Miners' Journal.

POTTSVILLE, PA.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1861.

THE TRENT AFFAIR.

It was supposed that the arrest by a naval officer of the United States, of the rebel commissioners, Slidell and Mason, on board the English mail-steamer Trent, would rouse the British lion, and that we should hear from him a growl; intended to be more or less fierce. And the growl if we are to credit the British press, has gone forth, notwithstanding precedents in her own case for our action, and the acknowledgment of the London *Times* to that effect.

We have no disposition to treat lightly, the prospect of a war with England; nor as yet, to give an undue importance to an affair, which stock-jobbers, and speculators in tea, coffee, sugar, etc., may consider grist to their mill. The news from Europe early in the week, had it is true, a warlike appearance, and created some excitement; but the Government took it calmly, and is said to have no apprehensions of any question arising out of that affair, which cannot be settled amicably by diplomacy. The discussion will probably, consume considerable time, but we have confidence that our Government will maintain our national rights temperately and firmly.

Should however, the question get beyond the reach of diplomacy—should England attempt to dictate to us (as it is stated she threatens) from the deck of one of her men-of-war, in one of our own ports, why, the voice of the American people will, as that of one man, repudiate indignantly such dictation let the threatened consequences be what they may. The Government has no other alternative than to adhere to the position it has already assumed. In numerous ways Government and people have fully endorsed the act of Captain Wilkes, and the verdict will *never be reversed*, although all Europe, with England at its head, demand it. What may be done to qualify, or soften the matter, is yet to be seen. But to offer any humble apology, or to give up the two traitors who have done so much to imperil us at home and abroad, need not be expected; and if that is the only condition on which the nation can be permitted to remain at peace with England, why the sooner we enlarge our preparations for conflict, the better.

England, and we regret for the sake of her consistency and good faith, that it is so, has been dallying with the rebels since April last. Mr. Train's testimony is to that effect, and English arms captured from the rebels, prove it. Her plea that she wants cotton, may be a measurable excuse. But when we have seen prominent journals there, and prominent men like Bulwer; admitting anxiety for our dismemberment and destruction as a nation, through fear of our progress, the case is immensely aggravated, and we are made to believe, full surely, that that terrible question, the "*balance of power*," has made its way across the Atlantic; that that fearful problem is proposed to be solved here which, through English ambition and determination, has so often in the past few centuries deluged the European continent with blood.

For us of the United States it would of course be better if we could postpone for a few years longer, the complete vindication of our position as a nation; and let England now put forward what ostensible reasons for her conduct she can or may, there can be little doubt but that the cause which has summoned her people in times past to half the battle fields of Europe is tempting her to a trial of strength here—that is, *supposing her in this case to be thoroughly in earnest!* Assuming, as she does, to know public sentiment here on all topics, lecturing us supercilliously in regard to our own "laws" and upon our national complications, conversant, through her agents and correspondents, with the temper of the nation at the present time, she must know that the Government, even if it were so disposed, could never comply with demands that would permit her to constitute herself the open and direct champion of the rebellion—a result that would destroy all our pretensions to national strength, that would put us, as a Power, beneath contempt. Let us hope better things.

CHARLESTON.

This Rebellion, wicked and unnatural, was conceived and brought forth, in all its hideousness, in Charleston. If all of the horrors which spring from that work, all the desolation and devastation, could fall upon Charleston, we would have no word of sympathy or pity for her. She richly deserves all misery that could be accumulated upon

We therefore, learn with feelings akin to indifference that by fire, a large portion of the most valuable section of the City was laid last week. The fire began on Monday night, and continued burning for several days. It is stated that the fire company being composed of men who are engaged in military duty elsewhere, the fire engines were worked by negroes, who broke and rendered useless the two best ones. The city generally contains so many frame buildings as to [illegible] account for the extensive nature of the conflagration. The high wind did the rest. Among the buildings included in the burnt district are *two iron foundries, one of them lately employed in the manufacture of cannon, the other in making cannon balls and shell*, several churches and nearly all the public buildings, banks and insurance offices, had a prey to the flames. It is reported that seven public buildings, thirteen banks, savings institutions and insurance companies, [illegible] hotels, two newspaper offices, the *Mercury* and *Courier*, and fifty-four mercantile houses were destroyed.

The origin of the fire is ascribed to incendiarism, but whether at the hands of the slaves or the "poor whites," is not known, and probably, never [illegible]. Simultaneously we have reports of [illegible] insurrections in South Carolina. Truly, whether this report be true or not, the condition of the hot-bed of secession, is far from enviable, and her people are realizing the bitterness of holy writ, that "the way of the transgressor is hard." The traveller may yet sit amid the blackened ruins of Charleston, gaze upon her deserted wharves, relics of a people who, from the beginning, have been incapable of accepting the idea of the civilization for which the Almighty reserved half the globe.

