Miners' Journal.

POTTSVILLE, PA.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1862.

THE SITUATION.

Things look well. The victories of the past fortnight, secured by the Union troops, have inspired the people of the country with renewed confidence in the invincibility of our brave soldiers and sailors, and business which before languished, has received a new impetus. Smiling, cheerful faces are everywhere visible. Not only have vigorous blows been dealt at Rebellion, but they will be felt equally, by those foreign powers who seem anxious to find some plausible excuse to interfere in our affairs. This is well. Let us alone, and this rebellion of a haughty and aristocratic race of slaveholders, will soon be on its "last legs."

Along our immense military line, extending some fifteen hundred miles, active operations are in progress. From Missouri we may soon expect to hear of the signal defeat of the rebel Price, and the complete expulsion of his hordes form the State. In Kentucky our forces are pressing so rapidly upon the rebels, that the latter are evacuating Bowling Green, and falling back on Nashville. Fort Henry, on the Tennessee River, in Tennessee, is ours; our gun boats have penetrated by means of that River, to Florence, Alabama. Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River, the key to Nashville, is besieged, and we momentarily expect to hear of its capture by the Union army. In Western Virginia, Gen. Lander has occupied Romney pressing the rebels back to Winchester. At Manasses, the rebel army is gradually melting away, its presence being needed in other quarters. Beauregard is now in command at New Orleans. The left wing of our Army now extends farther down the Potomac, on the Virginia side, than it has before, since the commencement of the war. On the coast of North Carolina, General Burnside has achieved a signal victory, in the capture of Roanoke Island, and destruction of the enemy's gunboats. Further South our victorious troops are pressing upon Savannah, and we may soon hear of the occupation of that City by the Federal forces.

All in all, we have right to be cheerful. Rebellion is panic-stricken, and a succession of victories has commenced, which will not cease we trust, until our flag floats in triumph, on the soil of every disaffected State.

THE REGULAR ARMY.

The arrest of Gen. Stone, an officer of the regular army, charged with treason, is a painful affair. We trust strict justice will be meted out to him, the same that a private in the ranks would receive. If guilty, his is a crime more heinous than that of Arnold—for Arnold had supposed wrongs to avenge, while Gen. Stone has been treated most grossly by the Government—and he should suffer the extreme penalty of violated law.—The charges against him, are of the gravest character!

This arrest suggests a painful subject for reflection. It is, that sentiments of violent partizanship, and of sympathy with the aristocratic slaveholder, pervade the officers who were in the regular army before this war commenced, to a considerable extent. It exists to some degree, in the navy, but not so extensively as among army officers who for years, were quartered in the South, recipients of Southern hospitality, and imbibing with the wine, sentiments hostile to the North.—When these officers step aside from the path of duty, to inveigh against "Abolitionism," "Black Republicanism," etc., and in the same breath compliment rebel leaders, they are unfit to hold positions in the United States army.

A friend who holds a responsible position in the Navy, directed our attention particularly, to a letter in the Philadelphia *Press*, from "Occasional," and said emphatically, that every word in it was true. We say quite frankly, that it embodies opinions which we have for some time entertained, and which state of facts we have sincerely regretted.—The letter is as follows:

WASHINGTON, February 10, 1862.

The arrest of Brigadier General C. P. Stone on Saturday night, and his transfer to Fort Lafayette, was not unexpected by those who had known his strong Secession proclivities. He commanded in the battle of Ball's Bluff, which resulted in the massacre of the gallant Baker and his heroic band, and the manner in which he attempted to browbeat Senator Sumner for criticising his military policy in the Senate, would, I think, have led to his almost unanimous rejection had he not been previously confirmed, at the called session, for the office of brigadier general. The immediate cause of his arrest has not been published, but it, of course, grew out of his well known partizan opinions and expressions. The fact is, there are too many of the officers, particularly of the regular army, who, while fighting against the rebels, do not hesitate to indulge in certain expressions of conditional and qualified patriotism. This class is composed of those who have had intimate associations with Southern society, and are well inoculated with the heresy of State Rights.—They talk flippantly against Abolitionists and Black Republicans, and are particularly addicted to complimenting the rebel leaders. They forget, the great issues involved in this contest, and unconsciously ignore their own duty in the premises. Happily, however, they are in a minority, even in the regular army. But if it were not for the brave and unnumbering men taken from private life, and clothed with the confidence and commissions of the Government, even the excuse of this minority could not be otherwise than injurious.

