are more civilized; in all there are more provisions grown for home consumption than ever were raised in the most flourishing days of slavery; in all, the imports have largely increased; in all, a very important trade has sprung up with the United States; from all, there is an exportation of minor articles which were not cultivated twenty years ago, and which, in estimating the industry of a people under a free system, are often most unjustly overlooked. These are conditions from which the planter turns with contemptuous indifference. Sugar, and sugar alone, is his dream, his argument, his faith." Yet the following table of exports of sugar shows that even in that free labor has been successful.

*Comparative Table of Sugar Exportations in Pounds from the Leeward Islands.*

| Islands. | Annual average from 1820 to 1832. | Exports in 1858. |
|---|---|---|
| Antigua, | 20 580,000 lbs. | 28,174,000 lbs. |
| Dominica, | 5,000,000 " | 2,283,000 " |
| Nevis, | 5,000,000 " | 4,400,000 " |
| Montserrat, | 1,840,000 " | 1,308,000 " |
| St. Kitt's, | 12,080,000 " | 10,000,000 " |
| Total, | 45,470,000 " | 48,145,000 " |

*Table of Imports in Value.*

| Islands. | Annual average value from 1820 to 1832. | Value of imports in 1858. |
|---|---|---|
| Antigua, | £130,000 | £265,364 |
| Dominica, | 62,000 | 84,908 |
| Nevis, | 28 000. | 36,721 |
| Montserrat, | 18,000 | 17,544 |
| St. Kitt's, | 60,000 | 109,000 |
| Total, | £298,000 | £514,535 |

Excess of sugar exportations under free labor, 2,725,000 lbs.

Excess of imports with free labor, £216,835.

Of Guiana, a resident writes,—"The portion of the native population which in other countries constitutes the working class is estimated here at 74,000 souls. They present the singular spectacle, which we can contemplate in no other part of the world, of a people hardly escaped from slavery, enjoying already properties in land and houses for which they have paid nearly £100,000."

In a single county, (Berbice,) says Cochin, there had been built in 1843, since emancipation, 1164 houses, and 7,000 additional acres had been put under cultivation. In the whole colony there were 15,906 landed proprietors among the negroes who had become such since 1834. The imports, according to Lord Stanley, during the last six years of slavery, were about $13,915,000; during apprenticeship, about $17,899,000; in the first year of liberty, over $20,000,000; in the second year, about $17,463,670.

We have given, perhaps, a rather dry account of the effects of emancipation on a portion of the British West Indies. But it should be remembered that this question, as it now stands before the world, is mainly a question of figures. The great and damning argument against emancipation is the supposed experience of the West Indies, *that the negro will not work except under slavery.* The evidences of labor are in part given by figures; the number of freeholds, the prices of land, the amount of the productions, the quantity consumed, and the quantity exported. Any amount of imports, too, shows the *desire* and the means of the people to procure foreign commodities. By these plain and irrefutable evidences, we have proved that free labor in the Windward Islands, Trinidad, the Leeward Islands, and Guiana has "paid" much better than slave labor.

As Mr. Sewell has summed it up with reference to four colonies,—British Guiana, Barbadoes, Trinidad, and Antigua,—the total annual export of sugar before emancipation was 187,300,000 pounds, while now it is 265,800,000 pounds; showing an advantage under free labor of *seventy-seven million, seven hundred thousand pounds!* The total imports of the same colonies amounted before emancipation to $8,340 000: they are now $14,660,000; showing an excess of imports under free labor, as compared with slave labor, of the value of *five million, seven hundred and sixty thousand dollars!*

It is a remarkable experience of the West Indies, to be seriously considered in the settlement of our American problem, that the islands which abolished slavery the most summarily and entirely succeeded the best after emancipation. Half-freedom, both there, and in Russia during the last year, has proved a source of jealousy to the freedmen and of annoyance to the master, and ultimately, in the West Indies, interfered with production, and the permanent welfare of the islands.

It is true, that the moral curse of slavery upon the habits of the people is not so easily removed, and that we do not behold as favorable a moral and educational condition of the West India Islands as could be desired. But it should be remembered how large a share of the blame for this *falls* now upon the wealthier *classes*, who are opposed or indifferent to the education of the lower. Even these evils are being gradually removed, and emancipation is establishing itself, not merely as a grand act of justice, wisely done, but as a successful moral and economical reform, whose *fruits are to be seen in the good morals, industry,* and increasing wealth of many happy communities."

*Sewell's Ordeal of Free Labor, etc.*


# Miners' Journal.

POTTSVILLE, PA.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 1862.

DOING BUSINESS FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

Mr. Alexander Cummings may be a very efficient and clever man of business, in his peculiar line, whatever that may be; but he is evidently, a very loose one when he transacts business for the Government, on the strength of "general orders," or by special appointment. Attention to details, is evidently not Mr. Cummings' forte; and the most remote idea of what he purchases, of whom he purchases, and of the propriety of his purchases, as Government agent, is not a weakness he can be charged with.

