Miners' Journal.

POTTSVILLE, PA.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 1862.

ROSE WATER TREATMENT OF REBELS.

We are utterly and entirely disgusted with the disposition to treat rebel prisoners in any manner beyond their deserts. There has been too much "lionizing" of these men. They are treated more like nabobs, than thieves, murderers and traitors. Nine out of ten of them live better as prisoners of war in our hands, than they ever did at their homes in the South. But recently in Louisville, a rebel officer was living at a hotel, faring sumptuously at the expense of the Government, while our officers, prisoners in the hands of the rebels, are confined in filthy tobacco warehouses, or in noisome prison cells. This is all wrong, and is deservedly, a subject for reprobation. We would not have any unnecessary indignity placed upon rebel prisoners, nor subject them to deprivation. That would be barbarous, and is practised only by the rebels on our men. But the rebels in our hands should be confined closely; be fed plainly, and be the recipients of no inappropriate sympathy. To treat them otherwise is a positive wrong to our soldiers now in the field, and to those who are in captivity, subject to barbarities, the mere recital of which causes the blood in our veins, to chill with horror. This rebellion is to be crushed in no delicate, "by your leave" manner, but with hard blows, stern experience, and retributive punishment. The sooner rebel prisoners are made to feel this, the better it will be, and we trust that the people of the North will hereafter resolutely frown down all pampering and "lionizing" of these men.

The history of this war so far, is a record of misplaced leniency on the part of the Government, and of barbarities by the rebels, which savages would hesitate to perpetrate. At Bull Run they bayoneted our wounded, and subsequently, made goblets of the skulls of our dead, and rings, etc., of their bones. At Richmond, where our captured soldiers were imprisoned, the rebel sentinels shot several for merely looking through the grating of their prison windows. With what indignity Col. Corcoran and his brave comrades, have been treated, all are aware. We could enumerate scores of cases in which the rebels have acted more like demons than human beings; but we must content ourselves with coming to recent events in the South, to show that the rebels are not only not capable of appreciating or reciprocating civilized treatment of prisoners of war, but that they utterly repudiate kind and considerate treatment of our men who fall into their hands. A correspondent writing from Port Royal under date of 3d inst., states:

A guerilla force hangs about Jacksonville, Fla., and seven companies of what are called regular volunteer troops, between Jacksonville and Lake City. A picket of seven soldiers, stationed at some distance from the nearest camp, was attacked last week by the rebels; two were killed and five wounded and taken prisoners, only to meet a worse fate than instant death. From information which I am told by an officer is deemed trustworthy by Gen. Wright, it is known that these five wounded prisoners were murdered in cold blood by their ferocious captors. They are said to have been tied to trees, and were made the targets of these rebel savages, who bought the privileges of torture and assassination at a certain sum for every shot.

This is one instance. Is it not terrible?

Last week we gave as a rumor, that Col. Frank T. Bennett, of the Fifty-fifth Pennsylvania Regiment, son of D. R. Bennett, Esq., of this County, had been captured on Edisto Island. We are grieved to learn that the truth of the rumor is confirmed, and that he and his fellow prisoners were subjected to indignities of the most diabolical description. The correspondent who penned the above extract, gives the following particulars of the scenes attended upon the removal of Col. Bennett to the prison in Charleston:

The party recently captured by the rebels, consisting of Lieut.-Col. Bennett of the Fifty-fifth Pennsylvania, Lieut. Kirby of the Forty-seventh New York, and Mr. Willis, were taken to Charleston. Through that Christian city they were paraded in an open carriage, conspicuously labeled "Live Yankees," and followed to prison by a derisive mob of 5,000 people. Insults like this, and barbarous murder like that in Florida, are the practices of men who denounce the violation of the usages of civilized warfare on our side, and ask to be admitted into the community of civilized nations.

We ask, is it not enough after reading this, to disgust any one with the kid-glove policy in dealing with rebels, who themselves suickle at nothing in prosecuting their traitorous schemes? Let it cease, even if the people are obliged to call indignation meetings to express their sentiments on the subject. We do not ask for retaliation. That would be wrong, and unworthy of our humanity and civilization. But we do ask that the rebels in our hands shall be taught that they are men guilty of heavy crimes, and that their incarceration shall be strict and severe. This much the people who have sons, brothers, husbands and fathers in the Union army, subject at any time to indignities and barbarities such as we have noted, have a right to demand, and to see enforced.

THE CONFISCATION BILL.

