Miners' Journal.

POTTSVILLE, PA.

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 1862.

PEOPLE'S STATE CONVENTION

THE PEOPLE OF PENNSYLVANIA, who desire cordially to unite in sustaining the NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION in its patriotic efforts to suppress a secret and unholy rebellion against the UNITY OF THE REPUBLIC, and who desire to support, by every power of the Government, one hundred thousand heroic brothers in arms, braving disease and the perils of the field to preserve the Union of our Fathers, are requested to select the number of Delegates equal to the Legislative Representation of the State, at each House and in such manner as will best respond to the spirit of this call, to meet in STATE CONVENTION at HARRISBURG, on THURSDAY, the SEVENTEENTH DAY OF JULY next, at 11 o'clock, on said day, to nominate Candidates for the offices of AUDITOR GENERAL and SURVEYOR GENERAL, and to take such measures as may be deemed necessary to strengthen the Government in this season of common peril to a common country.

A. K. McCLURE,
Chairman People's State Committee.

GEO. W. HAMERSLY, } Secretaries.
JOHN M. SULLIVAN, }

THE wheat crop in this State hardly ever looked better than it does at present.

WE are indebted to the HON. JAS. H. CAMPBELL for various documents, and seeds

CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL.—The Government has surrendered this work to its proper officers for business.

THE Senate Committee on finance has reported about two hundred and fifty amendments to the House Tax bill.

COTTON SEED.—A small supply of cotton seed has been received at this office from Washington, which will be distributed to those who desire to try it.

THE Pacific Railroad bill, which was reported to the House by Hon. James H. Campbell, has passed. It is very important, and we hope will soon become a law.

A NUMBER of capitalists in Butler, Pa., and vicinity, are about to establish a bank in that borough, under the provisions of the General Banking law of 1860, to be styled the Connoquenessing Bank.

THE BRECKINRIDGE LEADERS, having brought the Government to the verge of ruin and involved the country in a terrible war, despite the peaceful tendencies of the times in which they bore rule, now propose to take the reins of power from the hands of the unquestionably loyal, and sail the ship on their own account.

GIRARD COAL LANDS.—The recent decision with regard to the Girard Coal lands in this County, has caused quite a sensation in Philadelphia, and elsewhere, and some of the comments partake of anything but a mild character. The case, of course, will go to the Supreme Court, where latterly a large number of the decisions of our Court have been reversed.

THE Reading *Gazette* has entered upon the twenty-third year of its existence. It is a paper that is ably conducted, but not independent enough to cast off the pro-slavery influences that have clung to its party for many years. If it would do so its influence for good would be increased. We regret that Mr. Getz the editor, has not the courage to take the step.

IMPOSING FUNERAL CEREMONIES.—On Tuesday last in Philadelphia, the remains of Gen. Charles Ferguson Smith, who died recently in Tennessee, of disease contracted in Mexico, were interred at Laurel Hill Cemetery, in the presence of a vast concourse of people, and with military honors. Gen. Robert Anderson was one of the pall-bearers. The procession in the city, of military and civilians, was effective. Everything wore an air of sombreness, and even curiosity was crossed with gloom. Having added lustre to the name of Philadelphia, the citizens seemed to mourn his loss, and in the crowd there was a hush very different from the tumult upon ordinary occasions that call them from their homes.

THE BEST WAY to answer a Breckinridger when he insists that the property of the rebels shall not be confiscated, is to ask him what the Southern slaveholders would have done had positions been reversed, they being as strong as the present loyal states, and the latter commencing the war? Would they have hesitated to confiscate every description of property? Would they have refrained from filling their prisons with suspected persons, from hanging spies, and from dealing devastation on all sides? The answer to these inquiries is found in the fact that having begun the war without cause, they have stolen and destroyed hundreds of millions of property of the Federal Government, have repudiated hundreds of millions of just debts, and have sacrified and confiscated hundreds of millions of the property of their own people.

MONEY matters are easier in Philadelphia and other large cities at the present time than they have been since the great crash of 1857. Many capitalists have much more at their command than they know what to do with. The demands of the business community are limited and can be supplied by the banks, and there is no outlet for private means except investments in stocks, which are going up at a rapid rate. Good mortgages are in great request, and the securities of the United States are advancing in price with a perfect rush, everybody feeling the utmost confidence in their permanent value. Money can be borrowed on the street at 4 to 5 per cent. interest, and the demand Treasury Notes are ruling above par. The wise and provident legislation of Congress, in making the notes a legal tender for all debts, has saved the currency from general wreck and depreciation, and set the wheels of finance in motion with a clear track ahead.