In April last Mr. Cummings was authorized in a general way, by the then Secretary of War—around which planet the obsequious satellite faithfully revolves, reflecting the rays of his superior—"to assist in pushing forward troops, munitions and supplies," and draw upon the funds, two millions of dollars, placed in the hands of John A. Dix, George Opdyke and R. M. Blatchford, of New York. He then proceeded in a "general way," without requisitions, to purchase for the service, soap, dried beef tongues, Scotch ale, pickles, cheeses, codfish, tea, hams, London Porter, butter, palm leaf hats, linen pantaloons, etc., without examination, without knowing whether the prices he paid were cheap of dear, and without knowing if the articles ever reached their destination. Even if the army regulations recognised the purchase for the use of soldiers, of such articles as we have enumerated, which they do not, a plain, straight forward mode of doing business, would have suggested the making of contracts by means of samples.

These facts are gleaned from his own testimony, as given before the Committee of Congress, to investigate contracts. He remembers nothing distinctly, in connection with his transactions, except the prominent fact that he was appointed by the Secretary of War, to do something or other for the Government, and that a large fund was subject to his order, with which to do that something or other. To read the testimony of Major Amos B. Eaton, of the Army, then commissary of subsistence in New York, it would be seen that the appointment of Mr. Cummings to transact business within the Major's line of duty, was entirely unnecessary, as he (the Major) was fully able to furnish all the supplies that the Government required from that point.

Mr. Cummings we perceive, has published a defence of his course, in bad taste, and worse temper, in which he endeavors to make it appear that the Committee charges him with retaining unaccounted for, $140,000, and on which he dwells with great stress, as the main point of his defence. The Committee does nothing of the kind. Its report contained the following, over Mr. Cummings' signature:

"I have retained, under authority of the Secretary of the Treasury, by Messrs. Dix Blatchford & Opdyke, one hundred and forty thousand dollars, besides what I have stated in my testimony, which is accounted for by the vouchers."

Mr. Cummings says "I have retained" should read "there was retained." He did not furnish it in that shape, and this is about on a par in regard to looseness, with his general style of transacting public business.

His defence is very lame; and the testimony before the Committee shows that he was entirely unfit for the position he occupied only for a fortnight. It is very evident that if the country is to be saved; the efficiency of the service promoted, and the treasury kept in an easy condition, it will not be done by transacting public business *a la* Cummings.

### A SALUTARY LESSON.

The Government was taught a severe but profitable lesson on Saturday last, at Fortress Monroe. While Congress was hesitating about appropriating a sufficient sum to add to the Navy some twenty iron-clad gunboats, the rebels had completed the *Merrimac*, and taking advantage of the fact that we had no vessels of similar power to cope with her, they unexpectedly sent her from Norfolk into the midst of our wooden vessels, causing as much consternation as a hawk would among a brood of chicks. And had the iron-clad gunboat *Monitor* not appeared opportunely, on the scene, the *Merrimac* would unquestionably, have swept our vessels from existence, and the rebel flag would now be flying over Newport News. The *Monitor* however, with her two 11-inch columbiad guns, proved more than a match for her unwieldy, sluggish antagonist, and after a fight of several hours duration, the *Merrimac* retired to Norfolk in a crippled condition.

The fact to be deduced from this affair, is simply this—the people are ahead of their representatives in the matter of conviction as to the absolute necessity of the latest improved means of waging an irresistible war. While Congress hesitates to adopt, the people express a desire to give, and private enterprise and ingenuity, as in the case of the Ericsson iron-clad gunboat, place the most formidable vessels afloat.

Let us hope there will be no further delay, in placing our Navy as regards iron-clad vessels, on a footing to render it the equal of any other Naval power. Their usefulness is now placed beyond the shadow of a doubt. In fact, the days of merely wooden vessels of war, are numbered, while sailing vessels are becoming nearly as antiquated for effective handling in a naval fight, as the "tubs" of the sixteenth century are considered in these days of steam and clipper-build.

MR. RYON'S BILL.—We learn from Harrisburg, that Mr. Ryon has engaged the services of Mr. Cessna of Bedford County, to aid him in pushing through the Legislature a bill purporting to be for the benefit of the working classes of Schuylkill County, but, which if adopted, will prove to be one of the most destructive bills to their interests, that ever passed the Legislature of the State. It would not only tend to destroy business, which must affect the interests of the laboring classes, but it is *rascally* in character, as first reported, and his amended bill, we learn, is but little if any better. We were the first to advocate a bill for the protection of labor in this County. Such a bill was in force for a number of years until a decision was made by the Supreme Court, which destroyed some of its most important features. Another bill was passed about three years ago, which was framed with great care, free from the objections to the former bill, and which was framed with a view of guarding the interests of all parties, without intrenching too much upon the rights of either. This bill was passed, and has been in force ever since. Ex-Sheriff Hobart, who sold out more Coal operators in this County, than any Sheriff who had preceded him, informs us that the present law is amply protective, and that the Miners and laborers were protected by it, and in every case were secured in their wages. The Miners and laborers were satisfied, and did not ask any change in the law; but it is the act of a demagogue, who expects to reap political capital from its passage, and has thus appealed to the laboring classes to petition in favor of his bill.—We assert positively, that the large mass of the working classes in this County, do not desire any change in the present law, and it is only advocated by the most worthless portion, through political agency, who expect to further political interests by fostering prejudices which must result in injury to the very classes whose interests they profess to advocate. We will urge what is just and right for all interests, and at the same time, we will condemn all unjust schemes of mere political demagogues, who only flatter to deceive and betray.

