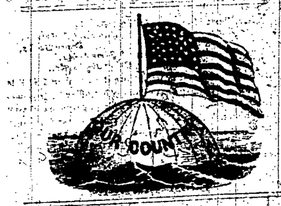
Miners' Journal.

POTTSVILLE, PA.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1862.



THE NATIONAL CURRENCY.

We learn from Washington that the Committee of Ways and Means has matured a Bill for the establishment of a National currency, in accordance with the recommendation of Secretary Chase in his Report, in connection with the Tax Bill, and the Treasury Note Bill. Of course, the whole brokerage and shaving interest of the country will be arrayed against the Bill, together with that portion of the banks, that combine with and loan money to shavers, and divide the spoils, to the exclusion of the legitimate business of the community for which banks were incorporated. Banks of this character, are generally, a curse to the community in which they are located, and their opposition ought to be a matter of but little consequence to those who frame our laws. A good national currency of equal value throughout the country, is of such vast importance to the Commercial, Manufacturing, Mining, Agricultural and Laboring interests in effecting exchanges and making remittances, that we suppose there is scarcely a person in the community, not directly interested in depreciating the currency for the purpose of shaving, who would not be found in favor of it. It requires only to be thoroughly understood by the different commercial and productive interests, to secure their united support.

The *only* objection we see urged against it by even its advocates, is that the Government may make an over-issue. This difficulty is easily obviated, by fixing in the bill a limit to the paper issues of the Government for banking institutions, by making the ratio of currency $1 to the value of $30 of the assessed real and personal property of the country. The assessed value of the real and personal property in this country, in 1861, was a little over $17,000,000,000. This would give a currency of $566,000,000. Now allowing, say $125,000,000 of coin for change, under $5; it would leave $441,000,000 of paper to be issued by the currency department at Washington to the different banks and bankers in the United States, for banking purposes.

The whole banking capital in the United States in 1860 was, $421,880,096. The circulation of the Banks in 1860 was, $207,102,417; the deposits, $253,862,129, and the specie in the vaults, $83,594,537. The aggregate of circulation and deposits, amounted to $460,964,606; therefore the paper issue by the Government of $1, in connection with the coin, to $30 of the value of property, would be ample for all purposes as a currency.—This would be an effectual check to over issues by the currency department. The Hon. George Opdyke, Mayor of New York, a merchant, and financier, in a recent very able letter to the Secretary of the Treasury, advocating the issue of Treasury Notes without interest, and making them a legal tender, gives the proper ratio of currency in a commercial country, at $20 per *capita*.—This gives about the same ratio of currency as $1 to the value of $30 in property. For instance, the value of $17,000,000,000 of property, gives $566,000,000 of currency, and $20 per *capita* would give on the free population of the U. States, in round numbers, say 27,500,000, $550,000,000 of currency, making a difference of only $16,000,000 between the two bases for data, so that either may be selected as a limit for the issue in framing a Bill. But as triennial assessments are made of property, for taxable purposes, and the census is only taken once in ten years, it seems to us that the property basis would be preferable. We append an extract from Mr. Opdyke's letter:

"Money is an instrument of exchange. Its office is to measure the value and trans-fer the ownership of all property offered for sale. Where it consists of gold and silver coin, its average in all commercial countries is, as the statistics of money prove, about twenty dollars per *capita*, this being the quantity required at the present cost of producing the precious metals, to make the exchange of money for other commodities an exchange of equivalent or equal values. If the quantity were greater or less, it would affect the measure of values. If the money consisted of coin and con-vertible paper, the aggregate quantity will still be twenty dollars per *capita*, because the paper will drive out of circulation an amount of coin equal to itself. So, if it consist of coin, convertible paper and legalized irredeemable paper, the aggregate will still remain the same, since the latter will expel of the other two an amount equal to its own issue.—Hence, Government paper money, made a legal tender, might be issued to the extent of $20 per *capita*, without danger of ultimate debasement of the currency; and if the amount could be kept within that limit it would be the best and most uniform currency ever known. The danger and the mischief are in transcending the limit of $20 to one of population, which is the proportion that the laws of trade award when the currency consists of coin, or of coin and convertible paper."

Mr. Opdyke urges the adoption of the legal tender clause in the Treasury Note Bill now before Congress, in the strongest terms.—After enumerating many advantages to the Government and the people, in the present crisis, he remarks:

"Another marked advantage to be derived from the issue and legalization of this money would be its equalization of the domestic exchanges, and its uniformity of value everywhere within our borders. This advantage can scarcely be overestimated in a period of bank suspension, when the rate of exchange between diff-rent States and sections of the Union is known by past experience to differ so widely."