This bill the character of which Mr. Cowan of Pennsylvania, Mr. Browning of Illinois, and other Senators of pro-slavery tendencies, have misconceived the character, to use the mildest expression, does not as is alleged, strike at all the property of each and every citizen in the seceded States. It would not probably, reach the property of one in ten of the rebels, and in no case touch the property of a loyal citizen. In the first place, the bill is prospective in its operation, and confiscates the property of no one for anything done before its passage. It would be in the power of every Rebel in the land to save his property from confiscation, by ceasing to war against the Government from the time of its passage. Secondly, it only applies to the property of such Rebels as are beyond the reach of judicial process. Wherever the person of the Rebel can be reached and made subject to the punishment his crimes deserve, the bill does not propose to touch his property. In all the loyal States, including Missouri, Kentucky, and a large part of Tennessee and Virginia, the only persons whose property could be touched by the bill would be those who abandoned it, and fled to other States to fight against the Union. Why there should be such strenuous opposition on the part of Mr. Cowan and others, to this equitable measure, is certainly, strange.

The bill was under consideration in the Senate during the present week, and on Tuesday last, Senator Trumbull delivered an able speech, strong in argument, yet of tempered zeal. We have only space to give the concluding part. We would remark that the people are ready and anxious for the passage of the bill, and Congress cannot adopt it too soon. If anything, the people are in advance of Congress on this question, for their feelings of hostility to the rebels are growing stronger and more bitter, as cherished ones fall in battle, or are captured and subjected to unprecedented barbarities. The conclusion of Mr. Trumbull's speech is as follows, which invites reflection:

But it is said the passage of this bill, admitting its constitutionality, would be inexpedient; that it would make the Rebels desperate, and unite the South as one man against the Union. Now not let me ask, It does not propose to touch the property of any loyal citizen, and why, it seems, should it drive him against the Union? Are there no loyal persons in the South, or is their love for the traitors who have driven them from their homes, and robbed them of their property, so strong that rather than take Rebel property to help defray the expense of maintaining the Government against the rebellion, they would themselves turn traitors? Surely this would exhibit a weakness and compassion for enemies, and malignity and hatred of friends, such as the world never before witnessed. Besides, sir, not to touch Rebel property for fear it would be to encourage future rebellions. Wherever the Rebels bear sway they have not hesitated to confiscate the property of loyal citizens; and if now, as the authority of the Union is restored, the persons who have robbed loyal citizens are to be protected in their property, what is it but saying to the people of the country, that thereafter a future insurrection arises, the sure way to protect their property will be to join in it; and what is this but to offer a premium for treason? To show the effect of this in individual cases, I quote from a letter received within a few days from a gentleman in New York, who says:

"I hold a mortgage for $35,000 on a plantation sold by me in Mississippi. This plantation is not far from one belonging to Jeff Davis. My mortgage is confiscated; myself and family are heavily embarrassed by engagements predicated upon this mortgage. We are innocent parties; Jeff Davis is guilty; and why should he be allowed to escape scot-free, after entailing bankruptcy upon loyal individuals and desolation through a whole section?"

This is but one case of which there are hundreds of thousands all through the South. But few of those engaged in this rebellion, will ever be made to suffer in their persons; and if they are to be left in full possession and enjoyment of their cotton, their lands, and their negroes, the innocent will have been made to suffer while the guilty will go unpunished. The enhanced price which the Rebels will get for their sugar and cotton at the close of the war will contribute largely toward making up the losses they have incurred by their rebellion, while loyal farmers, manufacturers, merchants, and, indeed, all classes of loyal citizens, both North and South, will be impoverished to the extent of $1,000,000,000. Tens of thousands of lives will be sacrificed, hundreds of thousands of men will be crippled for life, hundreds of thousands of others will be left orphans as the bounty of the nation, while the authors of all this misery will escape almost entirely unhurt, unless their property is made to pay the penalty. Is this just? Shall the innocent, loyal, and patriotic citizens of my own State, who have contributed so liberally of their blood to the maintenance of the Union and the preservation of constitutional liberty, be deprived of their property to pay the expenses of this war, while they who prosecute it against the Union are permitted to enjoy theirs? Shall the fathers of the gallant sons whose mangled bodies have been borne back to Illinois by hundreds, from the bloody fields of Belmont, of Donelson, and Pea Ridge, be ground down by onerous taxes, which shall descend upon their children to the third and fourth generations, to defray the expenses of defending the Government against traitors, and we forbear to touch even the property of the authors of these calamities, whose persons are beyond our reach? Suppose ye that the loyal people of this country will submit to such injustice? I believe I represent as loyal, as patriotic, and as brave a constituency as any other Senator. I claim nothing more. If Western men have fought more battles and won more victories for the Union than their brethren of the East, it is because they have had more opportunities. It has been their good fortune to be led against the enemy, instead of being idly confined in camps. The capture of Newbern, chiefly by New England troops under the gallant Burnside, shows that the Eastern army needs but its due share of opportunity, to win for itself a name as honorable as that of any other army. Rebel property from confiscation amounts to? Sir, I know not if they would submit to such injustice; and I know not if they would submit to any amnesty to which there are those who put only talk of an amnesty to the man who have brought these troubles upon the country, but oppose providing the mild punishment of confiscation of property for those who shall continue thereafter to war upon the Government, and whose persons are beyond our reach. I am surprised that a bill of this character should meet with opposition from Senators of the Border States, whose loyal citizens the Rebels, whenever they have had the power, have robbed, plundered, and driven from their homes. Do gentlemen regard it as exhibiting no obligation on us to lay taxes upon those whose habitations have been consumed, to reward those who have burned them? upon those whose whole property has been stolen, to reward the thieves? upon those whose relatives have been slain, to compensate the murderers? In my judgment, justice, humanity, and mercy herself, all demand that we at once provide that the supporters of this cruel and wicked rebellion should thenceforth be made to feel its burdens.