The sympathizers with Secession in private life have been greatly resisted and encouraged by the example of half-hearted officers of the regular army, and it was high time for Secretary Stanton to give them such an admonition as will not fail to be effective. If ever there was a good cause, it is that in which the American army is now engaged. The blessings for which we are contending are beyond all parallel and all price, and the foes we are fighting have been guilty of every crime in the calendar. For the man who wears the American uniform to hesitate, for outside or political reasons, and to chop logic as to what he will or will not do, is monstrous. I know of no spectacle more discreditable than to meet an officer say that he has taken up his sword simply in the discharge of a cold duty, and that he will not be bound by the opinions of the Administration. All such men are compulsory patriots, and deserve to be watched and distrusted. What is needed in this struggle is a hearty, zealous, even fanatical devotion to the country. The spirit of the Crusades should be invoked against the rebellion. The American people are contending equally for the existence of their own Government and for human liberty everywhere. Every day increases the magnitude and the obligations of their destiny. And the military man who does not feel the inspiring force of this great truth should at once resign. He need not hope that others will follow his lead. Every such loss will be compensated by new volunteers. Fortunately for the future—fortunately for our rights and our race, the Administration has resolved to tolerate no man who is, not entirely and heartily enlisted, for weal or woe, on the side of the American Union. OCCASIONAL.

We earnestly hope that the War Department will weed out *all* men not loyal to the core. The arrest of Gen. Stone is a move in the right direction. There are plenty of young, active, talented men, zealous in the cause, who will fill their places. Every officer in the United States army, should be like Cæsar's wife, "above suspicion."

WHEN you hear a man say that the Black Republicans have caused the war, be sure that his heart is with the Rebels.

When you hear an officer say that if the war is to be waged for the destruction of Slavery he will resign, be sure that his heart is with the Rebels.

When you hear a man find fault with the energy of Secretary Stanton, be sure that his heart is with the Rebels.

SECESSION vs. SLAVERY—THE VIEW OF THE PRESIDENT.

In the United States Senate on Tuesday last, Mr. Sumner introduced a series of resolutions "*declaratory of the relations between the United States and the territory once occupied by certain States, and now usurped by pretended Governments, without Constitutional or legal rights,*" which embodied the following:

Resolved, That Slavery being a peculiar local institution, derived from local laws, without any origin in the Constitution or in natural rights, is upheld by the sole and exclusive authority of the State, and must therefore cease to exist legally or Constitutionally, when the State on which it depends no longer exists; for the incident cannot survive the principal.

Resolved, That in the exercise of its exclusive jurisdiction over the territory once occupied by the States, it is the duty of Congress to see that the supremacy of the Constitution is maintained in its essential principles, so that everywhere in this extensive territory Slavery shall cease to exist practically, as it has already ceased to exist Constitutionally or legally.

The introduction of these resolutions, and their tenor will recall to the recollection of the reader the fact, which has never been successfully denied, that President Lincoln in a conversation with Gen. Lane, declared that after much deliberation, he had come to the conclusion that he could not recognize the existence of Slavery in the Seceded States.—Slavery must be deemed to be abolished within those States by the very action of the State in seceding; and of course, there can be no return of fugitives from those States, nor any constitutional recognition of the institution.

In an article on this subject, the New-York *Tribune* says:

It is a matter for very serious congratulation that the President has at length discovered the ground on which he can assume a firm stand in the face of the whole country; and on which he can shape a consistent and decided policy for his administration in relation to this most momentous subject. It is still higher reason for congratulation that the policy thus announced is one which maintains a consistency both with constitutional obligations on the one side and with the rights of man on the other. We rejoice to chronicle the President's decision in behalf of common sense and humanity, and we most earnestly hope that there is no misunderstanding in regard to the policy thus avowed.

We are the more disposed to hope this, because the ground on which Mr. Lincoln has placed the subject has been the intimate mental assumption to which might well command his assent, as we are sure it will command itself to the judgment of all who truly love freedom through out our country. Slavery in every Seceding State is dead; not merely because the vitality of the institution is lost amid the confusion of conflicting armies; not merely because the bondman must leave the way to the freedman; but finally because the love of liberty must be breathed into him by his contact with the myriads of freemen who are now pouring down into the area of the rebellion, but for reasons of yet greater cogency even than these.

The institution of Slavery hitherto in our history has found protection in the doctrine, split yet more in the pen, that Slavery is a purely local institution. Whatever may be our views of such sovereignty in theory, it is an unquestionable fact that the authority of each Slaveholding State has founded, maintained, and perpetuated this institution within its own limits; and has shielded it there from all assault. The Constitution, without ever directly recognizing Slavery, has recognized the legislative authority of each State within its own domain, and given its general sanction and protection to whatever arrangements the States might adopt for the government of their own inhabitants. Under this local authority, Slavery has developed into a colossal system, and insisted at its own will toward Freedom or toward Slavery. The States of the South have followed their own short-sighted view of their immediate interest, and have made it their chief policy to consolidate and strengthen the cruel bondage of the slave. The strength of the Slave system has hitherto lain wholly in the local legislation, which has maintained it not only against hostile external agencies, but also by local, and even by constitutional, prohibitions of individual emancipation, against the humane sentiments of the Southern people themselves, and against every liberal construction of the common law.

