Miners' Journal.

POTTSVILLE, PA.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1864.

COUNTY STATEMENT.

The receipts and expenditures of Schuylkill County have been published. The Commissioners of the County have confined its publication in English to the *Standard*, which does not circulate among those who pay at least *four-fifths* of the taxes of the County, owing to its rebel proclivities. This account is also made up entirely different from the accounts heretofore settled by the Auditors of the County, and leaves the people completely in the dark as to the State of its affairs. We condense it as follows:

RECEIPTS FROM ALL SOURCES.

JOSEPH H. RICHARDS, Treasurer, in account with Schuylkill County. *DR.*

January 1	Bal. as per Aud'tors. 1862	$27,921 71
" 24	B. Bannan bounty paid his son refunded on account of disability	$ 50 00
June 10	Jno. Ranah, sheriff, for judgment against Geo. Barst	24 98
Sept'r 16	Jos. S. Patterson, money advanced for mil. rel'f rel'd	60 00
" 17	G. W. Snyder " "	20 00
October 8	A. Bussel, " "	69 90
Dec. 31	Jacob Huntzinger, jr., advanced for mil. allotm's rel'd	8,758 67
"	Pottsville Water Co for div. on stock	135 00
"	Sundry persons for redemption from Comm'rs	3,536 97
"	Do. for Com deeds	2,022 87
"	Do. for redempt'ns from Treasurer	272 81
"	Do., for taxes for 1862 on seated and unseated lands	1,844 79
"	Do. for mil. loan	59,950 00
"	Schuyl. Co. Prison	4,077 32
	For transfer of militia fines for mil. relief as per act of April 8, 1862	2,257 98
	Sundry persons State taxes on seated and unseated lands, 1862	287 50
		$87,438 79
	Rec'd from collectors for 1858	$176 33
"	" " 1859	3,145 71
"	" " 1860	52 85
"	" " 1861	1,760 20
"	" " 1862	19,095 67
"	" " 1863	74,634 22
		$97,805 01
	Do. State tax for '61, '62 and '63	31,550 06
	Total expenditures for all purposes	$246,194 62

CR.

By cash paid as follows:	
Assessors	$553 50
Agricultural Society	150 00
Interest account	6,328 34
Witness fees	2,164 79
Road jurors	68 70
Juror fees	6,422 57
Justice fees	301 58
Law reports and stationery	176 75
Constable fees	575 03
Taxes refunded	112 50
Incidental expenses	1,138 73
Postage	17 02
Gas	61 75
District Attorney fees	196 50
Bridge account	9,056 63
Coroner's inquests	1,220 55
Loan account	26,220 00
Prison account	2,349 14
Election fees	225 50
Court crier	862 73
Printing and stationery	164 40
Redemptions	91 38
Fuel account	50 35
Sheriff fees	174 00
Interpreter	75 00
J. W. Roseberry, counsel fees	112 50
George H. Clay	82 80
Fox scalps	311 13
Commissioners' deeds	224 52
Auditing account	72 00
Keeping Session docket	34 25
Bridge viewers	468 24
Improvement account	515 00
Samuel Faust, janitor	578 00
David Foley, Commissioner	606 00
D B Althouse, do	52 00
Charles Springer, do	8 75
E W Ziegler, do	125 00
George Heaton, clock winder	178 50
Water rent	420 18
Bridge repairs	225 00
C A Rahn, clerk of Sessions	283 25
Jas Reisler, Commissioners' clerk	305 50
Assistant clerk hire	89 37
Road damages	714 31
C Frailey, Prothonotary fees	10 00
State Lunatic Asylum	187 50
Jas B Cleaver, error in former account	10 00
Military relief fund	
Enrollment	
H D Moore, Treas'r, in full S K M Kepner's defalcation	6,024 44
Clerk Common Pleas	102 75
Post mortem examinations	140 00
Isaac Ward, Clerk Commissioners	675 00
Septennial Assessment	727 00
Road taxes paid to sundry persons	$1,040 22
School taxes sundry districts	1,253 62
State Treas'r quota State taxes for '63	$20,736 94
Sundry persons for military relief	42,293 46
Bounty to Volunteers	2,450 00
Schuylkill County Prison	6,176 68
Alms House	27,005 53
J. H. Richards for receiving $218,272 91 at 1 per cent	$2,182 72
J. H. Richards paying out $187,270 53 at 1 per cent	458 17
Balance due by J. H. Richards, late Treasurer	58,573 20
	$246,194 62