To the most important features in the bill under consideration I have thus far made no allusion. They are the 2d and 3d Sections of the bill. The 2d is in these words:

And be it further enacted. That every person having claim to the service or labor of any other person in any State, upon or by virtue of the laws thereof, who during the present rebellion shall take up arms against the United States, or in any manner give aid and comfort to said rebellion, shall thereby forfeit and lose all claim to such service or labor, and the persons from whom it is claimed to be due, commonly called slaves, shall, *ipso facto*, on the commission of the act of forfeiture by the party having claim to the service or labor aforesaid, be discharged therefrom, and become forever thereafter free persons, any law of any State, or of the United States, to the contrary notwithstanding. And whenever any person claiming to be entitled to the service or labor of any other person shall seek to enforce such claim, he shall in the first instance, and before proceeding with the trial of his claim, satisfactorily prove that he is and has been during the existing rebellion, loyal to the Government of the United States. And no person engaged in the military or naval service of the United States shall under any pretence whatever, assume to decide on the validity of the claim of any person to the service or labor or any other person, or to surrender up any such person to the claimant.

The third section makes it the duty of the President to provide for the colonization and protection, as free men, in some tropical country, of such of the African race made free by the previous section, as may desire to emigrate. Slavery is admitted, by most loyal citizens, to have been the cause of this wicked rebellion; and it is not strange that Congress should so act that if men will fight and war against the Government they shall not go forth without the loss of that species of property which has been the impelling power to drive them into rebellion, and thereby take away any motive for repeating the experiment when this rebellion shall have been suppressed? Such an opportunity to strike a blow for freedom seldom occurs as that now presented to the American Congress. As the most of the owners of slaves are engaged in the rebellion, and will probably continue so for some time, the effect would be, if the bill were specially enacted into a law, that they would by their own act give freedom to most of the slaves in the country, and thus would be solved, in a great measure, the ugly the agency of this wicked rebellion, the great question, what is to be done with African slavery? A subject in view of which, Jefferson, in his day, exclaimed that he "trembled when he remembered that God was just." I appeal to Senators as philanthropists, as patriots, as lovers of the Union and of constitutional liberty, not to let pass this opportunity which a wicked rebellion presents, of making it the means of giving freedom to millions of the human race, and thereby destroying to a great extent the source and origin of the rebellion, and the only thing which has ever seriously threatened the peace of the Union. Having, as I think, shown that the right to confiscate enemy property exists; that for this purpose the rebels may properly be treated as enemies; that confiscation can be effected only by an act of Congress; that the bill under consideration is constitutional, and that it is both wise and expedient to take from those who shall continue to fight against the Government after the passage of this act, and whose persons are beyond the reach of punishment, their property and their slaves, so far as they are within our reach, I appeal to all those who favor these views to stand together, and let us pass this bill at as early a day as possible, with such modifications and amendments as may be thought advisable, not losing sight of the great object in view. It is no time to talk of amnesties and conciliation, when the habitations of loyal citizens are being plundered and their lives destroyed. When the rebels, whose hands are dripping with the blood of loyal citizens, shall have grounded their arms, it will be time enough to talk of clemency; but to have our sympathies excited in their behalf now, when fighting to overthrow the Government, is equal to the joy at men who have rallied to its support.