But the peculiar character of the Southern rebellion carries with it peculiar consequences to the institution of the Slave States. That rebellion is no outbreak of mere individual or local violence; it is no riot of furious mobs, no tumult of factious subjecting for the time institutions of government which emerge unshaken, as the wave has swept over them. It is the deliberate and formal act of legislative bodies and sovereign States, organizing themselves for the forcible subversion of the Constitutional government of the Union. The whole machinery of State government is turned against the Constitution in direct determination to rob it of its authority, its jurisdiction, its military resources, its territory, its very life. The nation and the Constitution are placed in extreme jeopardy by the insurrection of organized and powerful States against them.

Now, and therefore, such a condition can have no constitutional existence. The Constitution can know only harmonious and cooperative States within its Union. Rebellion shall subvert the constitutional authorities. The territory of all the States belongs indissolubly to the Union; over it all, the Constitution gives Congress certain defined powers, and no act of a State can remove from the Union one foot of the territory within which the nation is pledged to maintain local Republican Governments. When, therefore, a State attempts to withdraw from its relations with the Union, it does but inaugurate a treasonable state of war, and all its officers and institutions become at once the enemies of the Constitution. Its tax-collectors, sheriffs, judges, legislators, every one in short who acts under its sanction, is a traitor to the Union, and every local authority within the Constitution or the General Government, which recognizes or shields the illegal assumption of the State is converted into an instrument of war.

The State, then, has perished by the act of seceding. It is no longer a member, it is become an enemy of the Federal Union. It has overthrown its own institutions; its authority is at an end, and with it all the local authority gave existence. Courts, laws, institutions, all of a class of their dread order vitally sprang the local law, simply, have perished. What then remains? Plainly, the organization of society has come to an end, and with it has terminated everything which has sprung from and rested upon civil authority. Property and conjugal relations remain; the obligations of honesty, of truth, of justice, remain; but all that has rested upon the authority of a State, and had, resting hereto, solely upon the State's authority, exist no longer. No loyal man may any longer recognize the local authority of any government in South Carolina, save the exclusive authority of Congress acting under the Constitution, for the purpose of establishing there those republican forms of government which it is solemnly bound forever to maintain within each State.

Slavery, then, in Mr. Lincoln's view, is ended in the revolted States. Let us be thankful for such a result, however effected. Slain by the very violence which sound have subverted our freedom to give the impurest institution a more secure hold on life, it may be hoped, for the interest of better institutions of society. Established by the act by which the State abdicating all its proper functions, has terminated its own existence; if we are afraid of the truth, if we tremble through our long subserviency to assert and claim the advantages of our position, some new trick of the detestable jugglery which has long enslaved freedom into the service of this monster may be devised to give it new life, and fascinate the citizens upon the limbs and the minds which are now free. But if we have the spirit of our fathers in us, to strike a blow at our enemy which God and man will forever approve, and which will enamelapate the Nation forever from the letters which have explicated Slavery, we will hereafter refuse to Sovereign if those States all recognition, acknowledge the manhood of all loyal men, and inaugurate the true Republican Government the domain of the rebellion.

We have no doubt that Mr. Lincoln has carefully considered this subject, and that whatever his decision may have been or may be, he will maintain it with consistent firmness; but such a decision as this will probably awaken much opposition; and violent efforts will be made to induce him to change his position. We trust that he will clearly perceive the justice of the position thus vindicated, for a stable policy of freedom; and that holding here a stand point for so great a measure, he will inaugurate the method of treating all persons within the domain of the Confederacy as men, and will immortalize his name, and his administration, by such a connection of them with the assured liberties of the future.

OUR STRENGTH.

The succession of victories which has electrified the nation within the past fortnight, will have the happiest effect abroad, in insuring us the respect of foreign nations, and in warding off the complications which would arise from intervention in our affairs. When the news of our complete victories at Mill Spring, Fort Henry and Roanoke Island reach Europe, there will be less disposition than ever, to sustain even by misplaced sympathy, the wretched rebellion now ready to expire.

Our course now should be energetic. Blow after blow at everything that will effectually and forever, kill the monster that sprung from slavery, should be dealt, until our flag waves in triumph from the shores of the Potomac to the waters of the Rio Grande. The following which we find in one of "Occasional's" recent letters to the *Press*, is apposite:

There is a sentence in one of the letters of one of the most fearless and popular of British statesmen, which I commend, with due respect, to the consideration of General McClellan:—"Everything done with you which shows power by land or sea; every new point occupied, every *move in the direction of freedom to the slave, upon the basis of compensation to the loyal owners, tells here powerfully*—makes it less possible for our Government to deal treacherously with you, and to inflict any blow upon you."

True, every word of it. If we want the good wishes of Christendom, we must earn them by carrying on the war vigorously, and on the principle of Freedom and Civilization, to the confusion of the slave despots now in rebellion against this Government.