THAT WILL DO.—In the proceedings of the House on Tuesday, we observe the following:

Mr. Colfax of Indiana, by unanimous consent of the House, introduced a bill to punish frauds on the government, which provides that all persons engaged in furnishing supplies of any kind for any department of the government, by contract or otherwise, or performing any service therefore, who shall be proved guilty of fraud in any United States Court, and all the accessories thereto, shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than six months nor more than ten years, and a fine not exceeding double the amount of the fraud; and any and all officers of the government are required, when frauds are discovered, to institute a suit against the offender. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

We are in favor of hanging fellows who swindle the Government; but will accept the proposition of Mr. Colfax in lieu of our extreme measure. That will do. We hope Congress will adopt it promptly.

PROF. MCCOY who is not a citizen of this State, and therefore disinterested, says that Gov. Curtin has made himself felt more at Washington during this contest of arms, than the Governor of any other loyal State. He does not wait to ask what the Government expects from Pennsylvania, but he has placed every man and every dollar at the disposal of the Government. He raised the reserves at the expense of the State for the time, and he has planted emulation in the bosoms of our soldiers, by enrolling on their regimental flags the names of the actions in which they distinguish themselves. This is peculiarly Gov. Curtin's idea, and does him honor. When the Professor first saw Curtin he was delighted with him. His bearing showed him every inch a man. In conversation with members of the Legislature, the Democrats were quite frank in saying that Gov. Curtin had come out of the hands of the investigating committees with a reputation pure and unspotted. We note these facts as communicated by Prof. McCoy, with pleasure. Although a citizen of New York, he does not hesitate to express his admiration of our noble Governor.

A MEAN AND COWARDLY LIBEL.

The *Democratic Standard* of this Borough is not only despicable for its disloyalty, but its mendacious slanders and libels upon patriotic and respectable citizens of Schuylkill County, should be checked by law, or it will be difficult to say who will be exempt from its malicious, brutal and cowardly assaults. In its last number was contained a libellous publication, for which the proprietor should be held accountable in a court of justice. We allude to an editorial article headed, "A High Handed Act," in which a respected Minister of the Gospel of Cressona, Rev. L. C. Pettit, is attacked most unjustly and wickedly. Mr. Pettit in the communication below, gives the facts of the case, and refutes completely the base slanders of the *Standard;* but we would state that the man who offered up the traitorous prayer—we will not in charity, give his name, for he seems to be the weak-minded tool of such disloyal persons as the editor of the *Standard*—was saved by Mr. Pettit from punishment at the hands of the indignant citizens of Cressona, and that he was glad subsequently, to take the oath of allegiance. As to the character of the prayer, Mr. Pettit said at the time it was delivered, "I believe that such a prayer as his could be offered up in Charleston, South Carolina, without giving any offence; nay, it would be applauded by the rebels." Now we ask the *Democratic Standard* and its clique in this County, to understand, very plainly, that the loyal citizens will permit no prayer for Jeff. Davis and his cut-throats, to be offered up here, without rebuke. If they think it can be done with impunity, they much mistake the sentiment of our people on this question. Mr. Pettit's communication is as follows:

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MINERS' JOURNAL:—A reply to an article which appeared in the *Democratic Standard* of Pottsville, on the 3d inst., entitled "A High Handed Act."

There is scarcely anything in the article but what is false, which I think can amply prove to be such; if not sufficient to satisfy the public for a libel suit, I can in a more precise and definite form if it is deemed necessary. My object is not to wound and harm, but to cure and heal. My object is mercy, and not to mar reliefs with an injury. The article is a most cruel and unprovoked attack. If being the staunchest friend and advocate of the Union, and the advancement of liberty, of freedom, and the abolition of slavery in harmony with my rights, by institution, be nefarious, by abolitionists, then I am all of them, with all my heart, and ever yet to be. If praying for, if returning thanks for the victory of concordia and the advancement of the principles of freedom be fanaticism, then I am a fanatic.

I should like the party or parties to be put to the proof for many of the things mentioned in the publication. Some sympathizers in this place, I am not aware of having made use of the term *slavery* ten times in connection with the abolition of it.

"The very land shall vomit its foul offending
Hath this extent no more."

I think it is and my offence was not *greater* in this direction. I shall endeavor to correct this in the future. I have not at any time, either on a Sabbath day or week evening, nor at any time preached a sermon or delivered a lecture on the subject of Slavery. Nor have I on any occasion preached a sermon or delivered a lecture on freedom or liberty. The nearest I ever came to preaching what some might *stigmatize* a political sermon or lecture, was when I preached two sermons on two successive Sabbaths, and selected my texts from the language of the Saviour.—"Render therefore unto Cæsar the things which are Cæsar's, and unto God the things that are God's." It was soon after Fort Sumter was fired into and taken by the rebels. That was the time gentlemen, that I thought it high time for every man who had a patriotic heart, whose pulsations beat warm and strong for the Union, who had any love for his mutilated flag, to *run up the Stars and the Stripes.* Under its folds we are successful. Yet, gentlemen, there were those here who did not love that flag as I did.