The issue of a National currency for the use of our various Banking Institutions, will not interfere with the present banks, except to prevent their manufacturing paper money. This will be furnished by the currency department at Washington, on the deposit of Government stock, and the issue regulated accordingly. This will give the people but one currency of equal value, in every section of the United States, partaking of the "odor of Nationality," while it will be issued by the present sixteen hundred banks and bankers of the country under their charters derived from the States, the States continuing to exercise the same influence over these institutions in regard to taxation, etc., as they now do. The change can also be effected gradually, without disturbing the currency of the country. The issue of the $150,000,000 of Treasury Notes, by the Government, to meet its present exigencies, is convertible into 6 per cent. Government stock. Should these notes accumulate in the banks, which in all probability they will, they can be converted into 6 per cent. stock of the Government, and this stock can be deposited in the Treasury at Washington, as a basis for the issue of currency. In this manner the present notes of the banks can be withdrawn gradually and the National issue substituted, without any derangement whatever.

The advantage of such a currency can hardly be estimated. Besides it will banish small-notes from circulation under the denomination of five dollars, and coin will be substituted to take its place. It is the opinion of the best financiers that a small note circulation is of no benefit to the banks, although many of the country institutions cling to it as of vast importance. This is the opinion of many financiers, and even in Massachusetts the Governor in 1858, recommended the abolition of the small note circulation, and the bank commissioners in their report of October, 1860, also recommended the prohibition of small notes. They remark, after stating that the measure was opposed by the country banks, as follows:

"We think, however, that on this subject, the sentiments of even country bankers have undergone a change, several of the most sagacious and successful managers of the country banks have expressed to us a doubt whether the profit on the circulation of bills under $5 compensated for the expense and trouble of making, handling and destroying them."

Such a currency will not affect the banking institutions that confine themselves to a legitimate business; but to pass this bill by Congress, will require a struggle on the part the people. The brokers, shavers and money changers, will oppose it, because it will equalize exchanges throughout the country, and save millions of dollars to the people, which would otherwise go into the pockets of shavers and money changers. We therefore advise the voters, the masses, to get up petitions at once throughout the United States, and pour them into Congress, urging the passage of the Bill creating a National currency of equal value throughout the whole country. Only think of the advantages of having a currency of equal value all over the country for remittance and traveling, without being shaved at every town in which a traveler stops. These advantages can scarcely be calculated.

TINKERING LOCAL LAWS.

A reprehensible weakness with some representatives in the Legislature of this State, is the itching desire not to "let well enough alone," but to be continually tinkering at local laws. If the representative is a lawyer, he has an eye it may be, to future professional business growing out of the passage of supplements to Acts; if a mere partizan he hopes to achieve popularity by the passage of bills, the real merits or consequences of which, are not taken into consideration possibly, by the mass of his constituency.

We are led to these remarks by the tenor of a Supplement to the Act for the better securing the wages of labor, to apply to Schuylkill County, which was read in place on the 30th ultimo, by Mr. Ryon, a representative in the Legislature from this County, of which the following is a copy.

A SUPPLEMENT *to an Act Entitled an Act for the Better Securing the Payment of the Wages of Labour in certain Counties in this Commonwealth, Approved the 30th Day of March, 1859.*

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That it shall and may be lawful for any Miner, Mechanic, Labourer and Clerk, to whom claims, on account of Wages, or Salaries may be due, from any person or persons, or chartered Companies, engaged in the mining of Coal, or manufacture of Iron, within the County of Schuylkill, either on the part of the soil, or having a lease of Coal mine or mines, Furnace or Rolling Mill, where such Claim amounts to the sum of Twenty-Five Dollars or more, to proceed to collect the same by distraining therefor, in the same manner, as is provided for the Collection of Rent under the 1st, 2nd, 3d, 4th, 5th, Sections of the Act approved the 21st day of March, 1772, giving remedy by distress for Rent; Provided, that no Writ of Replevin shall be allowed to issue to Replevy the Property distrained as afore-said, until the Party applying for such Writ, or his agent or attorney, shall declare on oath or affirmation that, it is not for the Purpose of Delay, but that in the opinion of the Party applying for the same, the Principle charge is due and illegal, and if such distress should be proceeded in, said Party should be compelled to pay more money than is justly due—and Provided, that this Sheriff or other officer executing said Writ of Replevin, shall take a bond with sufficient security from the Party applying for such Writ as in other cases of Replevin.

And provided further, that the person distraining under this Act shall be paid first out of the Proceeds of such Distress or Replevin.

Some three years ago, when the subject of protecting the wages of labor was under consideration, a bill was drafted in such manner that the wages of miners and laborers should be protected, without oppressing the interests of operators and iron men. In that shape it passed, and gave general satisfaction. It is a fact well known to all who have experience in the Coal business, that it is probably one of the most precarious in which a man can engage. To-day an operator may be prosperous, even rich; to morrow, a fault in the vein of Coal on which he is working, or a succession of disasters to his colliery, may ruin him, leaving him penniless. These without considering the mutations of trade, show how precarious the business is, and the absolute necessity of fostering it by just and equitable legislation, not to further embarrass it by stringent enactments, which, but recoil to the detriment of the laboring man, dependent upon the existence of the collieries, for employment.