DUE FROM COLLECTORS.

Outstanding County taxes	$45,109 15
" State "	21,193 58
" Militia "	3,268 68
Total	$69,571 41

The account does not show the liabilities of the County, its indebtedness, and the amounts due it from delinquent collectors, &c., but it does show that there has been an item of interest amounting to $6,328 34 paid during the year, which is the interest on more than *one hundred thousand dollars indebtedness*, while there is a surplus of upwards of *fifty-eight thousand dollars remaining in the Treasury unappropriated*. This sum, it is stated, has been paid over to the new Treasurer, on which the old Treasurer receives his per centage, and of course, the new Treasurer will also receive his per centage in receiving and paying out again, all of which the taxpayers have to foot up, while the interest on the debt is still going on. But this is not all. We learn that the Treasurers have the surplus deposited and receive interest on the deposit, which goes into their own pockets, and thus robs the tax-payers of the per centage paid, and also the interest on their own money.

The statement shows $58,950 borrowed for the year, while they have paid $6,328 31 interest, $26,220 on loans, advanced the whole quota of State tax for the year $30,736 94; also paid $6,024 44, the balance of Kepner's stealings from the County, when Treasurer some years ago, and they have also paid during the year, according to the account, $42,703 46 for bounties and to soldiers' families for relief, and still there is a surplus of $58,573 20 in the County Treasury.

The account above shows that there are $69,571 41 due the County from Collectors, independent of the assets from former delinquent Treasurers, &c., which ought to be collected. The question naturally arises, why should the Commissioners borrow so much money, which is evidently not required, unless it is to benefit certain persons who desire the use of it at the expense of the people.

The tax-payers ought to demand a full and true statement of the affairs of the County, showing its indebtedness and assets in full, and if those whose duty it is to give it refuses, let application be made to the Legislature at once, for a law compelling them to do so.

We will resume this subject again—in the meantime we will thank those who have the data as to the true state of affairs of the County, to furnish it.

HALF A MILLION MORE!

The call deferred draft is fixed by the President's Proclamation for the 10th of March. It states the number at half a million, but to this should be credited all who may have enlisted or been drafted before March 1st, and credited to other calls. It is impossible to form an estimate of the actual number coming within the purview of this call, as recruiting and volunteering are going on with great activity. It is fair to presume that the number required will not be over three hundred thousand men.

The Government has resorted to the draft simply as a matter of compulsion. The season for active hostilities is at hand, and finds us temporizing as though it were the first instead of the last month of winter. The Rebels have improved the interval of inaction by a wholesale conscription of all ages and conditions. To meet their armies, larger than any yet arrayed against us, we must swell our forces to the maximum. The New York Times, in referring to the subject, uses this wholesome argument:—

"We are to conclude for the ordering of this draft that the Administration, taking into account the needs of the country, and the comparative availability of the two methods of raising troops, has adopted it as a measure of necessity. The Government can have no predilections for the Draft, so strong that it should prefer it as a system to volunteering. Were there any well grounded certainty that the armies of the Republic would be within a reasonable time filled up by volunteer recruits, we have no doubt the Administration would gladly put aside the severe regimen of the conscription. But there is no such certainty while there is the present and imperative certainty that if the Rebellion is to be put down, our armies must be increased to do it. It is therefore, as the country shall elect, if the men needed are not forthcoming it must be accepted as a verdict in favor of the draft.