On Thursday, April 17th, I offered up the prayer which gave such great offence in certain quarters, or to persons present. Let us hear it. I prayed for the triumph of our cause, for the entire suppression of the rebellion, and returned thanks for the abolition of Slavery in the District of Columbia, in the Capital of our nation, and prayed that the principles of freedom might advance, till upon our pious exertion there should not be a single stain. I invariably pray for the rebels, that they may see the folly and wickedness of their course, lay down the weapons of rebellion and sue for peace.

Is there any man who takes time to think, whom heart is not disaffected to some extent, who could take any exceptions to this? I think not. Well, gentlemen, when this prayer was concluded, two persons immediately left the room. Why were they so moved? Did a certain party leave.—I stated I supposed they were offended at my prayer.—During the week I said nothing about the affair, only I was asked on one occasion, and then replied, I could not say certainly, but judged they took offence at my prayer. On Thursday evening, April 24th, I prayed in quite a moderate way. I then called upon a brother to pray. After praying for some time in quite a good spirit as I thought, he mentioned the government, I could not say certainly whether he meant the Federal or the so-called Confederate government, but I stated to him that charity led me to conclude he meant the former. He then said something like this,—Seeing that Congress has seen proper to abolish Slavery in the District of Columbia, there is no fear of concurrence in it; he then hastily drops and commences a most violent attack on the fanatical abolitionists who had agitated and continued to agitate the question of Slavery till they had brought on the war; that they were the sole cause of it. He then invoked God in a most violent and bitter way for their destruction. This was the terrible part of the so-called prayer. It reminded me very much of a prayer made anciently which the Saviour rebuked, and stated to the disciples that they knew not what manner of spirit they were of.

Now let me say, that I cannot call up any occasion of a public prayer meeting held here, when any of a certain class have ever made any reference to the government or the triumph of our arms when called on to pray. To my certain knowledge these things have never formed any part of their prayers.

If they are anxious for the suppression of the rebellion and the triumph of the arms of the Federal government, why not mention them in their prayers. Whatever we feel a deep and lively interest in, we are likely to think and speak of. The prayer did not contain the term sectionalism, but the term fanatical abolitionists was introduced. The whole object of the offensive part of the prayer was manifestly in reply to mine. It was an *insult* to heaven, a *disgrace* to the church, and *inhumanity* to man. The spirit which suggested this prayer was manifestly very wrong. Let me say that my prayers give offence only to certain parties. I regret that this affair has been so wickedly misrepresented in the *Standard* from the fact that it is calculated to injure the very parties it proposes to defend. I do not believe that the person who made the offensive prayer had anything to do with furnishing the information for the article, for whatever may be my thoughts of the brother, I do not believe that his heart is base enough to perpetrate such an unmitigated slander—a *libel*—for such I regard it. It was the production of others. No doubt innocent parties will suffer. Suspicion will rest upon certain parties here, until the person who furnished the information is discovered.

Let me repeat, that in self-defence, and to present a true version of the affair, this course seemed to be necessary after the appearance of the article in the *Standard.*

I think I can appeal to the searcher of hearts, when I say that no bitter spirit nor unkind feeling has prompted these lines.

L. C. PETTIT.

CRESSONA, May 6, 1862.

HOW NORTHERN TRAITORS DECEIVE THE PEOPLE.

The most mischievous political demagogues and liars in Schuylkill County, are the conductors of the English and German newspapers in the interest of the Rebels. In last week's *Standard* the editor attacks the President in a violent and traitorous manner, to the disgust of this loyal community. The fellow is evidently testing the patience of the people to its full extent. Hear him:

"The President who took a solemn oath *to support, protect and defend* the Constitution, has violated his obligations to the American people, and has placed himself in a position where he is liable to be impeached and displaced as any tyrant."

This unmanly, cowardly and traitorous assault upon the President, springs from the suspension by him last year when the very life of the nation was threatened by traitors in the North, of the writ of *habeas corpus.* The President was in a position, through the imbecility of the Buchanan Administration, that he was compelled to resort to the extraordinary means to check the machinations of the rebels in our very midst. The proceeding was acquiesced in cheerfully, by every loyal man, who had nothing to fear from it, and was denounced only by those whose loyalty was a matter of doubt, and who now continue their denunciation. The wisdom of the course of the President has been verified in repeated instances. We will give one to illustrate. One of the men committed to Fort Lafayette last summer, was a notorious Breckinridger, named Schnable, who stumped this State for Buchanan; subsequently addressed Peace meetings in Connecticut, and was praised fulsomely, by the *Standard. That man is now a Colonel in the Rebel army, in Arkansas, fighting against this Government.* So much for the wisdom and firmness of the President's course. This style of men, the *Standard's* favorites, it was important to confine in the early days of the Rebellion, and the President did it in the only way practicable at the time—all honor to his Jacksonian vigor and determination. Shame upon the man who is so lost to every sense of patriotism as to attack the President at this time, for endeavoring to check in the first months of the Rebellion, the machinations of Northern traitors. We consider him quite as disloyal in his proclivities, as the rebel Schnable.