### IMPORTANT MILITARY ORDERS.

In another column we publish Military Orders of the President, directing a vigorous advance on the Rebels at all points, reorganizing the several Military Departments and placing John C. Fremont at the head of one of them, relieving Gen. McClellan from the command-in-chief of the armies of the United States and resuming it himself, directing all the independent Generals to report directly to the War Department, and dividing the army of the Potomac into five distinct army *corps*, under the command respectively of Gens. McDowell, Sumner, Heintzelman, Keyes and Banks, Gen. McClellan retaining the command-in-chief of this army alone, placing Gen. Buell under the orders of Gen. Halleck, and assigning to Gen. Fremont the new Mountain Department, composed of Western Virginia, Eastern Kentucky, and East Tennessee. The new arrangement is a good one in a military point of view alone, and we hope that Gen. McClellan relieved of the vast responsibilities and multifarious duties which were certainly, too great for an untried man, and which would have overtaxed the power and endurance of Napoleon, will gain a series of rapid and brilliant victories in his Department, amid the congratulations of his countrymen.

THE REAL CAUSE OF GEN. LYON'S DEFEAT.—The enemies of Gen. Fremont flippantly accuse him with having been the cause of Gen. Lyon's defeat and death. In conversation with an officer a day or two since, he informs us that he recently had a conversation with the Adjutant General of Missouri, and that the General told him that Lyon's defeat is not attributable to Fremont, who was not in a condition at the time to render Lyon assistance; but is laid on the shoulders of the Department to which it properly belongs, the Adjutant-General's at Washington. That Department suffered Gen. Lyon to move forward without adequate transportation, while the men had not been paid. Fremont is considered by the entire West, blameless in that affair which lost us a brave and able officer. Yet Gen. Thomas had the sublime assurance subsequently, to furnish a report of the condition of the Western Department and to lay the responsibility of these occurrences on Gen. Fremont. It is unparalleled, to say the least.

THERE seems to be an itching desire to repeal good and wholesome laws. In this County we have had for some two or three years past, a law to secure a stricter accountability of public officers. Under the old system, where a few persons rule a township, no accounts were kept, and it was utterly impossible for the people to tell how things were managed. Under the law which is being repealed almost it would seem, without a protest, accounts of public officers are required to be filed, in order that citizens may examine them. If this law should be repealed, the township officers will again adopt the former loose way of transacting business, and the tax-payers will be robbed. Legislators who assist in the repeal of good laws, will have a heavy account to settle with a deceived and fleeced constituency.

### EDITOR'S TABLE.

THE CONTINENTAL MONTHLY for March, did not reach us until this week. It has been enlarged to *twenty-six* pages. The number before us contains contributions from some of the most eminent writers in the country, and are of marked excellence. Among the articles which must secure attention, is a searching review of General Patterson's campaign in Virginia. The following "bit," entitled "Humming Cotton," is good:

"Now then in is the country's cry!
See how the bayonet reddens by!
Nothing replied and nothing have,
Until them in from the strife to sleave.
Maids they rush of needle or heart
Who toil at burning the fires born thirst;
Little they'll care, as they shout aloud,
If the Southern rebel power a Southern shroud.
Heyrah for the shelter-heeng-and-thin!
Cotton is saved by humming it in."

The *Continental* is published by J. R. Gilmore, 110 Tremont street, Boston, at three dollars a year. It is a Magazine, the tone of which is manly, able and independent.

THE new Union game, called, "The Game of Secession, or Sketches of the Rebellion," can be obtained at the bookstore of S. Bannan, in this Borough.

## Local Affairs.

### WEEKLY ALMANAC.

| 1862.—March. | RISES | SETS | MOON'S CHANGES. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *D. H. M.* |
| 15 SATURDAY,.... | 6 12 | 6 | |
| 16 SUNDAY,..... | 6 10 | 6 7 | First Q. 8 6 22 m |
| 17 MONDAY,..... | 6 9 | 6 8 | Full M. 16 0 21 m |
| 18 TUESDAY,..... | 6 7 | 6 9 | Third Q. 22 4 53 ev |
| 19 WEDNESDAY... | 6 5 | 6 10 | New M. 30 2 47 m |
| 20 THURSDAY,.... | 6 3 | 6 12 | |
| 21 FRIDAY,..... | 6 2 | 6 13 | |

### Thermometrical Record for the Week.

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

| | 8 | 2 | 9 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | A. M. | P. M. | P. M. | |
| March 9—Saturday, | 35° | 42° | 41° | cloudy. |
| " 10—Monday, | 39 | 43 | 42 | " |
| " 11—Tuesday, | 40 | 47 | 44 | clear. |
| " 12—Wednesday, | 38 | 48 | 47 | cloudy. |
| " 13—Thursday, | 34 | 36 | 36 | " |
| " 14—Friday, | 35 | 37 | 32 | " |

*Monday next*, the 17th inst., will be St. Patrick's Day.