Since the above was penned, we have later particulars of the fire, [illegible] from Norfolk and Richmond papers.

It broke out at about nine o'clock on the evening of the 11th inst., in Russell & Old's sash and blind factory, at the foot of Hasel street, crossing Hasel street and extending to the machine shop of [illegible] Iron & Co.

Before midnight the fire had assumed an appalling magnitude, and Meeting street, from Market to Queen street, was one mass of flames. A[illegible] after nearly [illegible] was awful, and thousands of families were driven from their homes and filled the streets. The buildings in the vicinity of the fire, where the fire broke out, were principally of wood and extremely inflammable, which accounts for the remarkably rapid progress of the fire.

[illegible] the Circular Church, Institute Hall, [illegible] and the proximity of [illegible] houses to the [illegible] Mill's Hotel, and Mill's Rooms [illegible] them to be [illegible] extensively destroyed.

At one [illegible] the flames had [illegible] forward towards the corner of Archdale and Queen streets, the rear of the Charleston Hotel and the end of [illegible] Hayne street range. Crossing Market street the fire [illegible] Bay in Chalmers street and across [illegible] Mill's House, including in its destruction the Circular Congregational Church, Institute Hall and the Charleston Hall. All buildings on King street, from Clifford nearly [illegible] were destroyed before the fire was [illegible].

Gen. Rigby [illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible] several national buildings on the route of the conflagration to be blown up, and after some delay the order was executed, but just before the Theatre, Lloyd's much frequented tavern, the express office, and all the houses from this point to Queen street, had caught fire and had to be abandoned.

At about 4 o'clock the wind changed the direction of the flames towards Broad street. Soon after St. Andrew's Hall took fire, and subsequently the Catholic Cathedral, the spire of which fell shortly after five o'clock. The fire made a clear sweep through the city, making its track from East Bay to King street.

The Charleston *Courier*, of the 13th, gives a list of burned, [illegible] 300 and 400 saloons, and says that the loss is estimated at from $4,000,000 to $7,000,000.

Five churches were destroyed, the Cathedral, St. Peter's Episcopal, the Cumberland Street, the Methodist, and the Circular Church.

The Charleston *Mercury* says that five hundred and seventy-six buildings were destroyed.

Mr. Russell, at whose factory the fire originated, thinks that it must have been occasioned by an incendiary, or by the negligence of the negroes employed there.

A Scratch from Charleston, dated the 13th, says that the Mills House, although threatened and several times on fire, eventually escaped, and is only slightly damaged.

A message was sent to the Confederate Congress on Friday, by President Davis in relation to the conflagration, recommending an appropriation in aid of the sufferers. A resolution was accordingly adopted, appropriating $250,000, as an advance, on account of the claims of South Carolina upon the Confederate States.

THE NAVY.

No branch of the service, when the amount of work required is taken into consideration, exhibits a more gratifying increase in strength and efficiency, than the United States Navy. If England which we trust will not be the case, should assume a hostile attitude towards this Government, and make demands upon us to comply with which would be inconsistent with our safety and honor, we would as regards the Navy, be found a most formidable antagonist.

A statement appears, which shows what has been done since April last to strengthen the Navy.

George D. Morgan of New York, purchased for the Navy, 91 vessels, at an aggregate cost of $3,415,342.

The number of vessels built or building at the Navy-yards, and under contract for the Navy, during the year, 1861, is, 52. Of these, 13 are screw sloops, of about 1200 tons each, carrying seven guns each; 14 are about 500 tons each, carrying four guns each; 12 are about 700 tons each, carrying about four guns each, and 3 are iron-clad steamers. Total tonnage 46,000. The aggregate cost of these vessels is not stated.

The number of vessels chartered for the use of the Navy, since April last, is 16, at a cost of $391,405 05. Two are still under charter.

The total number of vessels purchased by the Navy Department, for naval purposes, with their armament, tonnage, and cost, is as follows:

	No.	Guns.	Tonnage.	Cost.
Side wheel steamers,	36	160	26,670	$3,418,102
Screw-steamers,	43	175	20,403	1,215,537
Ships,	13	52	9,968	315,503
Barks,	18	78	8,432	327,400
Schooners,	25	50	5,258	241,790
Brigs,	2	4	450	19,000
Total,	137	519	71,221	$5,564,333

The number of old vessels that have been purchased and loaded with stone, for the purpose of sinking and closing certain ports of the States in insurrection, is, 60, costing, $160,205.

Here we have a grand total of 137 effective vessels, carrying 714 guns, with an aggregate tonnage of 117,321 tons, and costing as far as known, $6,564,833, added to the Navy, within a period of eight months.

This statement is encouraging, and leads us to incline to the belief that by the close of the year 1862, we shall have as fine a Navy afloat, as that of any other equally important maratime nation.