We have another matter to notice while we have these traitorous sheets under consideration. The *Schuylkill Democrat*, of April 24, 1862, contains an article, which is as follows:

"DON'T BELIEVE THEM! The abolition newspapers, with a view of increasing the hatred between the North and South, so that the war might never end, or at best only with the total ruin of the South, and unconditional abolition of Slavery, are every where dishing up to their readers, all sorts of cruel and barbarous stories, to show up the inhabitants of the South, in revolting colors. This it is that several of our abolition papers give accounts of the dreadful ways in which our soldiers are treated when captured by the South. Some go so far even as to assert that many of such prisoners were murdered in cold blood; while others yet declare that in a Southern newspaper recently, a notice appeared for a number of bloodhounds, for the purpose of hunting up the friends of the Union that may be found in the mountains. Don't believe these deceivers of the people, for what they tell you is getting up only in their own imaginations, for the purpose of intensifying and embittering your hatred against the Southern people. No honest soldier ever writes such things home. It is true they all say that the people in the South, men, women and children hate the invading Yankees beyond description, but no one has ever evidenced of having witnessed with his own eyes the brutalities above mentioned. It is only the correspondents of the great abolition newspapers, that are now following the army, and we hold here, proves the very invented sensational story they send home, to keep the people from sending to their soldiers, a goodly number of other vessels. After laying there for a week, busily taking in a large quantity of coal and provisions, Flag Officer Dupont, unexpectedly received despatches from the Department, to sail to a report forthwith to Flag-Officer Goldsborough in Hampton Roads, there to await further orders. Just before we left Port Royal, the rebel steamer Isabel was brought in there, having been captured by the U. S. Gunboat, San jago de Cuba, in the Gulf.

Our passage was a pleasant one. All wondered why Hampton Roads was the place to which we sought to Hampton Roads. Our band enlivened the trip with their music. As we approached the Roads we passed an enlisted man, who was sitting with his fiddle, fiddling in the beams, and the band struck up "Hail Columbia!" which the *home seekers* enthusiastically cheered.

After coming to anchor here, it was conjectured as more likely, that the destination of our ship would be ordered home shortly. She needs repairs; her engines and boilers being well-nigh worn out.

We found a large number of vessels lying here. The gallant little Monitor, with her two guns, and the other "iron clads" are ready to receive a visit from the Merrimac, who was daily expected to make her appearance. By the way, hear the result of the rebel naval experiment in Hampton Roads awakened Old Virginia's ancient spirit. Her old dominion has lost confidence in her "wooden walls."

Yesterday we were considerably astonished at seeing a detachment of some thirty million soldiers coming aboard of us. Next comes a York River pilot, and soon after the rumor was circulated that we are to go to YORKTOWN. This course is most confidently believed, and all are mighty glad to the hope. We expect to see Norfolk ere hereafter say the Susquehanna has not done her share in circulating Lincoln's good solid coin amongst the "Southern Chivalry." Hatteras Inlet, Port Royal, Fernandina, and now YORKTOWN!

We are to get two more rifled cannon on board. We daily hear the distant booming of cannon in the direction of Yorktown, and we are anxious to be there too, if indeed it is our good fortune to get there at all. "The Merrimac" and "the siege of Yorktown," is all the go here. I write this with lead pencil, and on my knee, amidst a great deal of noise. Excuse my correspondence, from this good old ship will doubtless soon cease, as we will surely be ordered home ere much longer. I intend to send you a few lines from each of our places we visit, from the time we first went into commission. My rule, I do treat will be dated YORKTOWN. For the present.

Respectfully yours, E. B. B.

May 4th, (Sunday.)

HOORAY JOURNAL! wrap me in the American Flag! YORKTOWN is OURS! See what a day may bring forth. Yesterday we were expecting to assist in taking Yorktown; this morning we learned of the second surrender of Yorktown. There was heavy firing heard yesterday and last night, but this morning all was quiet. Bedloe's Island was ordered to fire a salute of one hundred guns in honor of the fact, the simple announcement, "Yorktown is taken." Further than this we know nothing as yet. You will see the accounts a day before us. No need of our ship leaving now. We took the letter out of the mail bag, reopened it, and now joyfully write this, so that the JOURNAL may know the glorious news as soon as the other papers. The mail bag is ready to leave, and I must close. E. A. B.

WAR ITEMS.

COL. Davidson, of the 24 Mississippi regiment, who was captured at Fort Donelson, died at Fort Warren on Tuesday.

A REFUGEE from New Orleans reports that our forces have captured a small battery of two guns, near White Point, twenty-two miles from Charleston.

In the fight at Williamsburg the rebel general Rickette, was killed, and on the Union side Lieut. Colonel Wright, of the Keystone Brigade, was badly wounded.

The advance of McClellan's army has had a severe skirmish with the rear guard of the rebels at Williamsburg, in which we took a number of prisoners and lost one piece of artillery.