*Blue Birds* are here, vocal harbingers of the speedy advent of mild and pleasant weather.

*Removed.*—Mr. Houghton has removed his glass and queensware store to the Arcade Building, Centre street, where he keeps a fine assortment of articles in his line, at reasonable prices.

*Colonel Simmons* we are pleased to learn, is recommended for a brigadier generalship, by Governor Curtin. The Colonel is not only an old but an able army officer, and is well fitted for the position named.

*Rev. Mr. Meeaskey*, Pastor of the Methodist Church, of this Borough, will preach his farewell sermon to-morrow morning. The community regrets parting with *Mr. Meeaskey*, and sincerely wishes him health and success amid the scenes of his future labors.

*Pardoned.*—Charles Bretz, who was convicted in the criminal Court of this County, about two years since, of robbery and incendiarism in Port Carbon, and sentenced to twelve years imprisonment, has been pardoned by Governor Curtin. Bretz was released from confinement on Saturday last.

*Dr. J. P. Aschom*, of Hopewell, Bedford county, Pa., has been assigned to the 48th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, (Col. Nagle,) Roanoke Island. The former Surgeon of this Regiment, Dr. Minis, recently died from exhaustion, caused by attendance on the wounded at the Roanoke Island affair.

*A sword* and belt were presented in Washington a few evenings since, to C. M. Zulick, Adjutant of the Second District Regiment, by his brother officers of the Regiment. The occasion was one of great pleasure, to all concerned. We regret that our limited space precludes the possibility of publishing the eloquent remarks Lieut. Zulick made on the occasion.

*Sheriff's Sale of Real Estate.*—The following property will be sold by the Sheriff at the Court House in this Borough, on Wednesday, March 26, 1862:

Farm with appurtenances, in Union Township; property of Aaron Wolf.

Two tracts or pieces of coal land, in Frailey and Tremont townships, with the appurtenances; property of Henry R. Strong, in the hands of Eliza Strong, Henry R. Strong, Jr., and George H. Hart, his administrator.

*The 48th Regiment, P. V.*—A letter received in this Borough yesterday, from Colonel Nagle, dated March 11, states that he had just received orders from Gen. Burnside, to join him with six companies of his regiment. He was to take with him Company A, Capt. Kauffman; Co. B, Capt. Wren; Co. C, Capt. Pleasants; Co. D, Capt. Potts; Co. H, Capt. Gilmour; and Co. I, Capt. Porter. Co. E. Capt. Winlack; Co. F, Capt. Hoskins; Co. G. Capt. P. Nagle, and Co. K, Capt. Filbert, with the Band, were to be left at Hatteras Inlet until further orders.

*School Matters.*—The following decisions of the State Superintendent are condensed from the official report given in the *School Journal*:

Directors have the right to exclude children from the schools when small pox or any other contagious disease is in the family.

Teachers must give their monthly reports to the Secretary of the School Board, and until this is done they should not receive their pay.

Twenty-five days in a month is the most that Directors should require a teacher to keep school, and twenty days is the least that should be asked by the teachers.

A teacher has the right to oblige his pupils to declaim in school, but if they are by nature too timid to do so, he will not show much knowledge of his profession by forcing them.

*The Battle of Drainesville.*—"O. D. J." of this County, a member of the celebrated Pennsylvania Bucktail Regiment, sends us a letter in relation to the part that Regiment took in the engagement, and with it a well executed diagram of the field and position of the contending forces. We are sorry that our restricted space precludes the possibility of publishing your friend's letter; but can assure him that the people of the country know well how gallantly his regiment behaved that day, and that Drainesville was the inauguration of a series of victories that have covered our arms with glory, and the rebels with confusion. "O. D. J." need not fear that a single laurel will be plucked from the brow of his regiment. The Bucktails are too highly cherished for that.

*Major Nagle* of the 48th Regt., P. V., and Lieut. Rickett, of the 7th Penna. Cavalry, arrived in town this week, on furloughs. Lieut. R. we regret to state, is suffering under an attack of diarrhœa, contracted in Kentucky, in consequence of the impurity of the water. Many others of the same regiment were also, attacked by the same disorder. The regiment is now in Nashville.—We learn that it will be one of the cavalry regiments retained in the service, by the Government.

Major Nagle of the 48th Regiment, will return to Hatteras on Monday next, taking with him a number of recruits for the Regiment.