"In attempting to estimate the efficiency of the coming draft to accomplish the object proposed, it is impossible to go beyond general conjecture, for the provisions under which it will be made, have not yet been elaborated by Congress. The bill, passed by the Senate, is to come up for discussion in the House to-day, and will doubtless be completed and become a law in the course of a week. Those who have followed the history of the bill through the Senate debates are aware that it will be much more rigid in its provisions than the act of last year. The price of commutation is raised from three hundred to four hundred dollars. Besides, persons furnishing substitutes from any source, but the class not liable to draft (as aliens, persons under twenty years of age, etc.,) *become themselves subject to draft, on the exhaustion of the enrollment.* This measure was adopted as an indispensable means of avoiding such an abuse of commutation as would presently have exhausted the *military basis* itself.

"To all those who, on theoretical or practical grounds, dislike the conscription, there now remains but one course—to volunteer themselves, or to encourage volunteering. There is a month during which the stimulus of the large bounties offered by the Government, as well as State and local bounties, can operate, and after that they cease. The more we do now, the less onerous the draft will be on the 10th of March."

THE ONLY TRUE POLICY.

Some urge that in order to reduce the price of an article to the consumer, we should throw our markets open to the competition of the world. They say for instance, that as coal and paper are enhanced in price, the duty should be removed from the foreign article. Leaving out of view the fact that neither of these articles could be imported in sufficient quantity to materially reduce the price especially in the case of paper, the same thing causing its high price in Europe, scarcity of raw material, we think the true policy is to encourage home production, until competition and inventive talent enhance production and reduce prices.

When the Tariff of 1842 was pending, and it was proposed to put a duty of $25 a ton on imported railroad iron, the proposition was strongly opposed. It was urged as an argument against the imposition, that we had no rolling mills to turn out rail, and the duty would check railroad improvements. It is true that when the bill was adopted with that duty inserted in it, we had not a rolling mill in the country. But mark the effect of the operations of the wise measure. To day we have enough mills to lay a mile of road a day.

The prosperity of the coal business is so encouraging, that if not impeded by injudicious legislation, we believe that the number going into it will so increase production, that before long, an adequate supply will be furnished for all the wants of the country.

In the case of paper, raw materials of all description are being worked up in the manufacture of that article; experiments and new inventions are rapidly multiplying establishments for the manufacture of paper from raw material, and the prospect is that if capitalists are not frightened off by unwise legislation, that healthy competition will afford an abundant supply at reduced prices.

Some years since when sugar was scarce and high, it was proposed to take off the duty on the foreign article. Better counsel fortunately prevailed; the duty was kept on, and a substitute, Chinese Sorghum, was introduced so successfully, that the Western States now grow enough to supply the wants of their inhabitants, thus rendering them independent of the South.

The protective is the true policy. Encourage home production and facilitate competition,—for capital will flow into business channels where handsome returns are promised—and production will thus be enhanced, and prices reduced. The history of past experience proves it.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE MINERS' JOURNAL.]

LETTER FROM ASHLAND.

ASHLAND, Pa., Feb. 3, 1864.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Monday of this week was a great day in the annals of our Borough. An election for Borough officers was held when nearly all the Union candidates were elected. You may well be astonished at it; for the citizens themselves were. Hopes are now entertained by the taxpayers of our Borough that their taxes will be reduced somewhat while they at the same time, will be used to procure the services of Borough officers more ably filled than heretofore. Truly it is a great victory. It makes us feel like new creatures to be able to say and *feel* that we are under way to a reform. The Germans are getting their eyes open. They think they have been duped often and enough and now are going in with the Union party, for a reform. The officers elect are as follows:

Burgess—Capt. Levi C. Leib.

Council (East Ward)—E. P. Burkert.* Wm. H. Burchfield.