The rebels have evacuated Yorktown, and Gen. McClellan telegraphs that he has possession of the whole line of their works. McClellan says that he will pursue the enemy to the wall.

GENERAL Burnside's forces have destroyed the Dismal Swamp canal, to prevent the rebels from sending iron batteries through it from Norfolk against our fleet.

GENERAL Canby has pursued and attacked the enemy in southern New Mexico, at a place on the Rio Grande, called Parillo, and defeated them.

The captain and officers of the rebel steamer Sumter are arrived at Southampton from Gibraltar, the crew having been paid off, and the vessel was to be sold.

JEFF. THOMPSON is said to be in Western Kentucky with 1000 rebel cavalry, and to have encountered and dispersed, near Dresden, a company of Curtis' Nebraska Cavalry.

Despatches from Richmond give a deplorable account of the state of affairs in Richmond among the troops, who regarded all further attempts to sustain the rebellion as sheer folly.

GEN. Lowe has captured 2000 rebels near Farmington, Miss., by luring them on to attack a battery of artillery which he had purposely left in an open field to tempt them.

The prize ship Emily, captured some time since by the blockading fleet, and a prize crew put on board, with orders to make for Philadelphia, was subsequently recaptured by the rebels on board, and taken to Liverpool with the prize crew in irons.

THE United States steamer St. Jago de Cuba has captured, near Abaco, the rebel steamer Isabel, or Kila Warley, deeply laden with arms. The rebel steamer Nashville, also had a cargo of arms, but had failed in an attempt to run the blockade. The St. Jago de Cuba has arrived at New York with her prize.

GEN. MCCLELLAN telegraphs to the War Department that our advance has overtaken the enemy's rear guard at an entrenched camp about two miles from Williamsburg, and a skirmish ensued. In reconnoitering the captured works at Yorktown we lost four men killed and a dozen wounded by the explosion of concealed torpedoes.

GENERAL Mitchel telegraphs that an expedition sent by him from Bridgeport, crossed the river 18th, advanced toward Chattanooga, captured the stores and a southern mail from the railroad hands, and produced a panic at Chattanooga. The enemy are removing all the property in the direction of the Atlantic. The rebel general at Bridgeport had been chastised by the rebels for cowardice. The rebels at Chattanooga had destroyed a saltpetre factory.

DISPATCHES from Gen. McClellan announce the evacuation of Williamsburg by the rebels, and that an army is following them vigorously on the road to Richmond. The battle of Monday was severe, and the loss of the rebels proves to have been large. A few of our captured cannon have been rendered and a division thrown in the rear of Williamsburg. This evacuation was the result of General Hancock's hard fought battle and victory of Monday, in which he turned the left of the line of rebel works, and as he was strongly reinforced the rebels abandoned the entire position during the night, leaving all his sick and wounded on our hands. We have taken 1300 prisoners. The enemy's works at Williamsburg are very extensive and exceedingly strong.

JEFF. DAVIS' recent reverses had great terror for our camp on the Rappahannock, and makes some extraordinary statements. It seems that Davis stated in a conversation with Dr. Gwin that he had sent forces to Fredericksburg to delay McDowell till he (Davis) could see the probable result before Yorktown, so that if it was likely to be unsuccessful he could have time to extricate his army from the peninsula, and get them into Richmond and out of Virginia; otherwise they would all be caught. Davis has all his dads packed up ready to leave, and the bank and government is all to be removed from Richmond to Danville, south of the Richmond railroad. The coachman was accustomed occasionally to drive Mr. Jefferson Davis and his lady out, and, if we may believe him, the couple had conversations in his hearing about the merits of the Confederacy and that Mrs. Davis stated that said Confederacy was "played out." It is also stated that Jeff. Davis wished Johnstone to make a stand at Monassas, but the latter declined, and was even indisposed to go to Yorktown.

We have at length authentic particulars of the capture of New Orleans. The chain which was placed across the river was broken by two of the gunboats. Two gunboats, mortar and three gunboats had been engaged in the attack upon the forts, and succeeded on the 24th in silencing the fortifications, and securing safe passage up the river of fourteen war steamers, which were bound for New Orleans, eighty miles above. The Hartford was set on fire by coming in contact with one of the fire ships, but the fire was extinguished before any damage was done. The Federal forces had destroyed eleven confederate gunboats. The Federal gunboat Verona and the confederate steamer Webster had an engagement, and the Webster ran into the Verona, sinking her so badly that she was in a sinking condition. The Verona, while disabled, discharged eight guns into the Webster, with such destructive and crushing effect that they both went down together. The Federal gunboat Maria J. Carlton was sunk by the guns of the forts.