THE following communication from the energetic, active and capable Superintendent of the Public Schools of this Borough, is a scathing and truthful reply to an ill-advised communication, that appeared in the *Mining Record* of Saturday last. The motives that prompt the attacks recently made in the two Democratic organs of this Borough, on the School Board, its officers, and the Superintendent, are as varied as they are curious. We challenge successful contradiction, when we assert that the system of which the school affairs of Pottsville are conducted, cannot be excelled anywhere in the State; even even in Philadelphia, which prides itself upon the perfection of its school economy. As to its affairs the School Board invites investigation, feeling that it would only result in the complete discomfiture of its assailants. But we have alluded to the motives that actuated these assaults. Well, we will give an illustration of the nature of two or three. The *Standard* attacks the senior editor of this paper, because he is a political antagonist, and is President of the Board. A Borough election is close at hand; new officers are to be elected, and that is the *animus* of its antagonism. One party loses a law suit in which he entered with the Board, and of course, he is antagonistical and bitter on that score. Another wishes to sell a lot for building purposes, at an additional cost to the tax payers, of some three thousand dollars; the decision of the Supreme Court comes in, affirming the right of the Board to the lot in Centre street, and the anxious holder cannot sell his lot. *He* grows cross. A couple of teachers are kept at their duties by the Superintendent, and *they* become irascible. A party actuated by personal motives altogether, writes a communication, which Mr. Sherman notices below, and which would be far from creditable to the writer, if the matter was entered into fully, and all the facts developed. However, we allude to these few apparently trivial matters, to show that no real, substantial cause exists for attacks upon the management of the Public Schools of the Borough, and that they spring mainly, from petty, private feeling. As to the Borough Superintendent we recognize cheerfully, his valuable services to the cause of education here. In addition to his labors as a teacher, he has a watchful eye upon the conduct of the other schools of the Borough, visiting them frequently, and seeing that they are always up to the mark required. Indeed the position is absolutely indispensable, as the visits of the County Superintendent, are like those of angels, "few and far between," in consequence, we presume, of his arduous duties in other sections of the County. Although invited, he has never been present at more than one or two examinations of the Public Schools of this Borough.

Mr. Sherman's communication is as follows:

EDITORS MINERS' JOURNAL:—I hold it to be a praiseworthy act to expose fraud and corruption in public officers, and to advocate reform in municipal and State affairs; but when a writer conceals his motives so that he may the more easily screen from public view the supreme selfishness which dictates his conduct, while he uses every effort and every art of the demagogue to mislead and deceive the people, in matters of which he supposes them to be ignorant, it is no less praiseworthy to expose to the light his misrepresentations and sophistical reasoning. Such misrepresentations and reasoning characterize the articles in the *Mining Record*, signed "Another Taxpayer." The writer, conscious of the motives which actuate him, dares not sign his name to the articles he writes, as *then*, any one at all acquainted with school matters would see the object of the writer; but he will learn by experience that the roaring of a lion is easily distinguished from the braying of an ass, though the latter be clothed in a lion's skin. Permit me to call the attention of the public to a few points in his articles, for I must be brief. My duties as teacher in the High School and as Superintendent, especially at this period of the year, occupy my time both day and night, and I have little time or inclination to enter into a full discussion of the various questions raised by the writer. If the writer of those articles were as busily and usefully employed as the Borough Superintendent, he would have had no desire to try thus to mislead the public. It is not my intention to extol the importance of the position I hold, although I might without being liable to the charge of egotism, "magnify mine office." Had it not been for the invidious and unjust comparison between the Female Grammar School and the Male Grammar and High Schools, I might have let his articles go for what they are worth, at least for the present; but as I am Superintendent of *all* the Public Schools, I cannot allow such comparisons to pass unnoticed; and should any one make as unjust a comparison in reference to the Female Grammar School, I should be ready to defend it and its teachers. I commence then with the last article. After stating that several of the young ladies, (he says just one fourth, which is 62) from the Female Grammar School have been elected as teachers, he comes to the conclusion that the Male Grammar School and High School have not done half as much good for the public as the Female Grammar School; and "if so can be convinced that one-half of the good has resulted to the public from the expenditures of two thousand dollars mentioned above that has been realized from the five hundred paid to the teachers of the Female Grammar School, it will go very far towards persuading a tax-paying public that it has very nearly paid its debt for the whole." The object of the Public Schools is not to make teachers any more than it is to make lawyers; and allawyer, if good for anything, is just as much credit to the Public Schools in which he received his education, previous to his study of law, as one who chooses teaching as the business of life.

If we are to estimate the good done by the number of teachers chosen from the schools and the cost, then there might be some soundness in the argument. But let us see where this sophistical reasoning will lead. There is a young ladies' school in town that has furnished twice as many teachers as the Public School and has cost the public nothing. Let, then, the Public Schools be abolished! It is true, very few of the young men of Pottsville engage in teaching, but is that any reason that the Grammar and High Schools do not do as much good as the Female Grammar School? But where are the young men of the Grammar and High Schools? Scores of them are in the army and navy; some as privates, and some as officers; they may be found in all the honest walks of life, and *they* speak for these schools, and cast no discredit upon either. And as to the matter of salary, which seems to trouble the writer so much, it may not be amiss to say that some of these young men are receiving individually, a salary equal to the combined salaries of the young ladies mentioned, and greater than the salary of any male teacher. They have served for these positions in the High School. All honor to these brave young men who have left their pleasant homes to battle for the right, to risk life and health for their country. But one word more as to salaries. It appears not to have entered the imagination of the writer, that male teachers usually receive a higher salary than females; that by a law of political economy which is as immutable as the laws of nature) the price of every thing is governed by the supply and demand, and there being few openings comparatively for females, there are many more seeking to become teachers, than can find employment. Besides, they receive a more liberal compensation for teaching than they can obtain in any other employment, while it is far from being the case that there are not a thousand openings where more money can be made and where they will not be envied what they honestly earn. He says the cost of the Grammar and High Schools, *together with the Superintendent*, is $3000, nearly four times as much as the Female Grammar School, but he forgot just then to mention a very important fact, that there are in these schools nearly three times as many pupils; the average being for the last three months, 157, and in the Female Grammar School, 56.—Can it be possible that a person who will knowingly thus try to deceive the people, is influenced by honorable motives? He also includes in the cost of the High School the whole salary of the Superintendent, while certainly not more than half should be thus included, but he thought the dear public couldn't see. He desires the public to believe that the cost of Superintending the schools is $500, and at the same time wishes them to believe that the whole salary should be added to the cost of the High School. He must think that he has a very gullible public to deal with.