THE WORLD MOVES.—Delaware is acting in the matter of emancipation. Her legislature has under consideration a bill, providing for the emancipation of her slaves within a stated period.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

THE WESTMINSTER REVIEW for January has been republished by Leonard Scott & Co., 79 Fulton street, New York. The contents are, Law in and for India; The Dramatic Poetry of Oehlenschlager; The Religious Heresies of the Working Classes; Income-Tax Reform; Admiral Sir Charles Napier; On Translating Homer; Popular Education in Russia; The American Belligerents; Rights of Neutrals; The Late Prince Consort; Cotemporary Literature, and are of interest and ability, with the exception of the article, The American Belligerents, which is as insolently abusive of this country as the best efforts in that line, of *Blackwood's Magazine*, the *Edinburgh Review* or the *Quarterly*. This course of the *Westminster Review* is somewhat surprising, when we consider that it was founded and long conducted in the most liberal spirit, and that it has heretofore put itself forward as the friend and champion, *par excellence*, of America and Americans. There is certainly, some inconsistency here. What a violent passion English journals and periodicals, with some notable exceptions, have contracted for the institution of slavery, and its war upon Republican institutions—It is remarkable.

Local Affairs.

WEEKLY ALMANAC.

1862.—Feb.		SUN RISES	SUN SETS	MOON'S CHANGES.	D. H. M.
15	SATURDAY	6 54	5 35		
16	SUNDAY	6 53	5 36	First Q.	6 8 15 ev
17	MONDAY	6 51	5 37	Full M.	14 6 10 ev
18	TUESDAY	6 50	5 38	Third Q.	22 9 15 m
19	WEDNESDAY	6 49	5 39	New M.	28 11 53 m
20	THURSDAY	6 47	5 41		
21	FRIDAY	6 46	5 42		

Thermometrical Record for the Week.

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

		8 A.M.	2 P.M.	7 P.M.	
Feb.	8—Saturday,	20°	32°	32°	clear.
"	10—Monday,	12	25	23	"
"	11—Tuesday,	17	25	27	cloudy.
"	12—Wednesday,	33	41	34	"
"	13—Thursday,	33	42	39	"
"	14—Friday,	37	41	38	"

Flags were flung to the breeze here this week, in honor of the capture of Roanoke Island.

Surgeon H. Parry, U. S. A., left town on Tuesday, to report for duty, at the headquarters of Gen. Buell, in Louisville, Ky.

Max Elsman and Thomas Curry, of this Borough, are members of Company C, 7th Regiment, Penna. Reserve Corps.

Sleighers will get a surfeit of the *pleasure* this winter. Snow seems determined to keep in the ascendant.

Capt. Wm. H. Jennings, of the 7th Pennsylvania Cavalry, Col. Geo. Wynkoup, returned home a few days since, sick. He will remain here until well enough to resume his command.

Hour Changed.—On and after Monday next, 17th inst, the morning Passenger train from Harrisburg, via. Lebanon Valley Railroad, will leave at 8 o'clock.

L. F. Whitney, Broker, of this Borough, informs us that he will pay holders of bonds of the United States, dated August 19, 1861, the Coupons of semi annual interest which became due on the 19th instant.

By an advertisement in another column, it will be seen that Maj. John C. Wynkoop offers to rent to an experienced vine-dresser, a vineyard of 5000 plants, in the fourth year of their growth. The vineyard is located near Gordon, this County.

Mr. H. P. Smith, has established his sole office for the effecting of Fire, Marine and Life Insurances, at Pennsylvania Hall, this Borough. Mr. Smith is Agent for reliable Foreign and American companies, and all just claims are promptly and satisfactorily adjusted.

H. Boehner, of Pottsville, acknowledges the honorable adjustment by the York Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company, of their share of the loss, in the late fire, and the prompt payment of the same by their Agent, T. A. Godfrey, of this place.

Capt. J. A. Moore, of the 107th Regiment, Col. Thos. A. Ziegle, who is now recruiting here for the Regiment, sent over to Harrisburg, on Tuesday last, sixteen men. We understand that the Captain has been quite successful in obtaining recruits, since he opened his office here.

Grand Hall A. Chapter of Pennsylvania.—Companion Jeremiah L. Hutchinson, M. E. Gr. H. Priest, has made the following among other appointments:—Grand Chaplain, Daniel Washburn. District Deputy G. High Priest, Companion George H. McCabe, of Tamaqua, for the counties of Schuylkill and Berks.

"S. Clair Sentinel."—The publisher announces the suspension for the present at least, of the *Sentinel*. Reason, it does not pay. We sincerely regret that our really well conducted cotemporary is obliged to suspend, and trust that with the advent of brighter times in the business line, the *Sentinel* will again be at its post.

Skating was fine on the lower Tumbling Run Dam on Tuesday last, but at night old Winter laid his spotless cloak on the beautiful mirror-like surface, and ice and sport disappeared together. Shades of departed games of "shinny," let not such a state of affairs exist long, for the sake of the very happy party that was up on Tuesday.