Since the above was placed in type, Major John E. Wynkoop, of the 7th Penna. Cavalry, has reached here on a furlough. He says that the health of the Regiment is good. It expects to reach Nashville on the 21st instant, and letters intended for the Regiment should be directed to that point. Col. Wynkoop was somewhat unwell from an attack of diarrhœa, but has recovered.

*Lecture on the Subject of the Coal Measures.*—We are happy to learn that at the request of a large number of our citizens, Ele Bowen, Esq., the geologist and author, will deliver a lecture at the Court House in this Borough, on Monday evening next. The subject of the lecture will be the Coal measures between the Mahanoy Region and the Sharp Mountain, in which Mr. Bowen purposes we believe, to discuss thoroughly, his theory of the number, position and depth of the various veins of Coal between the points named. The lecture will be illustrated by sections from the Mahanoy to Sharp Mountain. Mr. Bowen will also, touch upon the geological structure of the country between this Coal Region and Philadelphia. Mr. Bowen brings to the task of lecturing on this subject, observation, experience and study, and we do not question that an instructive and interesting evening will be spent by those who purpose being present at the lecture.

*Another Schuylkill County Boy in the Fight at Fort Donelson.*—Louis J. Boyer, brother of Wm. E. Boyer of this Borough, was in the Fort Donelson fight. He is a sergeant in the 1st Nebraska Regiment. Three of his company were killed, and five wounded. We should like to know what loyal State has not Schuylkill County men in her regiments. They seem to be in every engagement fought. Several were in the naval battle at Fortress Monroe, on Saturday last.

Since the above had been placed in type, we are informed that two more Schuylkill County boys were in the battle of Fort Donelson. One, George Hill, son of John H. Hill, formerly of Pottsville, but now a resident of Fairfield, Iowa, was in the 2d Iowa Regiment, which was the first to plant the American flag within the enemy's works. The other, Thomas, son of Sheriff Rauch of this County, was also, in an Iowa Regiment. All honor to these gallant sons of Schuylkill.

*Schuylkill County* is represented in the regiments of nearly all the loyal States. George W. Kunz, son of an old citizen of this County, is Captain of Company H, 9th Kentucky Volunteers, a Regiment made up of refugee loyal Tennesseeans and of Kentuckians. The members of Capt. Kranz's company are nearly all, Tennesseans. The Regiment was recently stationed at Columbus, Ky., and subsequently moved to Glasgow.

Letter written to a relative in this Borough, Capt. Kranz thus describes the reception of the Regiment in Glasgow:

Our march from Columbus to this place (Glasgow) has been a fatiguing but interesting one.—The inhabitants at every place seem delighted as we approach. We are feasted, and toasted, and cheered wherever we go. The American flag is again flying where for several months it would have been death to raise it. At this place our entry was a magnificent triumph. The town has about 4000 inhabitants, and the population is about one half secesh. It has been for several months one of the rebel encampments. They left the place on Sunday, and we came into it on Monday. They took their flag down from the court house when they left, and we run up the Stars and Stripes when we came. As we passed through the streets, we were cheered by the ladies of every Union dwelling and scowled at by the rebels. The difference between the Unionists and rebels was plainly discernable, for on the countenances of one was a look of relief and delight, while on the other a look of utter hatred. I'll never forget the shout that arose when the Stars and Stripes were run up on the court house. One old, grey headed Dutch Union man was streaming down his cheeks, came up to me and took me by the hand as he said, "Thank God, that the Stars and Stripes are once more flying over our city. Thank God that we are once more free; God bless you my son." The tears came to my eyes too, and I did not try to restrain them.

*The* following poem will be appreciated by all who love to hear on a calm Sabbath morn, the "toll-toll-toll-toll" of church-bells, which are musical even to the most callous and thoughtless:

[WRITTEN FOR THE MINERS' JOURNAL.]

### To the Presbyterian Church Bell.

J. T. B.

Toll—toll—toll—toll—
And thy echoes roll
From valley to knoll,
Among the mountains with solemn sound;
All around,
They rebound
And resound;
Gradually swelling,
Upward welling,
Time's requiem knelling,
Of heaven telling.

Till lost in the depth of the still profound.

In other climes
We've heard the chimes
Of bells, whose silvery tones
Gave the music to thrones;
Of those cast in times olden,
With gems and golden,
Telling of former ages,
Of Philosophers, Poets and Sages,
Whose bodies have turned to dust;
Of bells whose reverberations
Once startled the nations;
But now—never—
No, never did I hear
Which seemed to my ear—
Whether from Cathedral, Dome, or Shrine,—
Such as sublime,
Or sounds comparable, Old Bell, with thine.

O solemn Bell! O mournful Bell!
How change makes my bosom swell;
My heart stands still as thy vibrate toll
Speaks echoes to my worried soul;
Time is flying, it warns me, say,
Prepare O, soul, for the dread array,
For life is fleeting and death is near,
Before, which heaven you must appear,
From whose behest there's no retreat—
Come! O come, to the mercy seat!
Prepare!
Beware,
Lest where the heavens are rolled away
Or the pit's fire for thee is kept ready.
Thou shalt hide in the cleft of the rock and call
For the everbearing mountain to fall
And screen you in night from the eye of Him,
Before whose glances the sun is dim.