He styles the Superintendent a Dictator, implying that the office is odious to the people, and that the incumbent acts the part of a tyrant towards them. The facts of the *case are* that very few of the teachers have any such feelings toward the Superintendent, and these few would like the Superintendent too, if he would turn the grindstone for them to sharpen their axes. Whatever the office may be, it was not made for me; I was elected to fill it, and I have not the least doubt that I shall hold it just as long as I desire it, if I perform my duties faithfully, the writer of those articles, willing or unwilling. In his first and second articles, he considers the office of Borough Superintendent a useless appendage, and the incumbent a *personage* that should not be among us; and in his third he says: "Now I am decidedly of the opinion that the work of Superintendent and teacher of the High School should be combined." What a wonderful change in one short week! He is evidently laboring under the disease called "softening of the brain." But hear him further: "The school is at all times small, and the *teachers* could at any time, while attending to the *duties of Superintendent*, be relieved by the principal of the Grammar School, who has at all times two assistants." Now the writer knew very well that the Grammar School has not "at all times" two assistants, and when there are two, they are as fully occupied, and work as hard as any teachers in the Public Schools.

"Again," he says, "If you were to make strict inquiry of the teachers of the Secondary and Grammar Schools as to whether the children (*promoted in order to keep up the High School*) had progressed as far as they were able to take them, they would most undoubtedly, give a negative reply," and then he talks flippantly of "rushing the pupils through the Secondary and Grammar Schools, when they have not learned more than half what they could learn in them, to keep up a High School." On this principle, viz., that pupils should not be promoted as long as they can learn anything of their teachers, there would be neither Male nor Female, Grammar Schools nor High Schools. The pupils are not promoted to keep up the High School any more than they are to keep up the Male and Female Grammar Schools. They are promoted more frequently than desirable on account of the crowded state of the lower schools. It would be very natural for the teachers to give a "negative reply," because they do not like to part with their pupils, and certainly they would not admit that they had taught their pupils all they knew themselves.

More anon,

J. P. SHERMAN.

CAPTAIN JAMES BAYSON, of the 7th Penna. Cavalry, Col. Wynkoop, died recently in Tennessee, of typhoid fever. His remains have been interred at Milton, Pa., where his widow resides.

Breckinridgers and Buchananites of Connecticut, Utterly Routed.

A Republican Union Majority of over 5000, Against 2000 Last Year.

A CLEAN SWEEP.

The election in Connecticut for State officers, took place on Monday last, and resulted in the re-election of Gov. Buckingham, Republican. Union, over Loomis, the Breckinridge candidate, by a majority of 5,549.—Last year Gov. Buckingham's majority was, 3,086. *All* the Senators elect (21) are Republicans or Union Democrats who acted with the Republicans in this election. There has been no such clean sweep for about twenty years. The House consists of 177 Republicans and Union Democrats, elected on Union Tickets largely supported by Republican votes, and 55 Democrats proper. We rejoice over this result, because it is a signal victory of the devoted friends of the Union, over Breckinridge and Buchanan disloyalty.—Thus steadily and resolutely, are the loyal States falling into line, to support the Government, and strengthen the hands of our soldiers who are fighting gallantly in the field, against Rebellion.

CORRUPTION in every shape, we will assist in exposing, whether the parties engaged in such work are Democrats or Republicans.—But few Republicans we believe, have been engaged in plundering the Government since the commencement of the war, the mass being Democrats who have taken advantage of the opportunity offered by the Rebellion to carry on their nefarious operations. It was an unfortunate day when Simon Cameron was forced upon President Lincoln for the position of Secretary of War, for it opened the door for such hangers on as Alexander Cummings, an *expose* of whose operations will be found on the First Page of to-days JOURNAL. Cummings was sent by his patron, before the present troubles existed, to New York, to publish the *World* newspaper, which was to be a special organ to advance Cameron's chances for the Presidency. Finally, when the war commenced, and the *World* was found to be sinking money, a plan was devised to "raise the wind" for it. Cummings was added to a highly respectable committee appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury, to attend to the shipping of troops, stores, etc., at New York, for the Government, with a couple of millions subject to his draft. How he operated in that sphere, is well stated in Mr. Dawes' exposition.—Cummings thought that he had convicted the Investigating Committee of unfair dealing, in his confident statement which he knew would be read by ten persons to one who would see the report of the Committee on the case; but he certainly, has "caught a tartar" in Mr. Dawes. If Mr. Cummings is a Republican, we claim a peculiar right to criticise his doings with the Government, that the party may not suffer in reputation, from his acts. Where corruption is assured, we will condemn in all cases, whatever the position in the party, of the culprit.

