sharing the burthen of the times—onerous tolls, reduced prices and dull sales, have been borne exclusively by the citizens of this Region.

WHEREAS, The M. H. & S. H. R. R. Company have given to Howard & Co. a monopoly of the general merchandise and freight carrying on their road, the enormity of the monopoly is made manifest in the fact that the rates charged on merchandise from Schuylkill Haven to Ashland is equal to and sometimes greater than the charges on the Reading Railroad from Philadelphia to Schuylkill Haven; and

WHEREAS, A generous and liberal proposition has lately been made to the M. H. & S. H. R. R. Company by the land owners of this Region, which they have declined to accept, clearly demonstrating that they will be satisfied with nothing less than 15 per cent. dividends, even at the depreciation of our property, ruin of our operators, and starvation of our operatives—grievances only prevented by accidental circumstances, which no longer obtain, and which must prove, the legitimate effects of a monopolizing oppression; and

WHEREAS, We are actuated by the great principle of self-preservation to our homes—to our civil and religious institutions, "round which our dearest interests cling by a desire of keeping pace with other Regions. Regions less liberally stored with mineral deposits; and as every expedient that reason can suggest, or a proper regard for honorable dealing allow, has been exhausted on this corporation without effect, and as the construction of a new road from this Region to Port Carbon, Pottsville, or any other accessible point on the waters of the Schuylkill, is the only feasible and permanent means of relief; therefore

Resolved, That the course of the M. H. and Sch. H. R. R. Co. towards the people of this region, (ever since their commencement here,) has been marked by an utter disregard to our feelings and interests, which deserves, as it has received, the indignation of our whole community.

Resolved, That unless something can be done to relieve our people from the oppression of this corporation, our operators may as well give up all hope of an equal competition with other Regions in the markets of the Union, and the utter ruin of our staple interests is not far distant.

Resolved, That we hereby pledge ourselves to use all honorable means to forward the project of a turnpike road, and we earnestly call upon our operators to come forward and pledge their tonnage to the full capacity of such new road, independent of any action which the Mine Hill and Sch. H. R. R. Co. may hereafter see fit to take in the matter.

Resolved, That thirty delegates be appointed to represent the people of the Mahanoy Coal Region, at the meeting of the Land Owners, Operators and Citizens, to convene at the Pennsylvania Hall, in Pottsville, on Thursday, 26th May, at 2 P. M.

Resolved, That our delegates be instructed to subscribe *Twenty Thousand* Dollars to the capital stock of any road that may be fixed on as certain to afford relief, and that we hereby pledge our lots, houses and labor, for the payment of the same, as soon as the proper legal and other steps have been taken to set the work in progress.

Resolved, That an Executive Committee of ten persons, be appointed whose duty it shall be to mark the progress of events—to call public meetings when it may seem to them necessary or expedient.

On motion, the President appointed the following persons as delegates:

A. G. Swift, Howard Edmonds,
D. Hannon, George Hart,
Patrick Gallagher, Thos. Kingsley,
Emanuel Bast, Peter Keller,
Joseph W. Bancroft, Jno. Pritchard,
Jno. S. Dye, Wesley Pearsall,
Chas. Line, Abram. Kleese,
E. P. Thompson, A. K. Walter,
D. Maher, Jno. Farrell,
Jno. A. Hennessy, J. H. McElwain,
John P. Brock, Lewis Blitz,
J. J. Conner, Adam Herring,
Ernst Orth, David Wilson,
Jno. Bancroft, J. H. McElwain,
Isaac Burkhart, A. P. Spinney,
Jno. Kelly, Theo. Schneider,
J. R. Cleaver, Chas. Heilman,
Joshua Weimer, N. Clayton,
George Rahn, E. Benninger,
Wm. H. Bright.

On motion, the President appointed the following as the Executive Committee:

John A. Hennessy, Ernst Orth,
Thos. Conner, J. J. Conner,
Denis Maher, J. H. McElwain,
Jas. R. Cleaver, David Wilson,
J. P. Garner, Howard Edmonds.

At a meeting of the Land Owners, Operators and Citizens, held at the Pennsylvania Hall, on Thursday afternoon, May 26th, for the purpose of devising measures for the construction of a new Railroad from the Mahanoy Coal field to the waters of the Schuylkill, the following gentlemen were chosen officers:

President—JOHN BANCROFT.

Vice Presidents—John P. Brock, M. G. Hellner, G. S. Reppler, Gideon Bast, D. J. McKibbin.

Secretary—J. J. Conner.

The several charters granted by the Legislature for tapping this Coal field were read.

Addresses were then delivered by Messrs. Jno. Bancroft, Hon. R. M. Palmer