Sweet Bell! Joyful Bell! how thy blythe notes awaken
In my bosom old memories—so sublime!
And, as budding fruit-trees by soft winds shaken
Showers flowers, so thy tones rain fond recollections
Upon my mind. Again I'm a child—
Just happy time, when at thy wooing invitation
I sought thy presence, like children seek the wildwood.
And there, beneath thy subtle influence, took my station
By Him
To listen to the gracious words of sovereign love
From lips of Him by loving Heaven sent.
To lead my wandering footsteps to the world above,
The loved of many hearts—the old man eloquent.

O, that my will be granted!—
With its spirit I'm enchanted—
That when the soul-awakening trumpet calls
From which watch-tower no Satan's lofty walls,
That all who die within the Angelic ranks above
Thy solemn music fills the palpitating air,
Shall be gathered, like the ripened sheaves, in that garner
Where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary
are at rest.

Dear Bell—sweet Bell—
Farewell, farewell.

*February*, 1862.

*Pott vs. School Directors of Pottsville.*—In our last we stated that the Supreme Court of this State had decided that the old burial lot on Centre street, should remain under the control of the School Board of this Borough. The opinion of the Court in this matter, is very interesting. It is as follows:

**Schuylkill C. P.**

POTT vs. SCHOOL DIRECTORS OF POTTSVILLE.

*Opinion of the Court, Lowrie, C. J.*

From the bill, answer and testimony, and especially from the evidence of the acts of the donor, and from the long continued conduct and practice of the donees in connection with his acts in relation to the property, which are much better evidence than the loose recollections of loose conversations occurring forty years ago, it seems to us quite clear that was dedicated as a burial ground and not as a mere purpose; that of Pott's town plot for a burial place for the inhabitants thereof, and perhaps for his own descendants also, and for a school, and if the latter purpose *cease on any*, for a church also. The difficulty arises from the dedication not being in writing. It was made about 1817, and in a year or two afterwards a school house was built on the ground and used ever since. Very shortly after the dedication the burial part of the lot was fenced in, and though the position of the fence has been changed, it has never been so changed as to interfere with the portion of the lot whereon the school house stands.

Even if the evidence were clear that the first oral dedication was for a burial place only, that could not prevent a subsequent change of its purpose by the donor and donee, and the declaration of the donor and the perfectly uniform acts of the donor and donees ever since, make it perfectly clear that the purpose of a school was added directly after the first dedication, if it was not a part of it. No doubt the privilege of burying was confined to the inhabitants of the donor's town plot and to his own family; but how was the school house to be used? By the inhabitants of his town plot alone? It contained but six or seven families when the school house was built. Were they alone to have the privilege of the school? And the church, if built, were the inhabitants alone to be allowed to attend it? It is not usual thus to limit the use of either church or school. Nay, it is never done except with schools under private control. Under the public school system, schools were for all the neighborhood that could be accommodated at them, and who were within such distance that they could conveniently attend them.

And as we must presume this school lot was used for no one intimates that it was used with any limitation of the ordinary custom of schools. And in 1853 the public schools came under the charge of it, as of course and of right, and have used it ever since without objection from any one for the schools of the whole district. We have therefore no doubt that the burying and use of the lot has been used for the benefit of the neighborhood rather than for the inhabitants of the town plot, even since the house was built; and we do not discover that this is inconsistent with his dedication, and common custom helps to convince us that it was so.

No doubt he intended it to be under the management of the trustees, but he made no provision of trustees to manage it. In Kleckner vs. the School Directors, 1 Jones, 447, it was decided that in such a case the management devolved on the School Directors under the Common School Law. Here the Legislature have by special act put it under the same direction.

And what interest has the plaintiff to dispute the use of the property? It is no encroachment on the right of burial, but a use of part of the lot for the general purpose intended. It does not injure him. That too many may be attending the school is not owing to any inhabitant of the town, but no right of schooling. It does not increase his taxes but rather tends to diminish them. And as there are no objections to its having used as heretofore, the School Directors would hardly ask for to sell it, and there is not much danger if any one buying or accepting a mortgage on such a title.

There can be no valid objection on the ground of the increasing number of people attending the school; for that must have been in the hopes of the original donor and donee, and if the number of things that the number must greatly vary; but with the growth of a population, or neighborhood, or a church, or school, territory inevitably expands. The territory that 40 years ago had but one school, may now in some instances have ten, and yet each school may have more pupils. A trust cannot so enhance a dedication as to make it conflict with the whole substance and purpose of human society, though these are not always easily distinguished.