THE tax-bill passed the House at Washington, on Tuesday last. The bill has been made as equitable as possible, so that the mechanic and laboring man shall be touched lightly. Mr. Stephens's remarks before the passage, which we publish under our Congressional head, are instructive. It was thought that the bill would pass without receiving a single negative vote. Thirteen men however, double-dyed traitors, voted against it, some of them pets of the Breckinridge Democracy,—one, Vallandigham, the acknowledged leader of that party. The men who voted against a bill embodying the blood of the nation, are, *Allen, Buffinton, Cox, Kerrigan, Knapp, Law, Norton, Pendleton, Richardson, Shiel, Vallandigham, Vorhees* and *Wickliffe*. While six hundred thousand soldiers are in the field, amid blood and carnage, fighting to preserve the Life of the Nation, thirteen traitors in Congress vote against raising money to pay them. Let their names descend to posterity branded with infamy.

"CONTRABANDS" are arriving at Philadelphia, in squads of tens and twenties. We would rather see them remain in the South, for they get along better in that climate. They would unquestionably, remain there if they had the choice. But what can they do, as long as Slavery exists in the South? They must come North. They have no other place of refuge, owing to the efforts of the Breckinridge Democrats to fasten their chains still tighter. The negroes however, who have reached Philadelphia, have all obtained employment on farms, and at other work, laborers being at this time scarce. The desire for freedom is strong with the negro, even to an advanced age. A number of negroes belonging to the rebel commissioner, Mason, reached Philadelphia a few days since, among whom was a woman who said she was one hundred years old. "So old?" queried a bystander, "and want your freedom?" "Ah massa! I *want* to be free! dat is all!" How natural—it is a feeling that springs eternal in the human breast.

GOVERNOR CURTIN VINDICATED.—When the present Legislature of Pennsylvania assembled, the Democrats having a majority in the House of Representatives, there were loud threatenings of investigations and the ferreting out of abuses. In advance of these investigations Democratic demagogues delivered inflated harangues, in which they talked as though corruption had already been proven against the parties assailed, and the examinations were mere matters of form.—Well, one of these much vaunted committees has just turned up with its report, which is unanimous, and not only clears the whole of the executive officers of all blame, but bestows high praise upon them for their earnest and unremitting labors on behalf of the volunteers. To Gov. Curtin, especially, they award the meed of such commendation as is rarely received by a public officer. We trust that this settles the matter, and that here it will be suffered to rest.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

NEW MUSIC.—Root & Cady, 95 Clark street, Chicago, have just published "Gen. Grant's March," a spirited composition by Richard Zeller. It is dedicated to the brave men who captured Fort Donelson. Also a ballad "Beautiful Rose," words and music by Henry C. Work. It is a charming bit.

Local Affairs.

WEEKLY ALMANAC.

1862.—April.	SUN RISES	SUN SETS	MOON'S CHANGES.	D. H. M.
12 SATURDAY,.....	5 25	6 35		
13 SUNDAY,.....	5 24	6 36	First Q.	7 7 16m.
14 MONDAY,.....	5 22	6 37	Full M.	14 10 6m.
15 TUESDAY,.....	5 21	6 38	Third Q.	21 1 7m.
16 WEDNESDAY,.....	5 20	6 39	New M.	28 6 8mor.
17 THURSDAY,.....	5 18	6 40		
18 FRIDAY,.....	5 16	6 41		

Thermometrical Record for the Week.

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

		8 A.M.	2 P.M.	7 P.M.	
April	5—Saturday,	29°	47°	34°	rain
"	7—Monday,	28	47	44	cloudy.
"	8—Tuesday,	24	29	29	"
"	9—Wednesday,	28	38	31	"
"	10—Thursday,	35	46	45	clear.
"	11—Friday,	40	50	49	"

Col. Nagle of the 48th Reg. P. V., who was here last week on a furlough, has rejoined his regiment.

The weather for the past two days has been very pleasant. The snow is rapidly passing away.

President Lincoln has issued a proclamation recommending that to-morrow the people give thanks to Almighty God in their places of worship, for the recent victories.

Captain H. Pleasants of the 48th Reg. P. V., reached here yesterday, on a furlough. He looks well, as in fact, do all from this Regiment, that we have met lately.

The contract for furnishing 2000 tons of Coal to the Philadelphia Guardians of the Poor, has been awarded to Mr. G. W. Parvin, at $3 13 per ton. The Coal will come from Mr. Parvin's Locust Gap Colliery.