Council (West Ward)—Joshua Weimer.* Fred. Shaeffer.*

School Director (East Ward)—Charles L. Fisher.

School Directors (West Ward)—Reese Davis,* Peter Keller.*

High Constable—Fred. Ettich.*

Auditor—Wm. A. Bensinger.*

All those marked with a star are Union and the other democratic.

Hoping to be able to report another Union victory in a few weeks, and continue to do so yearly.

I am yours, "UNION."

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE MINERS' JOURNAL.]

LETTER FROM HARRISBURG.

HARRISBURG, PA., FEBRUARY 4, 1864.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Mr. Graber has read a bill in place in the House, the passage of which would compel the Quakake Railroad Company to fence their track in Rush Township, Northumberland County. The Quakake road is a short link in connecting road, important to certain coal operators, but beyond that, of little real value to those who own stock in it. To fence it would absorb its entire revenue for several years, and place it entirely out of the reach of any dividend. Some fewer persons in Rush township have contended for the right to let their cattle run at large, and graze upon a track—along comes a train, and the horse or cow is killed. The owner seeks redress from the Company, and failing to get compensation for his neglect, he sets out in favor of resorting to any means to put the Company to trouble and expense in order to gratify his thirst for revenge. To pass such a law would be a direct premium for fraud; for if one railroad track is to be fenced by legislative enactment, then there is no reason why all other roads should not be compelled to do the same thing by a general law.

Mr. Graber has in his possession a petition from the Miners', Mechanics' and Laborers' Beneficial Society of Tamaqua, praying for an act of incorporation. It is remarkably strange that year after year application is made here for charters of a petty nature, when every person knows, or at least ought to know that the Courts have full jurisdiction, and can grant as full and complete an act of incorporation for a beneficial society as the Legislature itself. For this reason Mr. Graber will not introduce a bill.

The resignation of Harry White has at last been produced as an official document in the Senate, where notice was given on Wednesday that Speaker Penny had issued his proclamation for a special election to fill the vacancy, to be held on the 16th. The resignation bears date "November, 1863," and Judge White, the father of the Senator, in a letter to the Speaker, acknowledges having had it in his possession for some time, but withheld it in the hope that extraordinary exertions would be used to procure the release of his son. Let come what will, it is therefore, placed beyond the shadow of a doubt that we shall have an organization by the first of March, and not sooner, if I may be permitted to judge from the discussion in the Senate yesterday, which was exceedingly bitter and acrimonious. In the meantime the House can go on and pass bills, as the Senate can really overtake them in ten days "on a dead run."

I hear this morning that the Committee on Ways and Means in the House has now under consideration the maturing and reporting of a bill to *tax the gross receipts of all railroads in the State!* This will produce a sensation in every direction. I presume the idea originates with Mr. Bigham, of Allegheny, the Chairman of the Committee. I am told that statistics have been carefully prepared to show the enormous profits made by Railroad Companies during the last two years, and they will be used as the principal argument in favor of increased taxation being imposed upon them. The tax is not to be upon tonnage, or to discriminate in favor of companies which yield little or no profit to stockholders, but it is to be sweeping in its nature—a tax upon the gross receipts, and not upon the mere profits. Whether the revenue so derived is to be applied to general or specific purposes, I did not learn. You may remember that the last Board of Revenue Commissioners recommended a measure of this kind, but their recommendation was never acted upon.

Volunteering is now going on here at a rate unprecedented since the rush of 1861. The mustering offices are crowded, and I am quite under the mark when I say that there is an average of two hundred men a day sworn in. At this rate, if it continues—and it is increasing instead of diminishing—there will be more than the State's quota by the first of March, and we shall entirely escape the draft.

YOURS.

BROAD GAUGE.

SENATOR WHITE'S LETTER OF RESIGNATION.

NOBLY PATRIOTIC VIEWS.