A letter from Hon. Robert M. Palmer, dated "Parana, December 2, 1861," communicates the painful intelligence, that in consequence of increasing ill health and great physical prostration, he has applied to President Lincoln, soliciting him to appoint a gentleman in his place, that he may return home at the earliest possible day.

The St. Clair Sentinel says:

One of the most interesting sleighing parties we ever witnessed, left this Borough on the 3d inst. There were 22 ladies and gentlemen in a rebel dress, packed in the large sleigh "Sebastopol," to which was attached four horses; they left here early in the morning, determined on enjoying themselves after their own fashion. They proceeded to Pinegrove, where they took dinner, and in returning stopped at Schuylkill Haven where they had supper, defraying their own expenses throughout, and returning to St. Clair in the evening, having had a very pleasant trip indeed, and no thanks to the gallantry of their gentlemen acquaintances.

To Prevent Tools from Rusting.—Thousands of dollars are lost each year by the rusting of plows, hoes, shovels, &c. Some of this might be prevented by the application of lard and resin, it is said, to all steel or iron implements. Take three times as much lard as resin, and melt them together. This can be applied with a brush or cloth to all surfaces in danger of rusting, and they can easily be kept bright. If tools are to be laid by for the winter, give them a coating of this, and you will be well repaid. It can be kept for a long time, and should always be on hand, and ready for use.

"The Continental Old Folks are Coming."—So states their advertisement in another column. It also states that this popular troupe will give concerts at the Town Hall in this Borough, on Wednesday and Thursday evenings of next week. It is said that the character of the entertainments is the old style of church music, interspersed with appropriate music of the modern school. The costumes of the company are mostly *Genuine Dresses*, that were worn during the period from 1670 to 1826. Two of the members of this troupe, were recently married in Philadelphia at one of their concerts, by the Rev. Dr. Wadsworth.

Two Brothers, named Wm. N. and George Jones, sons of an old friend and subscriber of ours, in Minersville, are in the 106th Regiment, P. V. Col. Morehead, now stationed at "Camp Observation, Md." Recently, William, who is 1st Lieutenant of Company D., that Regiment, was presented by the members of the Company, with a sword, sash belts, and a pair of revolvers, which cost over one hundred dollars, as a mark of the high estimation in which he is held. The presentation was made in a neat speech, by Sergt. H. C. Viel, of the same Company. The whole affair is very complimentary to the worthy Lieutenant.

Missionary Services.—During to-morrow there will be a series of interesting services in the Methodist Episcopal Church, of this Borough, of which Rev. Mr. Mecaskey is Pastor.—In the morning Mr. Mecaskey will preach a sermon on the Missionary cause, which was delivered some time since, by request, before the Philadelphia Conference. In the afternoon, the anniversary of the Sabbath School Missionary Society will be held in the body of the Church.—The chair will be taken at 2½ o'clock, by P. W. Sneafer, Esq., and in the course of the afternoon addresses will be delivered by Benj. Haywood, Esq., and Rev. Wm. L. Major, of Phœnixville.—In the evening Mr. Major will preach a missionary sermon. Mr. Major has the reputation of being one of the most eloquent and able of the young divines of the Methodist church.

Pen and Ink Drawings.—We have had many opportunities of examining specimens of penmanship in the way of lettering, and in the still more advanced portrait; but, we have never seen anything to equal the drawings executed with pen and ink, by Mr. George W. Slater of this Borough. We recently adverted to a capital picture of Andrew Jackson, executed by Mr. Slater, and this week we were shown a beautiful specimen of his ability with the "pen," embodied in a full length portrait of "Hon. Simon Cameron, Minister to Russia." It represents Mr. Cameron when he was a younger man; but the portrait is faithful. The position of the figure; the shading; the perspective, and all the minutiæ necessary to give full effect to the picture, are well executed, and exhibit an amount of labor, which is rarely found in the most elaborately, executed steel engraving. Many of our citizens have examined the picture, and pronounce it a surprising work of art. We understand that Mr. Slater contemplates exhibiting it at the World's Fair to be held this year in London, where as a specimen of pen and ink work, it must in our opinion, bear off the palm from all competition.

Explosion of Fire Damp in Qld. Coal Workings—Death of One Man, and Serious Burning of Several Others—Miraculous Escape after being Entombed for Ten Hours.—At Bear Ridge, two miles above Port Carbon, this County, on Tuesday morning last, between 7 and 8 o'clock, fire men named Richard Doggat, a resident of Bear Ridge; Thomas Cann, of Port Carbon; James Higgins, of Port Carbon; William Fitz Charles, of Bear Ridge, and Matthew Kilah, of Bear Ridge, entered the old mines formerly worked by James Beury, for the purpose of securing a dam in the gangway, constructed to prevent the extension of a fire in the works which commenced about a year since, and which has been burning ever since. The immediate object of this, is to recover a quantity of iron which that place has been quite successful in obtaining recruits, since he opened his office here.