To give an idea of what our Navy has done since the commencement of the Rebellion, we glean from the Report of the Department on the subject, that the number of vessels seized, captured and destroyed by vessels in the Naval service, is, 134. Well done.

The question of the emancipation of the slaves of rebels is being discussed vigorously, in Kentucky. A good sign. It was not permitted before. Give the people light, and Kentucky before many moons, will be a free State.

The Pennsylvania State Journal has reappeared, under the editorial control of R. G. Orwig.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

"Morbie Lashorn" of the 96th Regiment, writes, assuring us that he never sent the piece of poetry, entitled, "The Countersign," to us for publication in the *Journal*; but that some person unknown to him, did it. It is but just to Mr. Lashorn to publish the fact. The person who perpetrated the act, is certainly, not overburthened with brains.

From the publishers, Messrs. Ticknor & Fields, 135 Washington street, Boston, we have received *The Atlantic Monthly* for January. The following is a list of articles and contributors:—Methods of Study in Natural History, Prof. Louis Agassiz; Agnes of Sorento, Mrs. H. B. Stowe; The True Heroine; Jefferson and Slavery, Prof. A. D. White, of the University of Michigan; A Story of To-Day, by the Author of "Life in the Iron Mills;" James Fenimore Cooper, George S. Hillard; Per Tenebras, Lumina, Mrs. A. D. T. Whitney; Love and Skates, the late Major Theodore Winthrop; Light Literature, Rev. D. A. Wasson; Pilgrimage to Old Boston, Nathaniel Hawthorne; Autobiographical Sketches of a Strength-Seeker, Dr. George B. Winship; Fremont's Hundred Days in Missouri, William Dorsheimer; Birdofredum Sawin, by James Russell Lowell; Old Age, by Ralph Waldo Emerson; Reviews and Literary Notices.

The January number commences the ninth volume. Among its leading features are the articles by Prof. Agassis, Hawthorne and Lowell. Mr. Dorsheimer's article on Fremont will be read with interest as coming from one of the staff, of which so much has been said. This narrative, as Major Dorsheimer says, is not intended as a defence of General Fremont, or in any respect an answer to charges made against him. It is merely an outline of the expedition to Springfield.

The contributions by Prof. Agassis promise to be an important feature in the Atlantic. In these, the lover of nature will find much to stimulate him, in his delightful excursions into the vast domain before him, and the wisest scholar will find new proof of the illimitable extent of the work which nature has executed. Prof. Agassis writes with rare directness and unmatched simplicity, and the marvelous stores of his great mind will be generously scattered. The *Atlantic* has done a great thing, for its already great reputation, by procuring the contributions of Prof. Agassis. We know no better New Year's gift than a year's subscription to the *Atlantic*.—We club this magazine with the Miners' Journal, by which arrangement it can be obtained at a lower rate than the regular subscription price.

The Knickerbocker Magazine.—With its January number which is before us, our old friend enters upon the thirtieth year of its existence, hale, hearty, vivacious. We wish it many happy returns of the day. Among the contents of the number, no contribution will be read with more interest than the biographical sketch of Richard B. Kimball, who has contributed to every volume of the Magazine since 1842, and whose "Revelations of Wall Street" now in course of publication, has attracted so much attention. We can say *very* frankly and truthfully, that among our magazine visitants, not one claims a warmer reception on its arrival, than "Old Knick." Long may it flourish.

Lewis's Normal Institute for physical education, located in Boston, Mass., was incorporated in 1861, and has become so important in its peculiar Department, that a "Gymnastic Monthly," illustrated, is published at $1 00 a year.—The editor, Dio Lewis, M. D., states that during the year 1862 it will present a complete guide in gymnastics, for the gymnasium, school and family. Ventilation, dress, bathing, diet, etc., will also, be treated. A good Institution, unquestionably.

"Honey from the Rock."—We are indebted to the compiler, Mr. Robert H. Ramsey (formerly employed in this office, but now a resident of Philadelphia,) for a copy of a neat little book containing selections from the Holy Scriptures, with an appropriate verse from the Psalms of David. They are compiled for each day of the year. We consider its object commendable; and the arrangement evinces taste and judgment.—In his prefatory note, Mr. Ramsey says, "We offer it as a sipping from the vast treasury of sweets in God's holy word, breathing the fervent prayer, that the taste here afforded may lead all to drink deeper of the precious draughts contained therein."

Local Affairs.

WEEKLY almanac.

1861.—Dec.		SUN RISES	SUN SETS	MOON'S PHASES.
21	SATURDAY,	7 20	4 26	
22	SUNDAY,	7 21	4 27	New M. 1 9 57 ev
23	MONDAY,	7 21	4 27	First Q. 8 10 14 ev
24	TUESDAY,	7 22	4 28	Full M. 15 2 13 m
25	WEDNESDAY,	7 22	4 28	Third Q. 22 4 56 ev
26	THURSDAY,	7 22	4 28	New M. 31 8 35 m
27	FRIDAY,	7 22	4 28	

Thermometrical Record for the Week.