The Borough was gaily decorated with flags, on Wednesday, in honor of the capture of Island No. 10, and of the Union victory at Pittsburg Landing, Tenn., by the combined forces of Generals Grant and Buell.

Short Cloaks.—Spring cloaks are now out. They are mainly very short, extending a little below the swell of the dress. If made of white muslin they could be made to do duty as robes de nuit. In cut and style the two garments are identical. Queer goddess, this Fashion!

Mr. George Bright, Centre street, this Borough, has been appointed sole agent in this County, for Baugh's bone fertilizers, which is advertised in another column. The peculiar merits of this article as a vigorous and lasting manure, are firmly established in popular favor.

Planting.—As this is the time for planting, we advise those who have gardens and farms, to either call or send to Bannan's Bookstore, for a catalogue of Greenwood Nursery, which gives full directions for planting trees, etc., with other particulars of great interest.

The Mount Carbon Railroad is now undergoing repairs preparatory to running locomotives to and from the mines located on said road. The road has been under the control of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company since the 1st inst.

A Man of Weight.—Mr. John Bausman, lock-tender at Schuylkill Haven, is one of if not the heaviest man in the County. Last year he gained 52 pounds in weight. He weighs now 358 pounds, and will weigh by this time next year, 410 pounds, if he gains flesh in the same ratio.—Mr. B. is 6 feet in height.

Fatal Accident.—John Lathlan, an Englishman, aged about 35 years, came to an untimely death last Saturday, by a fall of Coal, in a small vein he was working near the North American lands just above town. His remains were not recovered until Monday afternoon. He was unmarried, but the main support of a widowed sister and family.

At a regular meeting of Valley Section, No. 39, Cadets of Temperance, of Cressona, the following officers were elected to serve the ensuing term:

W. A., Chas. A. Keefer; V. A., James Bracefield; S., A. H. Bromley; A. S., Wilson DeGroft; T., Joseph Payne; A. T., Samuel Seitzer; G., Henry Grim; U., Wm. J. Wright; W., George Simon; A. W., David Evans.

The supply of shad for the present season is principally derived from the Delaware fisheries, all of which are in active operation. This fact reminds us that not only excellent dishes in which to place shad after they have been cooked, can be obtained at Houghton's Glass and Queensware store, Arcade Building, Centre street, but that everything else in his line can be purchased at his store, at reasonable prices.

A Great Favorite with the Ladies.—Every person who has used the Patent Clothes Wringer, considers it the great-st improvement of the nineteenth century, in relieving women from the great drudgery of the hardest part of washing, and besides it will save the price in a short time on the less wear and tear of clothing. For sale at Bannan's, where it can be seen and tested.

Mr. Howard D. Potts, assistant engineer on board of the United States Steamer *Water Witch*, writes under date of "Key West, March 31," that he regrets that what he gave recently, as a rumor, in regard to the capture of Yancey, on the *Mallory*, should have obtained wide spread publicity in connection with his name. We regret it too, for Mr. Potts had no intention of communicating the circumstances as a fact.

School Teachers.—The annual election for Teachers of the Pottsville Common Schools, for the ensuing school year, has been fixed by the Board of Directors for Wednesday, 23d inst.—There are twenty-seven teachers—four male and twenty-three female—now employed in the schools. It is probable they will all be re-elected, except the parties voluntarily decline a re-election. No new applicants are solicited, however; as there are already a number before the Board, for any vacancies that may occur.

The 96th Reg., P. V., Col. Cake, is with Gen. McDowell's corps, which has advanced to the Rapidan River, in Virginia, and is steadily pressing on to Richmond. It was the intention of the paymaster to pay this Regiment on Friday of last week. He left Washington for the purpose, but when he reached their camp they were under marching orders, and he had no time to pay any but the officers. It was annoying but could not be helped. Marching orders take precedence of all other business.

Hint to Housekeepers.—Every housekeeper who uses kerosene or well oil, knows that it affords the best and cheapest light of all illuminating oils; but she also knows that the constant expense and annoyance from the breakage of lamp chimneys almost, if not quite, counterbalances the advantages of its use. One who has thoroughly tried the experiment of preventing chimneys from cracking with the heat of the flame, says:—Put the glass chimney in lukewarm water, heat to the boiling point, and boil one hour, after which leave in the water till it cools. The suggestion is worth a trial.

The 48th Reg., P. V.—Mr. Charles H. Miller, Sergeant in Company C, Capt. Henry Pleasants, 48th Reg., was on the 4th of January last, promoted by Gov. Curtin, to a 2d Lieutenancy in that Regiment. Lieut. Miller was here this week on a furlough, but has, we believe, rejoined his Regiment.

Lieut. Ellis, Quartermaster of the Regiment, is now acting as Assistant Quartermaster at Hatteras Inlet. We learn that he embarked on the 31st of March, 4,000 troops with their baggage, across the Swash at that point.