This Supplement therefore, as its operation would tend to still further embarrass business in this County, seems to us, injudicious—in fact, a leading member of the bar of this County, does not hesitate to pronounce its provisions infamous, and declares that if passed it will to a great extent, drive business from the Region, and of course, to an equal extent affect the ability to give employment to workingmen. This is unquestionably true, and we trust that the Legislature will be appealed to very generally from this County, requesting that the Supplement be not adopted. In our opinion if it should be passed, in opposition to the wishes and interests of the citizens of Schuylkill County, but precious few tools will be found to invest a penny afterwards, in the Coal business here.

JESSE D. BRIGHT.

Many able and patriotic speeches have been delivered by Senators, on the case of the recreant Indiana Senator, prominent among which were some apposite remarks on the 30th ult., by the Senator from this State, Hon. D. Wilmot. We are happy to know that Mr. Wilmot's health has much improved. We regret sincerely, that our restricted space precludes the possibility of publishing Mr. Wilmot's remarks in full, and we must content ourselves with making the following extracts:

Before proceeding to speak of the case, I desire to say that my relations with the Senator from Indiana are of such a character that I shall with pain vote to expel him from his seat in this body. Seventeen years ago we met in the House, both young men, and both members of the then dominant party. Since then we have differed widely, touching public men and measures; yet through all these years and bitterness of political warfare for the past fifteen years; I have remembered with pleasure our early acquaintance and intercourse. I sincerely regret the position in which the Senator is placed. A sense of duty alone, will constrain me to vote for his expulsion from the Senate.

Mr. Wilmot then proceeds to speak of the case against Mr. Bright; shows that it rests on no disputed or doubtful facts, and then says pointedly:

To me it seems that many gentlemen of the late Democratic party are afflicted with a moral obliquity in the case of the chief actor of this wicked rebellion and its authors. The leading *traitors* so long dominated over the Democratic party that the fragment that now remains seems to connect the traitors with a struggle for Democratic ascendancy, and the leading *traitors* as friends having strong claims on their sympathy. Evidently the Senator from Indiana was strongly possessed of this view of the treason and the traitors.

Mr. Wilmot after asking, "what was the errand on which the Senator from Indiana commended his friend to the usurper and traitor at Montgomery?" and replying, "it was no other than the sale of an alleged improved firearm," shows by irrefragable argument, that Mr. Bright's letter "*was written to a traitor, and for a traitor, and to further a treasonable end.*"

Mr. Wilmot concludes as follows:

What is *right* to do in this case, the Senate should do *promptly and fearlessly*. A timidity, bordering on cowardice, paralyzes the arm of the Government, and encourages treason in open day. We must vindicate the character of the Senate, and our own self-respect; we must give to the people an assurance that here, at least, infidelity and disloyalty meet with a speedy and condign punishment.

Now, sir, it seems to me that I have stated the whole case. I put the case upon the record and upon his own pen. I place it upon the Senator's letter of the 1st of March. I take that letter and the circumstances of the country at the time, the position of the Senator, the position of the man to whom the letter was written, the position of the man for whom it was written, and the errand upon which he went, and I say the facts are conclusive and overwhelming against the Senator from Indiana. There is no possible escape from the conclusion.

It is a legal maxim that a man is responsible for the natural and necessary consequences of his act. What did the Senator do? He commissioned one traitor to another, and the errand upon which he commended him was by the admission of all a treasonable errand: it was to give him an improved fire-arm. Can it be possible, as I asked before, that a loyal Senator would do this? Sir, suppose the Commanding General had written such a letter, would there have been any doubt as to his complicity with the traitors? The Senator from Indiana occupies a position in this Government as high and responsible in many respects as the Commanding General of your Army. Nay, sir, in dignity of character he occupies a position second only to the President of the nation. Suppose he had written such a letter, would you have had any doubt as to his complicity with the traitors? Would you have had any doubt that that letter would have gotten his duty to this Government? Sir, an impeachment could have rested on the letter, and to-day I have serious doubts as to what would be the result of the trial of the Senator from Indiana before an impartial jury.

The people of Pennsylvania will perceive from these manly, outspoken sentiments, that so far from being dead or disabled by ill-health, Mr. Wilmot is a vigilant sentinel on the outposts of national honor and safety, and that if necessary, he will die "with harness on."

Since the above was penned, we have the satisfaction of stating that Bright has been expelled from the Senate, for being a traitor. The Senate has done its duty in this matter, and the heart of every true and loyal man is thankful. All honor to Wilmot, Sumner, and the rest of the patriotic Senators, who, knowing the path of duty, of honor and of safety, follow it, regardless of the assaults of the timid and time serving.