P. R. & P. Railroad Office, Pennsylvania Hall, Pottsville.

		6 A.M.	2 P.M.	9 P.M.	
Dec.	14—Saturday,	30°	40°	30°	clear
"	15—Sunday,	27	47	41	"
"	16—Monday,	44	48	42	"
"	17—Tuesday,	32	41	44	"
"	18—Wednesday,	30	47	41	"
"	19—Thursday,	40	45	38	cloudy.

Mr. John Lucas late of Fishback, has removed to Philadelphia, and is now employed in the Navy Yard there.

The Ladies' Aid of Philadelphia, acknowledges the receipt of "2 boxes sundries, from ladies of First Presbyterian Church, Pottsville, Pa."

The St. Clair Sentinel states that John O'Donnell, one of the men who was burned at the late explosion at the mines of Wm. Milnes, Jr., & Co., died from his injuries on Saturday last.

The Borough Council proposes introducing coal-oil in place of field, in those street lamps which use the latter article. An experiment will be tried with one lamp. If it answers, coal-oil will be used in the future. It is cheaper than field, and gives a better light.

Mr. H. Davis will exhibit his American Panorama here, before opening in Philadelphia. He will remain in that City until next Spring, when he will sail for Europe. Early in his career, to Mr. Whitfield of this Borough, he was indebted for much advice, which has contributed to his success as an artist.

"Patterson Guards" is the name of a new company now being recruited here, to fill up a regiment in camp at Harrisburg. The commissioned officers are, Captain, George K. Reed; 1st Lieutenant, Theodore F. Patterson; 2d Lieutenant, William Heffner. The Captain has had much experience as an officer, while both of the Lieutenants were in the three months' service.

Masonic Grand Chapter.—The following is a list of the officers of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons, of Pennsylvania, chosen at the last meeting:

M. E. G. High Priest, Jere. L. Hutchinson.
M. E. G. King, Geo. W. Bond.
M. E. G. Scribe, Samuel C. Perkins.
M. E. G. Treasurer, Peter Williamson.
M. E. G. Secretary, Wm. H. Adams.

New Store for the Army.—On the 28th ultimo, Messrs. Harrison, Bowen and Bartholomew, of this Borough, patented a portable Army stove and grate, for burning wood, anthracite or bituminous coal, in the tent or open field. After examining it, we are convinced this invention is well adapted to camp service. It is to be submitted to the War Department, with a prospect in consequence of its manifest advantages, of adoption.

Can anybody "guess-what" the following advertisement which appeared in Wednesday's Philadelphia *Ledger*, under the head "Personal," means? It is probably, funny; and unquestionably, in the line of peculiarly mysterious advertising, "removes the dilapidated linen from the shrubbery:"

MARRIED—On the 17th, Mr. GUESS-WHO to Miss M. GUESS-WHAT. The Cake and Wine have been forwarded to Guess-where. Mr. and Mrs. Guess-who will be happy to receive their friends somewhere in Pottsville. 9588

A Cheap Substitute for Coffee.—We have tried the experiment of one-third coffee, and two-thirds browned wheat, as a substitute for coffee, and find but slight difference between it and the genuine article. This fact is an important one to coffee consumers. We advise those having land to spare for the purpose, to plant next year, the Chinese Sorghum, for the purpose of rendering it into sugar and syrup. The admixture of wheat will neutralize the power of tea and coffee.

Mrs. A. Russel, President of the Ladies' Aid Society, acknowledges the receipt of the following articles since last report:

Mrs. L. P. Whitney, $1.
A. Russel, 2 pairs soled slippers.
Miss Florence Patterson, 4 jars marmalade.
"A Friend," 2 pairs knit mittens.
Annie Jones, 4 glasses of jelly, 2 jars of plums.
Mrs. John Shippen, 2 jars strawberries, 2 jars of plums.
Mrs. Wm. Newell, 1 can fruit.
Mrs. Bishop, 1 jar cherries, 6 glasses jelly, 1 comfort.

Suicide in the County Prison.—On Monday last, a man named Alexander McDonald, an Irishman, aged about 40 years, a resident of Silver Creek, this County, was incarcerated in the County Prison, on a charge instituted by his wife. He was placed in a cell, and some hours after was discovered to be dead, having hung himself with a rope which happened to be in the cell. Before committing the act, he stripped himself entirely, of his clothing. The Coroner held an inquest, and a verdict was rendered in accordance with the facts. No cause is known for the commission of the act, on the part of McDonald.