Gen. Butler had landed four thousand men above the forts. On the 25th a flag of truce was sent on board to Commodore Porter, asking what terms would be demanded in the surrender. The reply was "unconditional," and the arrangements for the surrender were to be made on the 27th. It is said the contest has been a very hard one, many of the men on the mortar boats falling at their posts from fatigue, so intensely had they been kept at work. The floating battery Mamacus was sunk by the steamship Mississippi. Fire ships have been sent down the river every night by the rebels, but a force was detailed with small boats to tow them off where they could do no harm. The loss on the part of the Federals is said to be one hundred and fourteen, while that of the enemy is not known. 450 rebel prisoners have been taken.

☞ C. C. Lathrop of Philadelphia, has been appointed Collector for the port of New-Orleans.

☞ There is very little probability now that Congress will be able to adjourn before the middle of July.

☞ It is understood that trade with the rebel States is to be prohibited, until the ports of the South are fairly and freely opened by the United States Collectors.

☞ The bill proposing to limit the number of Brigadier-Generals to two hundred, and of Major-Generals to twenty-six, in all probability will become a law.

☞ Geo. A. Frick, Esq., has resigned the Cashiership of the Danville Bank. David Clark, the former Teller of the bank, has been elected in his place.

☞ Robert M. Frick, after many years' service in the editorial department of the Miltonian, has retired from that paper assuming the duties of Cashier of the Milton Bank.

☞ The Bloomsburg and Lackawanna Railroad Company are erecting extensive wharves at Northumberland for the shipping of their coal. They will extend some 600 feet along the West Branch canal.

☞ The volunteer regiments of Illinois, otherwise at first some 70,000 names, have sustained a loss of at least 10,000 in killed or disabled, since recruiting was stopped. The fragments of regiments will be consolidated.

☞ General Simon Cameron, late United States Secretary of War, left New York city on Wednesday in the Steamship Persia, for Europe, with his family, and Bayard Taylor, his Secretary of Legation, bound for St. Petersburg.

NEW YORK TOWN TERRITORY.

The *Albany Evening Journal* presents in tabular form, the results of the recent town elections in our State, and compares with those of the three previous years, which we transcribe to and assume this morning. The comparative view is as follows:

Year.	Republican.	Union.	Democratic.
1859.	404		288
1860.	567		278
1861.	452		245
1862.	422	60	257

The "Union" Supervisors chosen this year, are placed at the table will show—are nearly all classed in Republican township, which would have elected Republicans had not the "Union" movement been originated. We presume most of them are Republicans.

The returns for '59 and '60 are less full than those for '61 and '62, and the defalcation are mainly in Democratic counties. But for them, the number of Democratic Supervisors chosen in the years first named would be about the same as in the last two years.

Wherever they tried only the Democratic bulletin of local results that have from time to time been transmitted to the Democratic Press, will inevitably have supposed that a great change had this year been effected in opposition to Republicanism. For instance:

Rhoda was made the subject of one of those flaming bulletins. But Rhoda issued from Know-Nothingism into Black Republicanism, and gave 156 majority against Lincoln. Of course, it is Pro-Slavery now, while every other town in the county (Tompkins) is Republican. But of those the Polaski gold ball rolling? Then see!

Johnstown furnishes the most material for another of those bulletins. The city gave 20 majority against Lincoln, and has gone the same way now. We have a Republican Mayor, a Republican Supervisor, and a Republican town clerk. The telegraph said nothing of that.

Sharon (including Geneva) was made the theme of another of the bulletins. Sharon gave Lincoln a good majority, and which is the same way to day on an unlimited a canvass and as full a vote, though Geneva is the home of a party of active Proclivity malignants. Sharon from the beginning of the rebellion has not ceased to carry the day by their intrigues and their wealth in a merely local election. They this Spring elected most of the Republican town officers, and Democratic Supervisor, and thereby give vent to their malice hatred against all shoddyites. Their stories should, therefore, be read with great allowance.

The writer of the above, which it is understood is, A. Dohrman, must be an ignorant scribbler, to set such stuff before the people of this County, in the face of the report of the Congressional Committee on the atrocities committed at Manassas on our soldiers, by the Rebels, and the report of W. G. Brownlow, that the Rebels are shooting, hanging and torturing Union men in East Tennessee, by the hundred. Does this fellow who is evidently an arrant traitor, and who should not be permitted to breathe the atmosphere of Schuylkill County, know that our dead were horribly mutilated at Manassas; that the wounded were tortured; and drinking-cups, drumsticks, finger rings, etc., made from the skulls and bones of our dead soldiers? If he does not he should read before he attempts to instruct, on the conduct of the Rebels towards our soldiers and the Union men of the South. Pah! these Northern traitors, leaders, and conductors of Breckinridge journals, are a pestilential set of fellows, and should be shunned by respectable, loyal citizens.

Naval Letter.