Grand Hall A. Chapter of Pennsylvania.—Companion Jeremiah L. Hutchinson, M. E. Gr. H. Priest, has made the following among other appointments:—Grand Chaplain, Daniel Washburn. District Deputy G. High Priest, Companion George H. McCabe, of Tamaqua, for the counties of Schuylkill and Berks.

"S. Clair Sentinel."—The publisher announces the suspension for the present at least, of the *Sentinel*. Reason, it does not pay. We sincerely regret that our really well conducted cotemporary is obliged to suspend, and trust that with the advent of brighter times in the business line, the *Sentinel* will again be at its post.

Skating was fine on the lower Tumbling Run Dam on Tuesday last; but at night old Winter laid his spotless cloak on the beautiful mirror-like surface, and ice and sport disappeared together. Shades of departed games of "shinny," let not such a state of affairs exist long, for the sake of the very happy party that was up on Tuesday.

A letter from Hon. Robert M. Palmer, dated "Parana, December 2, 1861," communicates the painful intelligence, that in consequence of increasing ill health and great physical prostration, he has applied to President Lincoln, soliciting him to appoint a gentleman in his place, that he may return home at the earliest possible day.

The St. Clair Sentinel says:

One of the most interesting sleighing parties we ever witnessed, left this Borough on the 3d inst. There were 22 ladies and gentlemen in a rebel dress, packed in the large sleigh "Sebastopol," to which was attached four horses; they left here early in the morning, determined on enjoying themselves after their own fashion. They proceeded to Pinegrove, where they took dinner, and in returning stopped at Schuylkill Haven where they had supper, defraying their own expenses throughout, and returning to St. Clair in the evening, having had a very pleasant trip indeed, and no thanks to the gallantry of their gentlemen acquaintances.

To Prevent Tools from Rusting.—Thousands of dollars are lost each year by the rusting of plows, hoes, shovels, &c. Some of this might be prevented by the application of lard and resin, it is said, to all steel or iron implements. Take three times as much lard as resin, and melt them together. This can be applied with a brush or cloth to all surfaces in danger of rusting, and they can easily be kept bright. If tools are to be laid by for the winter, give them a coating of this, and you will be well repaid. It can be kept for a long time, and should always be on hand, and ready for use.

"The Continental Old Folks are Coming."—So states their advertisement in another column. It also states that this popular troupe will give concerts at the Town Hall in this Borough, on Wednesday and Thursday evenings of next week. It is said that the character of the entertainments is the old style of church music, interspersed with appropriate music of the modern school. The costumes of the company are mostly *Genuine Dresses*, that were worn during the period from 1670 to 1826. Two of the members of this troupe, were recently married in Philadelphia at one of their concerts, by the Rev. Dr. Wadsworth.

Two Brothers, named Wm. N. and George Jones, sons of an old friend and subscriber of ours, in Minersville, are in the 106th Regiment, P. V. Col. Morehead, now stationed at "Camp Observation, Md." Recently, William, who is 1st Lieutenant of Company D., that Regiment, was presented by the members of the Company, with a sword, sash belts, and a pair of revolvers, which cost over one hundred dollars, as a mark of the high estimation in which he is held. The presentation was made in a neat speech, by Sergt. H. C. Viel, of the same Company. The whole affair is very complimentary to the worthy Lieutenant.

Missionary Services.—During to-morrow there will be a series of interesting services in the Methodist Episcopal Church, of this Borough, of which Rev. Mr. Mecaskey is Pastor.—In the morning Mr. Mecaskey will preach a sermon on the Missionary cause, which was delivered some time since, by request, before the Philadelphia Conference. In the afternoon, the anniversary of the Sabbath School Missionary Society will be held in the body of the Church.—The chair will be taken at 2½ o'clock, by P. W. Sneafer, Esq., and in the course of the afternoon addresses will be delivered by Benj. Haywood, Esq., and Rev. Wm. L. Major, of Phœnixville.—In the evening Mr. Major will preach a missionary sermon. Mr. Major has the reputation of being one of the most eloquent and able of the young divines of the Methodist church.

Pen and Ink Drawings.—We have had many opportunities of examining specimens of penmanship in the way of lettering, and in the still more advanced portrait; but, we have never seen anything to equal the drawings executed with pen and ink, by Mr. George W. Slater of this Borough. We recently adverted to a capital picture of Andrew Jackson, executed by Mr. Slater, and this week we were shown a beautiful specimen of his ability with the "pen," embodied in a full length portrait of "Hon. Simon Cameron, Minister to Russia." It represents Mr. Cameron when he was a younger man; but the portrait is faithful. The position of the figure; the shading; the perspective, and all the minutiæ necessary to give full effect to the picture, are well executed, and exhibit an amount of labor, which is rarely found in the most elaborately, executed steel engraving. Many of our citizens have examined the picture, and pronounce it a surprising work of art. We understand that Mr. Slater contemplates exhibiting it at the World's Fair to be held this year in London, where as a specimen of pen and ink work, it must in our opinion, bear off the palm from all competition.