ANOTHER SOUTHERN MANIFESTO.

The forte of the rebels, is "the manifesto." When the rebel Price saw his fortunes waning in Missouri, and his soldiers departing for their homes at the expiration of their terms of enlistment, forthwith he issued a manifesto, a stripe between the maudlin pathetic of a drunken man, and the mock heroic of the melodramatic order. Jeff Davis and Letcher have each exhibited their qualifications in this line, modulated by the condition of rebel affairs. The more desperate the strait, and gloomy the prospect, shriller grows the tone of the Southern shrew. It is an excellent thermometer to keep us posted in regard to the mental temperature of "the chivalry."

The latest Southern manifesto, is in the shape of an Address to the people of Georgia, from Howell Cobb, R. Toombs, M. J. Crawford, and Thomas R. R. Cobb. After adverting to some "stern facts," which are not very cheering to the ultimate prospects of the rebels, the Address grows hysterical, as follows:

The most important matter for you, however, is your individual duty. What can you do?

The foot of the oppressor is on the soil of Georgia. He comes with lust in his eye, poverty in his purse, and hell in his heart. He comes a robber and a murderer. How shall you meet him? With the sword, at the threshold? With death for him or for yourself? But more than this—let every woman have a torch, every child a firebrand—let the bowed homes of your land be made ashes, and the fields of our heritage be made desolate.—Let blackness and ruin mark your departing steps, if bypast you must, and let a desert more terrible than the Sahara welcome the Vandal. Let every city be levelled by the flame, and every village be lost in ashes. Let your faithful slaves share your fortune and your crust. Trust wife and children to the sure refuge and protection of God—murder rather than let those loved ones the charnel houses as a home than loathsome vassalage to a nation already sunk below the contempt of the civilized world. This may be your terrible choice, and all this you can have if you will without dissent, as honor and patriotism and duty to God require.

Fellow Citizens—Lull not yourselves into a fatal security. Be prepared for every contingency. This is our only hope for a sure and honorable peace. If our enemy was to-day convinced that the feast herein indicated would welcome him in every quarter of this Confederacy, we know his base character well enough to feel assured he would never come. Let, then, the smoke of your homes, fired by women's hands, tell the approaching foe that over sword and bayonet they will rush only to fire and ruin.

Is this to be received by Northern barbarians, in the sense *ad captandum vulgus*, or as a correct exposition of the blue-fire sentiments of the valiant Georgians? We tremble for the reputation of the sister State of South Carolina, after the above outpouring of concentrated wrath, when we remember that S. C. protested that her last son should perish in the last ditch, ere the foot of the invader should pollute her soil; while her sons subsequently fled precipitately, from Port Royal, and the only representative of the chivalry found in Beaufort, when our victorious arms entered that place, was a gentleman leaning against a post, who politely and hospitably, invited our "glorious foes" to take a drink. Ah, Cobb, we fear you are whistling to keep up your courage. But as Toots says, "it's of no consequence."

EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE.—We have Liverpool advices to the 23d ultimo. The London *Times* editorially opposes England's interference in American affairs. The brig West Indian, from Charleston, has arrived at Liverpool with a cargo of turpentine. The brig Neapolitan, from Messina for Boston, has been burned by the pirate Sumter. It is reported from Algiers that a prolonged cannonade had been heard on that coast. A vessel was subsequently sighted, and was believed to be the Sumter. It was supposed that she had sunk her adversary. The London *Globe* argues that the maritime Powers cannot be expected to respect the southern blockade unless really effective. Several wrecks are reported with loss of life. It is expected that all the colliers buried in a coal mine recently, had perished. Six days had elapsed, and none had been rescued.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

"THE LITTLE PILGRIM."—This monthly, edited by "Grace Greenwood," and published by L. E. Lippincott, 319 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, at 50 cents a year for single copies, and pr portionately cheaper to club subscribers, has entered upon its Ninth Volume. Its merits make it deservedly, a great favorite with girls and boys.—Very liberal premiums of books are offered to each getter-up of a club. We very cheerfully recommend "The Little Pilgrim" as a publication which should be in the hands of youth every where.

"THE REBELLION RECORD."—The Twelfth Monthly Part of this interesting Diary of American events in 1860-'61, edited by Frank Moore, has been published. It contains excellent steel portraits of Gens. Burnside and McCall. The Thirteenth number, or the first four numbers of the Third Volume, will contain full Official Reports of the Capture of the Forts at Hatteras Inlet, with a Map of the Coast of North Carolina; the Battle of Carnifex Ferry, with a Map prepared by Gen. Benham; Capture of Colonel Mallian by the Rebels; Attack on Fort Pickens, with Map prepared for the Coast Survey; Battle of Ball's Bluff, Va.; Bombardment of Port Royal, with two Maps and all the Official Reports, Narratives, and Incidents; the Capture of Mason and Slidell, together with the Official Reports and the various accounts of the affair, *pro and con*.