If the School Directors, who are now, the trustees of the lot for the uses to which it was dedicated, offer to encroach upon the burial ground, we doubt the court on application of parti s interested, will see that the boundaries between the respective parts shall be properly defined and observed. But we do not see that the erection of the proposed school house will do any wrong to the plaintiff.

Decree of the Common Pleas reversed, and the plaintiff's bill is dismissed at his cost, and the cause is remanded for execution of this decree.

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and accurate copy of the opinion delivered by Chief Justice Lowrie in the above case, March 3d, 1862.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Supreme Court at Philadelphia, this 6th day of March, A. D., 1862.

JAMES ROBINSON, *Prothy.*

This case was fully argued in May last at Harrisburg, by Benjamin W. Cumming, Esq., and John Bannan, Esq., for the School Directors, and by F. W. Hughes, Esq., for B. Pott.

### PROCEEDINGS OF COURT.

REPORTED FOR THE MINERS' JOURNAL.

Our regular term of the Court of Common Pleas has been in session during the last week, and a number of cases were disposed of. We present our usual report:

*William Richardson vs. Michael Murphy.*—This was an action to recover the balance due on a mortgage given by the def. to the plaintiff on May 1, 1847, for the sum of $2000. The mortgage was given to secure the purchase money of the one half of a lot of ground in Centre street, Pottsville, located below the Episcopal Church, and which the def. purchased from the plaintiff clear of all incumbrances. The balance claimed on the mortgage was one thousand dollars with interest for 10 or 11 years. The def. claimed that he was entitled to more credits for payments than had been allowed him, and further claimed that he had not received the property clear of incumbrances, inasmuch as there was an outstanding ren reserve on one half of the property in the heirs of John Potts and others, and that thereby the value of the property was greatly lessened. The plaintiff alleged that def. knew of the outstanding rent reserve before he purchased, and that it did not in the least affect the value of the property. The jury deducted about $700, as the value of the rent reserve from the claim, and rendered a verdict in favor of the plaintiff for $1036 82.

*John R. Brick vs. M. Murphy.*—This was also a Scire Facias to recover the balance due on a mortgage given by the def. to the plaintiff for $2500, on May 1, 1847, for a part of the purchase money of the other half of the above lot. The amount claimed was given with 10 or 11 years interest. The only ground of defence was that sufficient credit had not been allowed the def. on account of his payments made. The jury rendered a verdict for the plaintiff for the full amount of his claim, to wit, $2230 38.

[Conclusion next week.]

*An examination of the works at Manassas and an account of the huts, &c., renders it certain that there were or was more than 60,000 men there, and for two months not more than 30,000.*

## Naval Letters.

U. S. FRIGATE SUSQUEHANNA,
*Port Royal, S. C., February 24th, 1862.*

EDITORS MINERS' JOURNAL:—We are ready for sea, and anxiously awaiting the Commodore's signal to get under weigh. The "Flag Ship Wabash" and "Mohican" arrived here last week, and the U. S. Marines stationed on Bay Point, opposite Hilton Head, embarked yesterday on the "Great Republic." There is every indication of another naval attack, although the destination and real purpose of this preparation is kept profoundly secret. While we are thus lying in the roads ready to start at a moment's notice, I avail myself of the opportunity of having another chat with the Journal.

I suspect all our pounding Schuylkill did its part heartily celebrating the birthday of the immortal George last Saturday. "Washington's Birthday" last year was with me a great theme; we were then on our way still further. In Alexandria, Egypt, Cairo, Our ship was beautifully ornamented and dressed with the flags of all the civilized nations, signal-flags and pennants. The officers and the General were in full uniform, and the band discovered its richest music all day long. In the afternoon and evening there was a ball aboard, and, especially during the evening, the quarter-deck presented a gay and beautiful appearance. After there was a grand display of fire-works, and, what is of more consequence to the sedentary sailor, the mails-be-damned, we got a late dispatch, however, which we enjoyed ourselves, and an extra drink of that nectar (?) which causes so many human crafts to be "three sheets in the wind."

This year however, we have warmer matters on hand, and on the 22nd was not celebrated as it otherwise would have been. On the evening of the 21st the Commodore signalized that a general National salute of 21 guns should be fired on the 22nd, so that remember ever having seen so many American ensigns displayed at one place, as floated here last Saturday from the shipping. The Susquehanna had no less than four flags and one union jack flying. At noon all the guns fired, and the salute, after which the forts kept the air vibrating with the thunder of their guns.

The Commodore issued a general order lately, to the effect, that no one connected with the fleet should hereafter write to friends, or editors of papers, anything about what was going on. Whether this order is observed, and others were to be made. The order, however, read more like a request than a positive order. This is perfectly right, as much harm and little good is done by indiscriminate communications of movements and attacks.

The naval part of the expedition to Savannah returned some time ago to the different ships. They have accomplished what they set out to do, that is, cut off communication with Fort Pulaski from Savannah. They erected a battery between the fort and the city, and mounted some ten guns, thus preventing any supplies being taken to the fort. A part of Genl. Sherman's command, holds this battery. There are also three Union gunboats still stationed there.