Letters from our Volunteers.

From the 43d Regiment, P. V.

CAMP WINFIELD, HATTERAS INLET, N. C.,
January 20th, 1862.

EDITORS MINERS' JOURNAL:—As a vessel leaves for Fortress Monroe this afternoon, I send you a few lines. The Burnside's expedition that arrived here two weeks ago, is still here. It had quite a bad time during the heavy gales. Some half a dozen vessels were wrecked, and a large quantity of stores, ordnance and ammunition was lost. Sufficient was left, however, for any emergency. The fleet is now safely anchored in the Sound, but had quite a time in getting over the bar, which caused delay in getting the vessels over. Last evening the S. R. Spaulding was taken over. She ploughed right through the sand in crossing the bar. She is the Flag-Ship, with Gen. Burnside on board. The fleet will leave this afternoon, I think, or in the morning, as they appear to be ready. The weather is fine, and could not be more favorable. After this expedition is successful, and the vessels return, the 43th will have its turn. We expect to be in the next expedition, which will very likely strike at a point where we may expect to meet some Pottsville folks. The health of the Regt. is very good just now. The sick at Fort Monroe are doing very well. The paymaster is expected to-morrow.

Yours, &c., J. N.

From the Cameron Dragoons.

The following is a private letter, giving a description of the recent spirited reconnoissance made by the Cameron Dragoons, near Fairfax C. H., Va., in which the writer participated.

CAMP GRIFFIN, VA., Feb. 9, 1862.

DEAR BROTHER:—My object in writing this is to give you a brief account of the recent reconnoissance made by our regiment, as I was the most active part of it. Our whole regiment left camp at 3 A.M., on Friday morning and proceeded towards Vienna. At Freedom Hill, (about 14½ miles this side of Vienna,) Co'y F and L were sent out to advance, to make the first dash on the road that leads to Fairfax C. H. We knew where their outside pickets were posted, at a barn on the roadside, about ½ a mile this side of Fairfax, and we determined to surprise them without letting a single one of them escape. As Company A, and our Company, K, were the advance guard, we were ordered to form on the left of the Pike. Company A near the road, and my Company on the left of the former. We started through the woods across fields, over fences, ditches and hedges. After travelling thus for about a mile, we found that the boys we first started had eluded us somewhere. Here I was deployed to the left, with 8 men and a Lieut., with orders to join the Company on the next hill in front. We make a half circle of about a mile on our way when we came across an Infantry man, who made tracks for a house; but a display of our revolvers soon brought him to a halt, and we trotted him into the Captain, where we met the whole Company again. We asked him where their Cavalry Reserve Pickets were stationed; but he protested that he did not know. Leaving him in charge of two men, we proceeded on in the direction of Hunter's Mills, and inside the Rebel Picket lines. Soon we came to the bottom of a Valley, and on the opposite hill there appeared to be two paths. Here I was again detached from the Company with Sergt. Moore, 6 men and Lieut. Pierce, to take the left hand path up the hill, whilst the Company took the right.

Arriving at the top of the hill, we saw a clearing of about ten or fifteen acres, in the centre of which stood an old one story log house. Close by, under the apple trees, were a lot of cavalry horses, and four or five men were standing near them. We were about twenty yards from them, and only one fence between us. They saw that they had not time to mount their horses, so some of them broke for the woods, and others went into the house. We made a charge for the house, and when within about one hundred yards of it, we encountered a fence, which, owing to the nature of the ground, was hard to jump. Here we received the first fire from the house, as they supposed the fence would bother us. My horse cleared it, carrying with him the two top rails, thereby saving me a double skin, as the hill was so steep I tended for me to stand a little chance enough to my ear to be comfortable. The next man on my right received a ball through his coat-sleeve, and Sergt. Moore was shot in the thigh. They gave us a volley from the house, and then fled to the rear of the house. At this moment, they discovered the Company coming up at the front of the house, and directed their fire at them. After a few minutes, exchange of shots for a few minutes, but we soon drove them out and had our flag-staff, which consisted of Cole's Revolving Rifles, Pistols, and Sabres! After securing some of their horses, and mounting these upon them, we started on the road again, and sent our prisoners to Vienna, under a guard. Our wounded men kept us back very much, and the enemy appearing in the distance, I was despatched by Captain Pierce, to request a detachment of fresh companies were sent forward, and made a dash through Fairfax, and returned in the afternoon. The captures of the day foot up as follows: Co. F, 3 prisoners; Co. L, 3 prisoners; Co. C, 4 prisoners, and 1 wagon. We also captured about a dozen horses, rifles, pistols, &c. In the evening, I went to Washington with the prisoners, returning about 8 at night, after riding about 60 miles, and I was very much fatigued. I had my foot crushed a little, against a tree, and will not be able to wear a boot for a day or two.