U. S. FRIGATE SUSQUEHANNA,
Hampton Roads, Va., May 3rd, 1862.

EDITOR MINERS' JOURNAL:—About two weeks ago, as we were quietly lying off Charleston, S. C., we received orders from Flag-Officer Dupont to come to Port Royal, which we immediately did. At Port Royal we found the old Liner of Battle Ship Vermont, and a number of bateaux, a goodly number of other vessels. After laying there for a week, busily taking in a large quantity of coal and provisions, Flag Officer Dupont, unexpectedly received despatches from the Department, to sail to a report forthwith to Flag-Officer Goldsborough in Hampton Roads, there to await further orders. Just before we left Port Royal, the rebel steamer Isabel was brought in there, having been captured by the U. S. Gunboat, San jago de Cuba, in the Gulf.

Our passage was a pleasant one. All wondered why Hampton Roads was the place to which we sought to Hampton Roads. Our band enlivened the trip with their music. As we approached the Roads we passed an enlisted man, who was sitting with his fiddle, fiddling in the beams, and the band struck up "Hail Columbia!" which the *home seekers* enthusiastically cheered.

After coming to anchor here, it was conjectured as more likely, that the destination of our ship would be ordered home shortly. She needs repairs; her engines and boilers being well-nigh worn out.

We found a large number of vessels lying here. The gallant little Monitor, with her two guns, and the other "iron clads" are ready to receive a visit from the Merrimac, who was daily expected to make her appearance. By the way, hear the result of the rebel naval experiment in Hampton Roads awakened Old Virginia's ancient spirit. Her old dominion has lost confidence in her "wooden walls."

Yesterday we were considerably astonished at seeing a detachment of some thirty million soldiers coming aboard of us. Next comes a York River pilot, and soon after the rumor was circulated that we are to go to YORKTOWN. This course is most confidently believed, and all are mighty glad to the hope. We expect to see Norfolk ere hereafter say the Susquehanna has not done her share in circulating Lincoln's good solid coin amongst the "Southern Chivalry." Hatteras Inlet, Port Royal, Fernandina, and now YORKTOWN!

We are to get two more rifled cannon on board. We daily hear the distant booming of cannon in the direction of Yorktown, and we are anxious to be there too, if indeed it is our good fortune to get there at all. "The Merrimac" and "the siege of Yorktown," is all the go here. I write this with lead pencil, and on my knee, amidst a great deal of noise. Excuse my correspondence, from this good old ship will doubtless soon cease, as we will surely be ordered home ere much longer. I intend to send you a few lines from each of our places we visit, from the time we first went into commission. My rule, I do treat will be dated YORKTOWN. For the present.

Respectfully yours, E. B. B.

May 4th, (Sunday.)

HOORAY JOURNAL! wrap me in the American Flag! YORKTOWN is OURS! See what a day may bring forth. Yesterday we were expecting to assist in taking Yorktown; this morning we learned of the second surrender of Yorktown. There was heavy firing heard yesterday and last night, but this morning all was quiet. Bedloe's Island was ordered to fire a salute of one hundred guns in honor of the fact, the simple announcement, "Yorktown is taken." Further than this we know nothing as yet. You will see the accounts a day before us. No need of our ship leaving now. We took the letter out of the mail bag, reopened it, and now joyfully write this, so that the JOURNAL may know the glorious news as soon as the other papers. The mail bag is ready to leave, and I must close. E. A. B.

THE COAL TRADE.

Pottsville, May 10, 1862.

The quantity sent by Railroad this week is 35,542 12—by Canal 39,176 00—for the week 86,058 12 against 62,448 tons for the corresponding week last year.

The shipments from Schuylkill County this week exceed the supply for the corresponding week last year several thousand tons, notwithstanding the turnout at some of the Collieries.

The trade sums up this week compared with last year as follows:

	1861. WEEK.	1861. TOTAL.	1862. WEEK.	1862. TOTAL.	INCR. & DEC.
P. & R. R. R.	32,471	859,315	25,893	626,734	67,481
Schuyl. Canal	29,977	181,272	30,176	204,470	23,198
L. Val. R. R.	13,746	312,456	18,976	392,972	418,456
Lehigh Canal	30,104	91,720	23,373	74,017	413,703
Scranton S'ch	19,197	237,226	18,039	242,296	4,570
Do. North	14,863	69,600	6,611	83,192	13,436
Penn. Coal Co					
Del & Hud Co					
Wyoming Sem		26,828		22,765	4,063
" North					
Broad Top	4,718	54,264	1,841	118,403	59,041
Shamokin	6,167	52,559	6,621	46,937	5,622
Treverton	721	16,535	1,496	18,616	2,080
Sh. Mt., H. T.		15,819	2,965	18,315	2,496
Lykens Val'y	3,733	20,690	1,736	14,259	6,431
	143,122	1,647,281	137,648	1,792,005	
			143,122	1,647,281	
			5,526	144,724	

We learn from the Wilkesbarre *Record of the Times*, that the Miners at Pittston have turned out—we presume the employees of the Pennsylvania Coal Company. To the low rates at which this Company offered Coal to be delivered in May and June, may be traced the turnout in this County, this week. Our Operators were forced to sell at equally low rates to meet these prices, which absolutely prevents them paying fair rates to the operatives employed in the different regions, and it consequently becomes the bounden duty of our Legislature to take away the Mining and Selling privileges of these Companies and confine them to transportation only. Until this is done, the Coal trade will always fail to remunerate all parties engaged in mining Coal.