Ladies' Skates.—As the skating season is here, and the dams at Tumbling Run, will unquestionably, soon be in order for the ringing steel, we would state that Mr. George Bright, Centre street, has just received a very neat and comfortable article for the use of ladies, named "Blondin Skate." It contains a small boot to prevent pressure by the straps on the foot, and ankle supports, adjusted in a light yet strong manner. This skate is used by, and is a favorite with the ladies of New York and Philadelphia.—An inspection of it, will convince all of its utility.

Aid to the 96th.—The Ladies of the First German Reformed Congregation, Rev. S. Miller, Pastor, have shipped a box to the Rev. S. F. Colt, Chaplain of the 96th Regiment, for the use of the sick and needy, containing the following articles, all of which have been voluntarily contributed without any effort at collecting inside or outside of the congregation:

18 packages containing various articles, such as comforts, blankets, shirts, drawers, caps, mittens, &c., addressed to particular soldiers. Also 10 comforts and quilts, 19 caps, 15 pairs of drawers, 15 cushions and pillows, 13 undershirts, 8 pairs of mittens, 6 pairs of stockings, 2 sheets, 1 pillow slip, 5 towels, 1 pair of slippers, 1 bundle bandages.

The following losses among others, were settled by the Lycoming County Mutual Insurance Company, since September 11th, 1861, being the second quarter of the present fiscal year:

J. J. Kelly, Schuylkill County,	$1400	00
Pat. Cryen, do.	825	00
Daniel Beveridge, do.	8	51
Jacob Gevinner, do.	18	51
Edward Esterline, do.	21	56
B. F. Pomeroy, do.	30	00
Henry Boyer, do.	23	00
James Davis, do.	650	00
Am't of Losses since Sept. 10, '61,	$11,294	25
Am't of Losses previous quarter,	12,159	40
Total amount Losses since June 10,	$23,453	65

Masonic.—Annexed is a list of officers of Schuylkill Lodge, No. 138, A. Y. M., elected on the 11th instant, to serve during the ensuing Masonic year:

Elias K. Weber, W. M.
James P. Palm, S. W.
Wesley Hammer, J. W.
George Wernert, Treasurer.

The following officers of Pulaski Lodge, No. 216, A. Y. M., were elected on Monday evening last, and will be installed on Monday evening next:

D. Washburn, W. M.
F. M. Nichols, S. W.
M. F. Maize, J. W.
Wm. Fox, Treasurer.
C. Little, Secretary.

The Planet Venus.—For two weeks past, the dazzling lustre of this beautiful planet in the western sky has been a subject of remark among those who have been abroad on cloudless evenings. Her brilliant aspect at this time has led some to suppose that she had changed in some remarkable way from what she was in former times when she held the same relation to the sun. But this apparent increase in lustre is due to the absence of large stars in her pathway. The other brilliant planets are now morning stars. She attains her greatest brilliancy about three weeks after New Year's, after which she will rapidly decrease in splendor until she again becomes a morning star, and the other planets will take her place in the evening sky.

Anton Snyder, one of the late Superior Engineers and for many years in the employ of the Reading Railroad Company, as civil engineer, died in Pottsville. Mr. Snyder owned a house his home in which two of his children are lunatics, and his remains will be brought here to-day for burial.

Masonic.—At a regular Communication of Sunbury Lodge, No. 267, A. Y. M., held on Tuesday, December 16th, 1861, A. L. 5861, the following officers were elected to serve the ensuing year, beginning on St. John's day next:

John Barnett, W. M.
Jacob Grotzer, Jr., S. W.
John A. Seltzer, J. W.
Isaac D. Lehrman, Treasurer.
J. H. Heilman, Secretary.

Departure of Col. Wynkoop's Regiment.—In Harrisburg on Wednesday, Col. Wynkoop's 7th regiment Pennsylvania cavalry, was presented with a standard and guidons, in the Capitol grounds, by the Governor. The regiment left for Kentucky immediately after the presentation. This makes the 8th Pennsylvania regiment sent to Kentucky, two of which are cavalry. Besides the regiments a squadron of cavalry and a battery of artillery have been also sent from Pennsylvania to the same State.

The following is a list of the field and staff officers of Col. Wynkoop's Regiment:

Colonel—George C. Wynkoop, of Schuylkill County.
Lieutenant Colonel—William H. Ripple, of Philadelphia.
Major—John E. Wynkoop, of Schuylkill. James J. Seibert, of Schuylkill, James Given, of Chester.
Adjutant—R. F. Mason, of Schuylkill County.
Quartermaster—Thomas H. Bickert, Schuylkill County.
Surgeon—Alex. M. Speer, Allegheny.
Assistant Surgeon—J. L. Shirk, Lebanon County.
Chaplain—Reuben A. Drake, of Tioga County.

Mr. Elias Schneider has been appointed agent for Schuylkill County, for obtaining subscribers to the following works published by Appleton & Co.:

Life and Writings of Bishop Doane in 4 vols. 8 vo., $2 50 each, containing his Poetical Works, Sermons, Miscellaneous Writings and Memoirs.