Both of these gentlemen are fine officers, and we congratulate them upon the marks of confidence bestowed upon them.

Erroneous Report.—Early this week a statement appeared in the papers, published originally in a letter from Port Royal to the *Tribune*, to the effect that thirty men of Company F, Captain Bennett, Fifty-fifth Pennsylvania—a Company that was recruited in Minersville, this County—had been attacked on Little Edisto Island, by five hundred rebels, and that after maintaining a desperate defence for an hour, five escaped, five were killed, and the rest, some of them wounded, were taken prisoners. It seems from private letters received here this week from the Regiment, that the fight took place as stated, but that the men engaged were not members of Capt. Bennett's Company, but members of an Indiana County company of the Regiment. This correction will allay the anxiety of the relatives and friends of the men in Capt. Bennett's Company.

An April Snow.—Snow fell fast all day on Tuesday last, until it reached a depth of nine inches. Our hills on that day wore the appearance of mid-winter.

On Wednesday night snow fell again until it was piled up on a level, to a depth of eighteen inches. On Thursday morning the snow on Broad Mountain was from two to three feet deep.—Houses, fences, trees, etc., looked beautiful on that morning, the snow being wreathed, festooned and piled in every imaginable shape, while a clear, blue sky and the rays of the rising sun added to the beauty of the scene. The snow is gradually melting, which is fortunate, for if rain had set in after the heavy fall, a freshet in the Schuylkill would have been the consequence, threatening the works of the Schuylkill Navigation.

Making Shells for the Government.—Mr. Geo. W. Snyder, one of our extensive founders, has a contract for furnishing the U. S. Government with 6000 shells. About 500 of them have already been completed, as far as the iron work is concerned, and are now awaiting shipment to a Government arsenal to receive the necessary stuffing.

They are formidable instruments of destruction, each measuring 10 inches in diameter, with a cavity in the centre of each, 4 inches in diameter, and capable of holding two pounds of powder. The thickness of metal inclosing the cavity averages 3 inches. Weight of shell without the powder, 101 pounds. The lot now finished was critically examined by a Government inspector who was here last week. They are required to be very carefully molded, perfectly round and smooth, and of an exact guage.

Hon. Robert M. Palmer.—A letter from Stuart J. Palmer, son of Hon. Robert M. Palmer, U. S. Minister to the Argentine Confederation, South America, dated "Parana, Feb. 7, 1862," says—"Papa, I am happy to say, appears much better, and is sitting up to-day, for the first time this month. About a week ago, he was so low that the doctors considered his case a very doubtful one. It has been excessively warm here, the mercury ranging as high as 106 degrees—but for three or four days past, the weather has been cool and pleasant, and he has improved wonderfully. Papa has written to the Commander of the U. S. Steamer "Pulaski," at Monte Video, and we now look for him daily, to convey us to Buenos Ayres, from which place my next letters will probably be written."

Mr. Palmer intends, according to late letters, to sail from Buenos Ayres, in the English steamer of the 27th April, inst., which, with a prosperous voyage, would bring them home early in July.

A Formidable Weapon for a Charge.—R. A. Wilder, Esq., who invented an improved rifle-musket some time since, which is thought by army officers to be superior to that now in use, has from the inventive store-house of his active mind, produced another weapon which in a charge would be more formidable than the musket. One is now being finished by Mr. Schalk, the gunsmith of this Borough. It consists of a handle composed of wood and iron, five feet in length, at the termination of which are arranged two revolvers, six shots each, and a sabre bayonet, eighteen inches long. The revolvers are controlled by means of a wire running back into the handle. The revolvers have a range of from fifty to eighty yards. In making a charge with this weapon, one hundred men would have twelve hundred shots, or a regiment twelve thousand.—When the length of the end of the bayonet is considered, which is six feet, six inches, it is truly a formidable weapon, and must attract the attention of military men.

Schuylkill County Alms House.—The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Poor was held at the Alms House on Monday, April 7th, 1862.

Present—Dr. Augustus Schulze, Wm. Lerch and D. C. Wilson.

The Steward reported the following as the census of the House for the month of March:

Number in House on the 1st of April, 1862,	325
Same time last year,	302
Increase,	23

Of the above 54 are in the insane department, 35 in the nursery, and 50 under medical treatment.

Admitted during the month, 28; born, 1; discharged, 41; absconded, 10; bound out, 8; died, 4.

Lodging and meals were furnished to 167 persons, and out-door relief was granted to 59 families, amounting to $372 54.

Bills were passed and orders drawn amounting to

	$1533 62
Previous issue since Jan. 1st, 1862,	$465 66
Total in 1862	$4999 28

Public Schools.—The examination of the Public Schools will be continued next week as follows:

Monday, April 14—	School No. 5 F,	1st class.	
" "	" " 6 M