We are happy to state that the Governor has signed both Bills which passed the Legislature relating to these Companies. It was distinctly pointed out to the Governor, the effect this policy was exercising on the wages of labor in the different Coal Regions, and he has promptly arrayed himself in favor of Individual enterprise, against the oppressive policy which has characterized these Corporations in controlling the price of Coal by charging high tolls, and selling Coal at very low rates in the market, for the purpose of breaking up all competition with them on the part of individuals engaged in the trade. If the passage of these bills do not result in removing the difficulties complained of, it must be followed up with more stringent legislation next Winter, which will take away all their mining and selling privileges, and particularly the right to enter into the different markets for the purpose of retailing their Coal, in competition with other retail dealers.

The advance agreed upon between the Coal Operators and the employees engaged in the recent strike, is ten cents per ton for cutting Coal, and twenty-five cents per week in the wages paid to laborers. This is equal to an advance of about 13 cents per ton in the production of Coal. This sum does not appear large, but in many instances, it covers all the profit on the business.

For the information of our readers abroad we would state, that strikes are very common in the Coal Regions,—but this is the first instance in which the Pumps were interfered with, by those engaged in the strikes—hence the necessity of having it checked at once, otherwise great damage would have been done to property, by the filling up of Mines with water. We learn that at one of the Collieries at which the pumps were stopped only a few days, it will require three or four weeks to pump out the water, and remove the refuse Coal dirt washed into the gangways from the breasts of the Mines, before mining can be resumed again.

We do sincerely hope that wiser counsel, will prevail hereafter, both among employers and employees, and foolish and unnecessary strikes be prevented as much as possible;—and also that public officers, whose duty it is to act in the premises, will show less hesitancy and more determination in enforcing the laws, with home facilities before sending abroad for aid, and thus saddling the County with heavy bills of expenses for our tax-payers to foot up.

THE TAX ON COAL.—We publish the following article which has been submitted to Congress, against the proposed tax on Coal. While Congress is bound to levy an ample tax for the support of the war, and to pay and support our gallant volunteers, we are decidedly of the opinion that it is unwise to tax fuel and other raw material that enter into all kinds of manufactures.—The average value of Anthracite Coal in the ground will not exceed *ten cents* a ton on all the Coal mined, while the tax on the present bill is fixed at *fifteen cents* per ton, fifty per cent. above its value. All its additional value is labor and transportation. At the rates at which the Pennsylvania Coal Company is selling its Coal, we doubt very much whether the Coal in the ground pays that Company even three or four cents per ton royalty as named by Mr. Smith. If this tax is levied on Anthracite Coal it will have to be paid by the consumers, and *four-fifths* of all the Coal produced is consumed out of Pennsylvania.

Anthracite Coal, and the Proposed Tax of Fifteen Cents per Ton.

The undersigned, representing "The Pennsylvania Coal Company," engaged in mining coal at Pittston, Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, and in transporting to and vending the same in the city of New York, would respectfully invite attention to that clause of the bill which recently passed the House of Representatives "to provide internal revenue to support the Government and pay interest on the Public Debt," which imposes a duty on anthracite coal of fifteen cents per ton. The clause may be found at page 78, lines 16 and 17, and is as follows: "Anthracite coal, fifteen cents per ton. On bituminous coal, one-eighth of one cent per bushel."

The action of the House on this subject is understood to have been as follows:

The Committee of Ways and Means reported the bill without this or any tax on coal. At a subsequent period the House inserted the above clause, but with a qualification postponing its operation until the expiration of the Reciprocity Treaty, admitting coals from the British North American provinces free of duty. This qualification was, it is understood, at a late period of the deliberations of that body, stricken out, without giving the subject much consideration.

It is believed that the questions thus arising are worthy of serious consideration. They are (1) whether coal should be subject to any duty whatever, and (2) if so, what the amount should be, and (3) what regulations should, in the latter case, be adopted.

1. It is obvious that the present form of the bill is not in fact any material tax at all; then while a duty is laid on mineral coal oil and Rosin oil, no duty is laid on mineral coal and Rosin, from which those oils are manufactured. In other words, while a duty is laid on a particular coal oil and on coal, the raw material, no duty is imposed on the coal or rosin from which the oil is made. The same is true of lard, and a great variety of other articles specified in the bill. Many articles produced in the agricultural, mineral, and other industrial pursuits, such as wheat, corn, rye, and other grains, wool, leaf tobacco, &c., and even the cotton manufactures, enter into the production of articles which are wholly exempted from duty.

Coal, whether anthracite or bituminous, is in every sense a raw material. It is first in the chain of the manufactur