Abridgement of the Debates of Congress from 1789 to 1850, compiled by T. H. Benton, in 16 vols. royal octavo of 750 pages each.

The new American Cyclopedia in 16 vols. of royal octavo of 750 two-column pages.

Subscribers can take at once the full number of volumes published of the *Cyclopedia* and Abridgement of Debates, or a volume at intervals of one, two or three months, as may suit convenience.—The month of January is a suitable time to begin. Address E. Schneider at Orwigsburg.—Though from home, prompt attention will be given.

An Autumn for the Nation.—There is something exquisitely beautiful in these ideas of the Rev. Mr. Fletcher, pastor of the Second Universalist Church at Lowell, Mass., a few days ago, from the text: "We all do fade as a leaf." He is speaking of the late frosts and unusually fine weather of the autumn of 1861, and says:

"Summer, glorious, protracted, beautiful summer, loth to leave her cherished treasures, lingered and breathed upon fields and gardens long after the usual time of her departure. Autumn came, and hand in hand they walked along, so gently, so harmoniously, that the flowers looked up and smiled in all their loveliness beneath the influence of their united reign. But they have spoken their adieus and parted company, and with her breath of frost autumn has spoiled the lingering freshness of the field and garden, and touched with russet the foliage of the forest.—Yet dread not we have her in her gentlest mood; and by such measured and considerate steps is she conducting us from floral groves to fields that will ere long wear icy coronations, that we are scarcely conscious of the change. It is as if the power which keeps the planets in their courses and gives a character to all the seasons, had looked in kindness on the unsheltered soldiery of our beloved country, and tempered the winds to their conditions and necessities; as if he pitied the poor in their destitution, and by this most unusual autumn had kept the *sunlight on their hearth-stones*, a welcome substitute for fuel, and wrapped them in an atmosphere so mild that they have not been suffering for winter garments; as if the new and fearful exigencies of the present day demanded a delay in the progress of the seasons, and God had kept the sun from sinking towards the autumnal equinox, to give our armies time in which to punish treason."

Proceedings of the Borough Council.—A stated meeting of Council was held on Tuesday evening last. *Present*, Messrs Heffner, Ebert, Focht, Morris, Strauch, Pitman, Beveridge, Gressang, and Boone, President.

Minutes of previous meeting read and adopted.

The Com. of Survey reported adversely, to altering grade in East Market street. Report accepted, and ordered to be filed.

Statement of Borough Treasurer was read and ordered to be filed.

A communication from the County Commissioners, making application for an order for amount of Borough quota ($500) toward the erection of a bridge across the Schuylkill River at Palo Alto; also, requesting Council to make out bill for amount claimed for culvert at the Court House lot, in Minersville street, when an order will be granted for the amount, was read; whereupon, on motion of Mr. Pitman, a committee of three was appointed to confer with the Commissioners on the subject of the bridge. The Chair appointed on the Committee, Messrs. Pitman, Strauch and Ebert.

The Chair appointed Mr. Strauch a member of the Committee of Fire Apparatus, and Messrs. Heffner and Bittle members of the Committee of Markets.

Mr. Focht offered the following:

Resolved, That Dr. Haesseler, Geo. Fisher and Jos. Kline be notified to repair their pavements in Market street.

Adopted.

The bill of E. A. Holt, $3, was referred to the Com. on Finance.

The following bills were read and ordered to be paid:

Street Laborers,	$34 18
Miners' Life Insurance & Trust Company,	38 60
Thomas Johns,	120 00
Jacob Madara,	5[illegible]00
Borough Tax,	5 60
Mrs. Dieus,	5 00
B. Barr,	5 00
John C. Quinn,	2 10
Mining Record,	4 00
	$316 88
Previous issue,	6,431 54
Total,	$6,748 42
Adjourned.	

Christmas.—

Hoop no more wood! the wind is chill;
But it whistle as it will,
We'll keep warm this merry still.

Wednesday next will be Christmas Day, the great religious and social festival of the year; the merriest, most joyful and heart-expanding of holidays, adorned with the most beautiful services of religion, and the tenderest attributes of human nature. Christmas, with its time-honored observances, with its multitude of quaint traditions, enveloping it in a sort of romantic obscurity, is worthy of being held in the deepest veneration. It blends the religious and social character so closely, that the one depends upon the other—they are inseparable. Christmas is the incarnation of the spirit of Divine love.

The sublime announcement of the Nativity of our Saviour is thus described in the Scripture:

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night.

"And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

"For unto you is born, this day, a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."