These numbers can be obtained at the bookstore of B. Bannan, in this Borough, who is Agent for the publisher; at which store the first volume of the work is found, can also be obtained.

"A REVIEW OF MRS. JULIET H. CAMPBELL'S CHRISTMAS CAROL."—Copies of a criticism of Mrs. Campbell's latest poetical production, by "John of York," with the above title, can be obtained at B. Bannan's bookstore. It is brief; very ably written; neatly printed, and is sold cheap. All who have read Mrs. Campbell's "Christmas Carol," should not neglect to read the Review.

Local Affairs.

WEEKLY ALMANAC.

1862.—Feb.		SUN RISES	SUN SETS	MOON'S CHANGES.
				D. H. M.
8	SATURDAY.....	7	5 26	
9	SUNDAY.....	7	5 28	First Q. 6 3 15 ev
10	MONDAY.....	7	5 29	Full M. 14 0 10 ev
11	TUESDAY.....	6	59 5 30	Third Q. 21 9 15 m
12	WEDNESDAY.....	6	58 5 32	New M. 28 11 53 m
13	THURSDAY.....	6	56 5 33	
14	FRIDAY.....	6	55 5 34	

Thermometrical Record for the Week.

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

		8 A. M.	2 P. M.	7 P. M.	
Feb.	1—Saturday,	22°	34°	34°	snow.
"	3—Monday,	20	24	22	cloudy.
"	4—Tuesday,	24	34	33	"
"	5—Wednesday,	17	33	28	clear.
"	6—Thursday,	22	33	31	cloudy.
"	7—Friday,	27	40	37	"

☞ *By* an explosion of fire damp at the colliery of Wm. Milnes, Jr. & Co. on Friday of last week, six miners were badly burned.

☞ *Patronize Home Manufactures.*—Mr. Lauer manufactures from malt, vinegar, which is decided by competent judges, to be a very pure article.

☞ *Safeguard, Encyclopea.*—A new encyclopedia, buff and white, adapted to prevent miscarriage of letters and to relieve the dead-letter office, very useful to the business man, soldier, etc., is for sale at B. Bannan's book store. Examine it.

☞ *Lieut.* Snyder and Lieut. Bartholomew, of the regular army, are in town, from the West.—The latter r turns from Kentucky, much weakened by sickness. The former is in excellent health, and looks well.

☞ *Passed the House.*—By telegraph last evening, we learned that the bill to repeal "An Act to secure a stricter accountability of public officers," so far as it relates to West-Penn Township, this County, passed the House at Harrisburg, yesterday. This is the first successful step towards reopening the flood-gates of official corruption in this County; and again, we warn the tax-payers of the County to be on their guard.—Thousands of dollars are now saved annually, by the existence of good laws. Shall they be repealed, one by one, to the detriment of the people's interests? Let our citizens decide.

☞ *The Quarters of the 48th Reg. P. V.*—A private letter from Hatteras, states:

Our regiment, undoubtedly, has the best quarters of all the regiments in the United States service. The New Yorkers, who were here long before us are still living in their tents.

☞ *Consul at Nagasaki, Japan.*—Hr. J. E. Cowden, weigh-master and collector of the Union Canal Company, at Pinegrove, has been appointed Consul at Nagasaki, Japan, and confirmed by the United States Senate. The appointment is well deserved.

☞ *Friday* next will be St. Valentine's Day. Those who send missives through the post, must prepay them, or alas, the cruel postmaster will not deliver them to the palpitating hearts awaiting them. "Lovers" and others will make a note of this, to save disappointment on that day.

☞ *The Health of Hon. R. M. Palmer.*—A letter to the New York *Tribune*, dated, "Buenos Ayres, Nov. 20, 1861," contains the following paragraph:

The Hon. R. M. Palmer, Minister of the United States to the Argentine Confederation is rapidly recovering his health. He resides at Parana.

This intelligence is exceedingly gratifying.

☞ *To Stop Bleeding.*—A correspondent of the *American Agriculturist* writes that bleeding from a wound in man or beast may be stopped by a mixture of wheat flour and common salt in the parts bound on with a cloth. If the bleeding be profuse, use a large quantity, say from one to three pints. It may be left on for hours, or even days, if necessary.

☞ *The* ladies are introducing a new and beautiful ornament for the parlor mantel or centertable. They take large pine burs, sprinkle grass seed of any kind in them, and place them in pots of water. When the burs are soaked a few days, they close up in the form of solid cones, then the little specks of green grass begin to emerge from amongst the laminæ, forming an ornament of rare and simple beauty.