Dear JOURNAL:—To realize the truth and beauty of "At Fort Royal, 1861," which you copied in your issue of the 8th, one ought to pay a visit to this place at present.

"The tent lights glimmer on the land,
The ship-lights on the sea."

With what force these simple lines strike us who have assisted in the making of them, upon which our own Union tent-lights now nightly glimmer. The "ship-lights" look like a host of bright stars, suspended lower in the air. Some ships remain dim, have their lights at the peak, which means that the Captain is not aboard then. The flag-ship sometimes has *three*, which tells the absence of the Commodore.

Again:

"With our strokes timing to their song,
They waste in simple joys,
The pathos of remembered wrong,
The hope of better days."

How appropriate in this case the Greek word *pathos!* How often in the calm quiet of early night, do we sit and listen to these "dusky gondoliers," rowing about the harbor, and hailing in their broken Saxon words! We sometimes hear such lines as these: "*Massa, he hab run away.*" "*Look de Lord, Oh, see dare free.*" "*De Yankee is de made for Secession.*"

As a Mr. Billings' friend says, that "sublime act of justice," Emancipation, *righteous ones!* He would have them emancipated *rather than carry on the war,—rather than regard it better such,*—*rather* that the people themselves "mangled, maimed, and murdered." He evidently desires not so much "to give liberty to the captive," as to "give relief to the people," "stability to the Constitution," "peace to a distracted country." In short, he evidently thinks emancipation the best, *perhaps* the only means of ending the war. A fig for such notions. Something like emancipation on this island, when she emancipated her slaves in order to injure France.

Slavery is wrong, and because it is wrong, it should be immediately abolished—destroyed—utterly annihilated. No matter what is to become of them: *after* complete emancipation there will be time enough to think of their future. Look at the slave. We have seen them on board, who once were slaves. They are intelligent, capable, ingenious, and willing to learn and work. They are stout, strong, and physically perfect. They look them, and in truth, I believe they are men. They have the same passions, cravings, feelings, and sympathies we have. They are governed by the same motives and natural associations that we are. They have an ear to hear the supplicating cries of wife and children, and a heart to feel for them.

If we—man, does not liberate them soon, God will, and He will at the same time, condignly chastise us nationally, for our long-standing, grievous offence. What a terrible reckoning will be ours! God, who is He that He who sitteth upon the Eternal Throne of Justice and Right, will inevitably, sooner or later, end the matter in a terrible manner. Wisdom, statesmanship, feelings for freedom, satisfy his cravings for knowledge, prevent his soul and body being sold to the highest bidder. Sin, crime, the galling and oppression of children, and place them where they can in time obtain a position equal to that of their arrogant, selfish, God-loving, thing oppressors.

However, I am yet too young to be damned as an Abolitionist: still I am fortunately independent enough to care a little less than nothing for the opinion of a *simpleton*, and as for pro-Slavery men, I have no sympathy with them.

I expect soon to have some glorious intelligence for the JOURNAL to record. We are not laying on an island of mine, and, finally, I wonder what those *boys*, your Hatteras, Inlet-correspondent-with the numerous initials speaks of constantly.

Our address still always continues to be the same, viz: Port Royal. This latter piece of information in regard to our address, might possibly convey the idea that a continuously second could be thankfully received. I have thus far received them regularly, and have now revoked all the blessings I showered upon the supposed donors, and bestowed them properly. More anon.

Yours Respectfully, S. S. B.

U. S. FRIGATE SUSQUEHANNA,
*At Sea March 1st, 1862.*

EDITORS MINERS' JOURNAL:—One of the best appointed and best regulated fleets, left Port Royal under command of our gallant Commodore, on the afternoon of Friday last. The purpose and destination was kept profoundly secret. The fleet consisted of the Flag-ship Wabash, the Susquehanna, the Mohican, Pawnee, Pinc, Florida, Alabama, Seminole, and a large number of others—all frightful ships. A number of troops accompanied the expedition, and a large company of U. S. Marines was formed from the guards of the different larger vessels. We are to-day all anchored some where off the Gulf Coast. Commodore Du Pont is giving final orders to the different commanders, and perfecting his arrangements and plan of attack. It is evident that a heavy fight is to be expected from the preparations being made on board the vessels of the fleet.

They are "rarin' to fight" the rigging, that is, the heavy stays are fastened to each other by means of ropes tied in a zig-zag manner from one to the other all the way down *from aloft*: something like a grape vine growing about a tree. This is done so that in case the main rigging is shot away it will not fall on deck. The iron stays of the huge smoke-stack are taken down and rope ones substituted. Everything not absolutely necessary, on deck in time of action is stowed away below. The railings of the hatchways are taken away and some of the hatches covered over with stout planks. Some of the boats are brought in-board, and the rest secured out of the way. A number of extra oats are slung and prepared for the wounded. Everything as far as the condition of the ship is concerned, is ready for action. The men themselves are as ready for battle as the good old ship. The gl