Wednesday, the Church celebrates the birth of the Redeemer of mankind, thus announced to the humble shepherds. Wednesday, the sombre robes, which have shrouded the altar during the penitential season of Advent, are thrown off, and the sanctuary appears clothed in rich, festal attire; flowers and wreaths of evergreen replace the triste habiliments; and the plaintive Kyrie is followed by the exultant Gloria in Excelsis Deo, in which the Christian world unites in one accordant song of thanksgiving for the birth of a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. The Christmas hymn, Adeste Fideles, summoning the faithful to Bethlehem, commences its harmonious pilgrimage in the Holy Land, which was the scene of His sacrifice, and continues as unbroken strain, until it dies away in the humble hut where sacrifice is offered up by pious missionaries among the rude tribes of Oregon.

Socially, Christmas will this year, bear a shade of sadness, for many manly forms that were with us last year at this time, are now on the Potomac, in South Carolina or Kentucky, battling for the preservation of the country. These vacancies will be felt keenly in almost numberless family circles in every community, but the thought that the loved ones are engaged in the noblest cause that could employ the faculties of man, and that their names in the future will be honored and revered, will mitigate in a measure, the pain of their absence.

Apart from this feeling which will force itself even amid a festive scene, our Christmas this year, may be merry. Christmas with us has all its cosmopolitan attributes. We have the pudding of England, the handsome Santa Claus of our Dutch ancestors; the Christmas Tree, for which we are indebted to the Germans, and the season of interchanging presents, which is confined to no country. We can all remember when we placed implicit faith in the chimney direction of Santa Claus; and how, when green too old for such mystification, our curiosity was kept on the rack anticipating the fruits of the Christmas Tree.

Reader! take a look back through the vista of years to the happy days of childhood, and see the Christmas garlands which memory has hung there. Try and recall the spicy odor which pervaded the atmosphere for days before Christmas, and freighted the sharp December wind with the perfumes of Araby the Blest! Shake off the dust of accumulating years and become a boy again! Hang up your stocking on Tuesday night, and allow your old friend, Santa Claus, to choose the old-fashioned medium of conveying his gifts! When you are awakened in the morning by the patter of little feet, running to examine the mysterious treasures at the mantel-piece,—try and recall the old Christmas feeling; and we know that some poor children, who feel the war more than you, will have reason during the day to bless you for affording them a Merry Christmas.

PROCEEDINGS OF COURT.

REPORTED FOR THE MINERS' JOURNAL.

Com. vs. *Charles McGee.*—The defendant, who is tax collector for Cass Township was indicted for a misdemeanor in office, in using his position for the purpose of harassing and oppressing others. It appeared that the defendant had an amount of tax to collect from the Forest Improvement Company, and instead of seizing property belonging to the Company or to their tenants, to satisfy the tax, he levied on and seized a horse and wagon belonging to Wm. Verner which had just been driven to the Company's store, and was standing on or near the public road, to pay the Company's tax, even though defendant knew that Verner did not reside in the township, and was not a tenant on the Company's land. He attempted to justify his conduct on the ground that he thought he had a right to levy on any goods and chattels he might find on the premises. The evidence showed that defendant knew that the horse and wagon belonged to Verner before he made the levy, and that there was plenty of property belonging to the Company in the township on which he might have levied. The jury found the defendant guilty. His counsel made a motion for a new trial in the case, which has not yet been disposed of.

Com. vs. *Peter Cort.*—The defendant, who is an old offender, was charged with selling counterfeit money on oath of Jos. F. Seiders. From the evidence, it appeared that defendant has been in the habit for many years of selling counterfeit money to others, who pass it upon the public. A party to whom he had sold counterfeit bills of various banks, and who had passed them again, testified to these facts, and the jury found the defendant guilty. He was sentenced to three years imprisonment at hard labor.

Com. vs. *Elijah Pope and Wm. Ellenbaum.*—The defendants, who are mere boys, were charged with wantonly opening a sluice gate in the dam of the Union Canal at Pinegrove. It appeared that the boys for the purpose of letting the water into the fish basket below the dam, had broken open the lock of a door and opened the gates. The jury found them guilty, and the Court, in consideration of their youth, suspended sentence for the present.

Com. vs. *Roger Quinn.*—Assault and battery on Wm. Doyle. The jury found the defendant guilty and he was sentenced to pay 6 cents fine and costs.

Com. vs. *Wm. Brennickel.*—Assault and battery on Charles Koon. The parties were playing cards, and the defendant made an assault on Koon. The defendant alleged that he had been charged with cheating. He plead guilty.

Com. vs. *Mary Crossford.*—Assault and battery on Margaret Loughton. After a hearing of the case the defendant plead guilty, and was fined 6 cents and ordered to pay the costs.

Com. vs. *Catherine Doyle.*—Assault and battery on Roger Quinn. This offence was a companion to the one above against Roger Quinn, both being parts of one and the same quarrel. The jury, after a hearing, acquitted the defendant, and directed the prosecutor to pay the costs.

Com. vs. *Nicholas Hess.*—Surety of the peace on oath of his wife. After a hearing the defendant was discharged on the payment of the costs.