☞ *Bishop Stevens*, of this Protestant Episcopal diocese, has this week, been on a visit to this County. On Wednesday evening, the members of the congregation of Trinity Church, paid their respects to the Bishop at the residence of James Silliman, Esq., in this Borough, and on Thursday evening the Bishop preached in the Church, an edifying sermon from the text, (1st John, chap. 1, verse 7.) "And the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." The spacious edifice was thronged on the occasion.

Last evening Bishop Stevens administered the right of confirmation in Schuylkill Haven.

☞ The following statement shows the business of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company during the month of December, 1861, compared with the same month of 1860:

	1861.	1860.
Received from coal,	$202 603 70	$189,687 89
Do. from merchandize,	44,464 12	33,859 31
Do. from travel, &c	31,057 59	28 564 82
	$273,219 41	$249,052 05
Transportation, roadway, dumpage, renewal fund, and all charges,	122,785 85	120,619 49
Net profit for month,	$155,433 56	$128,412 56

☞ *Schuylkill County Alms House.—Report for the Month of January, 1862.*—The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Poor, was held at the Alms House, on Monday, February 3, 1862. Present, Dr. Augustus Schulze and Wm. Berch.

The Steward reported the following as the census of the House for the month ending January 31st, 1862:

Number in the House on the 1st of February, 1862.	335
Same time last year,	370
Decrease,	35

Of the above, 50 are in the insane department, 46 in the nursery, and 55 under medical treatment. Admitted during the month of January, 40; discharged, 11; bound out, 5; died, 6.

Lodging and meals were furnished to 226 travelling paupers during the month, and out-door relief was granted to 32 families, amounting to $223 35. Bills were passed and orders drawn amounting to $2098 79.

☞ *Terrible Occurrence near Heckscherville, this County—Destruction by Fire, of a Dwelling, and Death of Eight Persons.*—On Monday morning last between 12 and 1 o'clock, a frame one and a half story building, located on the Coal Castle tract near Heckscherville, this County, and occupied as a dwelling by a miner, a very industrious, steady man, named Thomas Connell, was destroyed by fire, and horrible to state, himself, his wife, four of their children, a male boarder and a servant girl, eight persons, perished in the flames. The names of the children are, James, John, Dennis and George; the name of the boarder, Michael Hollahan, and the servant's, Bridget Condon. Not a soul that was in the house at the time, escaped. An inquest was held on Monday, by Squire Chrisman, in the absence of the Coroner, and after a careful investigation of all the facts, a verdict was rendered to the effect that the deceased came to their deaths "by suffocation from smoke caused by the house of Thomas Connell taking fire and burning down on the morning of the 3d of February, 1862, between the hours of 12 and 1 o'clock." It is not known how the fire originated, but it is thought that the floor of the first story caught from a large cannon stove that was used there. The remains of the unfortunate family, and those of Hollahan and Bridget Condon were found amid the ashes of the burnt building in an awfully mutilated and almost unrecognisable condition. A small bed quilt would have covered all that was left of eight persons, the youngest of whom, one of the boys, was 12 years of age.

This is one of the most distressing affairs of the kind, that ever happened in Schuylkill County.

We might state as an evidence of how fiercely and rapidly the fire burned, that two dogs and a cat that were in the house, were burned to death. Had sufficient time been given, the dogs would assuredly, have alarmed the household.

☞ *Madame Anna Bishop*, assisted by Mr. Edward Seguin, baritone, and M. Gustave De Spiess, pianist, gave two concerts in this Borough, this week—the one on Thursday, the other last evening. But rarely are we favored by the visit of such a delightful musical combination as is presented in this troupe of three persons.—Madame Bishop notwithstanding she is at an age (we would touch that subject lightly, in a lady's case,) when the majority of vocalists may be considered *passé*, yet possesses to a wonderful degree, those powers of vocalism which have charmed the most highly cultivated musical taste of Europe, and rendered her such a favorite in this country. Her lower tones are the only ones she possesses, which are perceptibly affected.—Her upper notes seem to us as clear and flute-like as when we last heard her, some ten years since. On Thursday evening she sang the ballad "Robin Redbreast" exquisitely, while the duets with Mr. Seguin, were spirited and brilliant. The entire performance in fact, was very satisfactory. We are really indebted to Madame Bishop, for a delightful evening. Mr. Seguin is young, and possesses a fine, flexible voice. He strongly resembles his late father, not only in person, but in the quality of his humor, and in his musical ability. We think he either is, or would make an excellent actor, much in his father's line of business. Mr. Spiess is, unquestionably, a fine pianist. The Serenade in *Don Pasquale*, arranged for the piano, was ably executed by this gentleman, while his original impromptu, "Souvenir du New-York, (really very fine), proves that he has more than ordinary talent for musical composition.

We are not surprised that this troupe is so popular. It richly deserves it. We hope Madame Bishop will revisit Pottsville at no distant day, and again favor us with one or more of her delightful concerts.