Yours, &c., A. F. B.

P. S.—Serg't Moore died on Friday night, after arriving at camp.

From the 5th Regiment, P. R. V. C.

The following is a private letter, which we are kindly permitted to publish. The letter is chiefly about the Schuylkill County men, and gives an interesting account of the Battle of Drainsville, in which he participated:

LEWISTOWN CAMP, *Pierpont Jan. 8th, 1862.*

DEAR ——:—We had a little run on the 20th of December last, in Drainsville, with the Rebels. I shall not enter into details, as I suppose you have read the particulars of the fight, in the papers. It lasted two hours.

We left our Camp a little before daybreak on the morning of the 20th, and came in sight of Drainsville, at the village intersection. We got as far as Difficult Creek, when we commenced throwing skirmishers out in advance of our Regiment. As Company A, and our Company, K, were the advance guard, we were ordered to form on the left of the Pike. Company A near the road, and my Company on the left of the former. We started through the woods across fields, over fences, ditches and hedges. Company that day. The Capt. was in Washington, and the other Lieut. was at home on leave of absence. As I said before, we started through the woods on quick time, some three miles, when we came out into a large clearing. I was then about one mile from the Regiment on double quick. I started my skirmishers on a fair run to the top of a hill to keep in sight of the regiments, and we kept this up for four miles. Some of my men gave out, and fell back on the Reserve that was coming on. It was pretty severe, but we had to do it. After getting within half a mile of Drainsville, there were some twenty shots fired at us, doing no damage. We kept on. I was now in an open field, and just about to enter a pine thicket, when I thought I heard a noise in front of me. I passed the word along the line of skirmishers to halt, which was done immediately. I then looked to see if my men were all there, and inquired of Infantry, and one of Cavalry laying there, not more than five rods from my left-hand man, while a Sergeant was not more than 20 paces from myself. I then passed the word along the line again, to rally on the right of the Regiment. When the rebels observed this, they opened fire on us with muskets, and shot one of my men through the arm. This hurried, if it did not frighten him much. He followed me. We got on the road and, made the Regiment. We then were ordered across the hill to support the left—our Battery. The balls were now flying like hail from the rebels. We thought they saw us try to cross the hill, they opened their large guns on us. The shell and canister poured upon us. After getting near half way across, I was hit on the side. One was shot through my side, and the other in the leg. They crawled behind a small bank near the pike, as we had no time to lose, going over there. When I got a little further, I found I was not hurt, only the tearing off one of my pantaloon legs, and scratching my leg slightly. We got a little further, when two more dropped, that had got in my company, strangers. They died in a few minutes, but we drove the rebels, and now came our time for operation. Our Battery opened on them, and the Rebels were soon laying in all kinds of shapes, some with no heads, some with arms, legs, and some you could not tell what they were. We soon silenced their battery. We then made a charge on them through the woods. I must admit they fought much better than we can by a good deal; but they could not run out of sight of our balls. The woods were full of them. There was one spot where we could scarcely get over the dead and wounded of the Rebels. Our loss was 10 killed, and 30 or 40 wounded. The rebel loss was severe. There were 170 rebels buried the day after the fight, and we brought in some 60 of their wounded and 11 prisoners. All in all, it was a complete victory for Uncle Sam. Our wounded are doing well in the hospital; are in good spirits, and express themselves anxious to have another chance at the rebels. In our Regiment they were three killed, and 15 wounded, of which three belong to our Company. The Bucktail Regiment, our Regiment, and the 9th suffered the most. The 10th and the 12th I believe did not lose a man, as they were not in the battle of the fire.

Yours, &c., LIEUT. J. A. B.

From the 7th Reg. Pa. Cavalry, Col. G. C. Wynkoop, Commanding.

CAMP THOMAS, BARDSTOWN, NELSON COUNTY, KY.,
January 31st, 1862.

EDITORS MINERS' JOURNAL:—I have no doubt, our friends at home will be pleased to get a few lines from the 7th Pa. Cav., Col. G. C. Wynkoop. We left Camp Crittenden, Indiana, on Sunday morning, 26th inst., *en route* for Bardstown, Ky. The Regiment numbers 1057 men, and the same commanded by Colonel Wynkoop, 6 miles each. They marched to the river and commenced crossing at 10 o'clock, and formed on Main street, Louisville. By two o'clock, they were all safely over, and formed in line when the Colonel gave the order to march. After passing down Main to 6th Street, by the Louisville Hotel, where a large number of flags were displayed, they went up 6th to Green to Jefferson, where we halted Quarter-of-four. Bull, and then out on the Bardstown turnpike. The Regiment made a fine display while passing through Louisville, and was highly complimented by the inhabitants, who said they never saw such soldierlike appearance. I must say that in that large number of men, there was not one to be seen tho' least intoxicated. It certainly speaks well for its officers. When on the line of march, the