Com. vs. *Michael Cadden.*—The defendant who is quite young, was indicted for stealing some property belonging to Timothy Miller. He was ordered to be sent to the House of Refuge, Philada.

Com. vs. *James Welsh.*—The defendant is contractor to keep two of the public roads of Blythe township in repair and in good travelling condition. He was charged on two indictments with having entirely neglected the roads, doing very little work upon them, so that the roads became dangerous and almost impossible to travel upon. The jury found him guilty. Sentence suspended, so that the defendant may in the mean time fix up the roads.

Com. vs. *Daniel Maddenfort.*—The defendant who is the contractor to keep the public road from Tuscarora to Tamaqua in good order, was charged with the same offence as the last defendant. A good deal of testimony was given as to the condition of the road. The jury found the defendant guilty, and sentence was suspended as in the preceding case.

Letters from our Volunteers.

Fort Clark, Hatteras Inlet, Dec. 4th, 1861.

Editors Miners' Journal:—I should be destitute of gratitude, having received your paper for nearly three months, if I did not at least return you my thanks. Although its arrival is as a week old at the time I write, it is eagerly looked for and as eagerly perused by all. When the mails of the Spaulding come into view, all other amusements which occupy the hours between drills, are thrown aside, until each one has learned the news from Schuylkill. Observing in your last week's issue an invitation to forward to you all the names of soldiers from Schuylkill County, I, in compliance with it, send you the muster-roll of my company, which you will please publish. In connection with it, I will say a few words relative to this place. It is a place which at first sight, one would naturally ask, what use can such a place as this be to the Government? To those less inured to the *dearer realities of life*, this place is a gem of schuylkill, it would be truly appalling, but when we consider that at least one hundred vessels passed daily through the inlet (on the bank of which we are stationed,) for the supply of North Carolinians, before the capture of this place by Stringham, it is easy to discover the importance of holding the position even at a great sacrifice. The contract price for this place should be adjudged by the land forces incorrect. We are now erecting very comfortable barracks for our winter quarters, about five miles up the beach, from our present position. They are situated about ½ of a mile from the shore of the Atlantic, on a high ridge of sand. Equidistant between the barracks and the shore, we are erecting strong fortifications. They were laid out by Schuylkill Co. engineers; will be built by Schuylkill Co. men, and when completed, will as long as we are here, be successfully defended by Schuylkill Co. boys. The new quarters are decidedly preferable to Fort Clarke, in every respect. At the latter place it was very difficult to obtain water, the only method of getting it being to sink wells in the sand about 6 feet deep and line them with barrels, the ends of which are staved in, and placed on top of one another. Then we thought our wells complete; but alas, for human hopes, many a morning when we got up, we found Co. A, K, or F's water detail hunting for the place where their respective wells were. They were level with the sand, and whilst the boys stand with bucket in hand, purchaser kicking the staves of a barrel which may protrude above the level of the sand, they favor our little Sahara with anything else than blessings. We are however, like the Irishman and the hinging. We are getting used to all this, and are now enjoying the advantages the place affords. Among its excellences, one may at almost any time, see a squad along the beach picking up shells; or another up to their necks in water, struggling with a barrel of Pork or Beef, until it reaches terra firma, when it turns out to be from the expedition, probably thrown overboard in the storm of sanguinary which perhaps, never had hold of an oar in their lives, boarding a boat and leaving out of the white, rolling surf, with as much confidence as a waiter has on a table. There are many prospects here to please, all of which we heartily enjoy. Among the many curiosities of the place, are the sailors. Stimulated by curiosity to have a conversation with a N. Carolinian a few days ago, during our morning drill, I took a walk up the beach for that purpose, and stopped at a house where I was invited in by a pale, thin, miserable looking man. I asked him if he was sick? He said no; reckoned the sick season was past, and would have no more till next fall. After half an hour's conversation, I left concluding he could not be a specimen of Southern Chivalry. I hauled up half a dozen more, and you could with safety, hang your hat on any of their haunch-bones. Some say they are Union. We doubt it; but whether they are or not, they are objects of pity and commiseration, rather than of hatred. They are all browser apparently very friendly; and if really so in the Union, the Government should do something to supply their wants, which are many since their trade has been cut off by our fleet, from the mainland.

While I write two Rebel Steamers have hove in view of us, and begun to shell us. They however, keep a respectful distance, not venturing within range, and have steamed back to the main-land. They shell it a 2½ mile light. Adieu. I must stop. The boat's flag is hoisted, for the mail to be sent over.

I remain yours, very respectfully,

W. H. Wenrick,
Capt. Co. E, 48th Regt. P. V.

Camp Duncan, Hatteras Inlet, Dec. 4th, 1861.

Dear Journal:—I am once more trespassing on your columns. As your correspondents in this Regiment have minutely described our arrival at