☞ *A Patriotic and Spirited Young Lady.*—Mr. John M. Clayton of this Borough, has three nephews in the 6th Pennsylvania Reserves, who who were in the battle of Dranesville, while his niece, their sister, Miss Anna Eck, resides with her father in Columbia County. The young lady recently silenced a saucy fellow in fine style, which is thus narrated by a member of the "Iron Guards," (Co. A, 6th Reg., P. R. V. C.) now at Camp Pierpont, Va. It will be observed that the corps passed a vote of thanks to Miss Eck:

Not long since a certain young man of M——n in the County of Columbia, either returning from business or on a pleasure excursion, accompanied by his intended better half, found it convenient to stop for dinner at Mr. E——s, of Roaring Creek, because farmers get up good meals, which are reasonable, and charge nothing for them to acquaintances, which is particularly agreeable to his peculiar constitution and habits of economy. Mr. E——, not being at home, it devolved upon his daughter Miss Anna E——, to entertain the would be honored guests.

She has three brothers in the Army, and though the army is the all absorbing subject of conversation, she had sisterly affection to extenuate the crime of introducing the same subject, and expressing great sympathy for the soldiers, saying she prized them very much, when Mr. H. remarked, "I don't pity them a bit, if they were big fools enough to go, they ought to be shot!" Miss E—— rising and approaching the door, opened it, at the same time asking, "Are those your sentiments?" Mr. H. said "yes!" "Then," says Miss E——, "you can leave—there is no dinner here for you." Miss C—— can stay as she has expressed no opinion yet, but if it is the same as yours, he can go along!" The above episode having been related at a meeting of the "Iron Guards" they thinking it their duty to encourage patriotism where and whenever exhibited, especially when displayed by the "gentle sex" under the form of an apostle for a man, and also to encourage sisters at home, to treat with a proper disgust those inhuman things who disregarding a sister's affections, have the impudence to basely insult them. Therefore unanimously

Resolved, That a vote of thanks be extended to Miss Anna Eck for her sterling patriotism displayed in resenting the insults of Mr. H——, and proving herself an example of what *every* soldier's sister should be.

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

The minutes of previous meeting were read and adopted.

St. Com. on petition of Jas. O'Neil, for damages to sleigh, at High and Railroad streets, reported in favor of appropriating $3 00 to Mr. O'Neil.—Agreed to.

Com. on Markets made a report, suggesting alterations in new market ordinance. Report accepted, and ordered to be filed.

Special Com. on Palo Alto bridge, was continued.

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

Mr. Inners offered the following:

Resolved, That the rent of the stalls in the Market House, from January 1st to April 1st, 1862, be fixed at two dollars and fifty cents per stall.

Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Beveridge, annual appropriations were granted to the Humane and Hydraulian fire companies.

Mr. Focht offered the following:

Resolved, That the Com. on Ordinance be instructed to report an amendment to the Market laws, making the market hours on each Saturday of the week, the same as those of any other market day.

Adopted.

The following bills were read and ordered to be paid.

B. Barr,	$5 00
Adam Shertle,	100 00
Four watchmen,	111 60
J. L. Mennig,	15 00
	$231 60
Jas. O'Neil,	3 00
Humane Fire Company,	50 00
Hydraulian Fire Company,	50 00
	$334 60
Previous issue,	7,651 01
	$7,985 61

Adjourned.

☞ *Schuylkill County Female Bible Society.*—The annual meeting of this Society was held in the Second Presbyterian Church, Market Street, on Monday evening last. In consequence of the inclemency of the weather, the attendence was small. Mr. Andrew Russel presided, and Mr. James Beatty acted as Secretary. The Reports of the Librarian, Treasurer and Board of Managers, were read and adopted. An interesting Address was delivered by Rev. Dr. Junkin, late President of Washington College, Va. The reverend gentleman has no understand, two brothers and a son-in-law in the rebel army. Mr. Junkin's opinion is, that the only thing that will cure the secession disease, is copious blood-letting, which will have to take place. He thinks that half a pint of brandy lost us the battle of Bull Run. At 4 P. M., on that day, the battle was won by the Union troops,—the rebels acknowledged it in their despatches to Richmond—but Col. Miles failed to meet the fresh troops of the enemy with his reserves, and we lost the day.—Rum was the cause. The reverend speaker said the three great vices of the camp, were gambling, swearing and drinking, which the bibles furnished to the soldiers by the Society, will do much to counteract, as many of the soldiers in their leisure moments will read them, and thus be saved from vicious acts committed in hours of idleness. "An idle man's brain is the devil's workshop."—Mr. Junkin said that he had already found woman prominent in the work of circulating the Holy Scriptures. It was peculiarly her work, for as she was first in the transgression, she should be first in the reformation. Where the Scriptures were circulated and read, there woman was elevated to a social equality with man. It was her gain. He contrasted the condition of the women of France with that of their sisters of England and America. The former were inferior in every respect, to the latter. In the departments out of Paris, women were the incarnation of ugliness. Dr. Junkin contends that it is a great mistake to suppose that "religion has nothing to do with politics."—He thought that if ministers had expounded the word of God fearlessly, to the people, especially to the Southerners, this national difficulty never would have arisen. Ministers in his opinion, had not done their duty in this respect. Of course in using the word politics in this connection, he did not allude to the tricks of the demagogue, or of the disreputable practices of the partizan, but to the act of self-government, as derived from the Scriptures. The common-law of this country is founded on what is contained in the Bible, and each officer from the President down to constable, receives his commission from God. The reverend gentleman's remarks on this point were very forcible and to the point. They struck us as being true. He thought that the old New England custom of opening an election with prayer, should be revived. Good government depends upon the purity of motive which actuates the voter. Dr. Junkin concluded his very instructive address by expressing his satisfaction with the condition and labors of the Schuylkill County Female Bible Society.

The officers and managers of the Society were then, unanimously elected; a vote of thanks was tendered Dr. Junkin, and the meeting adjourned after prayer and benediction by Dr. Junkin.

Letter from Harrisburg.

THURSDAY, Feb. 6, 1862.

DEAR JOURNAL:—During the present week Senator Riley read in place An Act to incorporate the "North American Shaft Company," and another to incorporate the "Pioneer Shaft Company." These shaft companies are for the purpose of working mines below water level, and as they propose to develope the mineral resources of the country, and give employment to hundreds of laborers, it is eminently proper that they should pass. The companies are authorized to borrow money, and issue bonds and stock, and the fixed capital of each is three hundred thousand dollars.

Although these proposed corporations are guarded by restrictions, and they are not likely to come in competition with individual enterprise, I fear the hawks and buzzards of the Lobby will scent something in them, and if possible impede the passage of the bills, in the vague hope that they can prey upon the necessities of a people who are really trying to effect something for the good of the community in which they reside.

The bills propose *close* corporations, as they are called in Legislative parlance, but the very nature of the enterprise demands bills of this kind to protect those who are willing to invest their capital.

Both the bills were reported by the Committee on Corporations, to day, "with an amendment," the nature of which, I infer, is to make the stockholders liable in their individual capacity, to a certain extent. I will send you a copy of both as soon as they come from the hands of the printer.

The Act introduced some time ago repealing the bill of last winter which created a new ward, and extended the borough lines of Pottsville, has passed the Senate. The present bill extends the borough lines, and takes in a portion of East Norwegian township.

An Act has been passed providing for the election of but one supervisor in Rahn township.

The "Act to enable joint tenants, tenants in common and adjoining owners of mineral lands in the Commonwealth, to manage and develop the same, passed the 21st day of April, 1854," is one of considerable importance not only in the mining district of Schuylkill, but throughout the State. Unlike the General Manufacturing Law, there is no clause in the bill authorizing those operating under this law to increase their capital stock, and their time for operating is limited to ten years. These are defects which a bill now in the Legislature proposes to remedy, and which has already passed the Senate.

The resolutions relative to the expulsion of Jesse D. Bright, if they served no other purpose, drew out the debatable material of both Houses. The original resolution of Mr. Lowry demanded of our Senators to vote for the immediate expulsion of Bright, and were passed unanimously in the senate. In the House Mr. Cessna offered a milk and water amendment, which was carried.

The resolutions in their amended form, came back to the Senate, and were taken up, when the Senate refused to concur, by a vote of twenty to eight. They were again sent back to the Senate with information that the House refused to recede. This was to-day, when we had the information of the expulsion of Bright before us, when, on motion, the matter was indefinitely postponed.

As you have received a copy of Mr. Ryon's bill, I have not taken the trouble to ascertain any of its points, taking it for granted that its merits will be attended to by you, editorially.

Yours, BROAD GUAGE.

Our Naval Letter.

U. S. FRIGATE SUSQUEHANNA,
Brunswick Bay, Ga., January 12th, 1862.

EDITORS MINERS' JOURNAL:—Who can remember blame a restless, impulsive, wandering Jack-tar like me for flying off at all sorts of angles and directions from any purpose or avowed intention, when the most leading characters, the heroes of the time, are apparently so inconsistent?

The Commodore did not, as I intimated (having received the "item" from good authority,) write his last letter to the JOURNAL, come aboard our ship; we did not shell the enemy at Fernandina, or any other place along here; we have not been Hog ship. *Sic transit gloria Susquehanna!*

Having told you what we have not done, it remains to say what we have done by our ship since we left Port Royal, all of which might be expressed thus, 0; since, in the words of the Hon. Sec. of the Navy, "the face of blockade has been variously diversified and dowsed of adventure." Such is generally the case, although we sometimes have sufficiently adventurous times and stirring incidents. As, for example, when we are