The Senate will Organize as a Loyal Body

The following is a copy of a letter from Senator Harry White, delivered by Judge White, his father, to Senator Turrell, deputed by Speaker Penny to act for him in his absence. This letter has never been in the hands of Governor Curtin, Judge White, in faithfully sued for the release of the gallant Major, having retained the letter, as authorized by his son, until his own views of duty to the writer and the country convinced him to hand the letter over.

Speaker Penny has been informed by telegraph, and this evening a new election for Senators will be held in the hands of the respective Sheriffs of Indiana and Armstrong counties.

HART PARCE, RICHMOND, VA., Nov. 2d, 1863.—*Hon. J. P. Penny, Speaker of the Senate of Pennsylvania.*—MY DEAR SIR: Considerations I shall briefly state make it prudent and proper for me to tender my resignation as a member of the Senate of Pennsylvania. After the adjournment of our Legislature last spring, I rejoined my regiment and resumed my military duties in the field. Upon the advance of Genl. Lee's army, in June last, into the Shenandoah Valley, on his Pennsylvania campaign, the forces with which I was connected were ordered to Winchester, and in the battle at that place I fell into the hands of the enemy as a prisoner of war. With other Federal officers I was immediately sent to Richmond, and since the 22d of June have remained as a prisoner in the "Libby." No general exchange of officers has taken place in the meantime, nor does any appear to me in nearly prospect. Shut off for long months from friends and the outer world, I have yet not been entirely ignorant of passing events. The recent election in our State has, I learn, altered somewhat from the last session the political complexion of our Senate. My absence, it seems, gives to each political party represented there equal numerical strength. This will, in all probability, embarrass organization, and delay necessary legislation. I regret this situation, and am unwilling my presence personal misfortune should in any way affect public interests, or interrupt for a moment that cordial co-operation between our State and National Governments so necessary in this crisis. It is true, some time must yet elapse before my presence in Harrisburg is actually required, yet as I see no hope of release by general exchange, as the Richmond authorities will, I am convinced, retain me as long as possible, because I am a Senator, and my vote important.

Under the circumstances, it behooves me to do what I can to prevent the difficulty likely to result from my continued imprisonment. I am sure you will not doubt me when I confess it would be more acceptable to my tastes and feelings to spend the months of the coming winter in active legislation in our Senate chamber, than to languish within the gloomy walls of a Southern prison.

My present situation places the less agreeable alternative in prospect and I see but one solution to the difficulty; other and greater interests are involved in this matter than my personal comfort and private inclinations. My health, my life, are nothing to the success of those great principles I was elected to represent.

The good people of my district are chiefly interested in this matter and my duty to them in the premises has given me many an hour of anxious solicitude in this weary prison life. I cannot now in any way consult with them; they should not, however, at this time, be unrepresented. Their generous confidence was but recently given me, and they will, I trust, give the approval of their voice to the step I now take, and select as my successor one who will be as faithful to their interests and the great cause of our country as I, at least, desire to be. Be pleased, therefore, to accept my resignation as Senator from the Twenty-first Senatorial district. Be kind enough to convey to my brother Senators assurances of respect and esteem. Tell them, "though cast down I am not dismayed," though in bonds, I am full of hope. Tell them my prayer and hope is no fair time may go out of the counsels of your Senate to weaken the arm or make faint the heart" of those brave soldiers of the Union who are bearing in the field to a sure and triumphant success the greatest struggle of history.

Accept, my dear sir, my kindest wishes for your good health and future prosperity.

I am yours, truly, HARRY WHITE.

Local Affairs.

Weekly Almanac.

1864.—Feb.	SUN RISES	SUN SETS.	MOON'S CHANGES.
6 SATURDAY	7 3	5 25	
7 SUNDAY	7 2	5 26	New M. 7 3 14 e'ng
8 MONDAY	7 1	5 27	First Q. 14 8 28 m'ng
9 TUESDAY	7 0	5 28	Full M. 22 5 2 e'ng
10 WEDNESDAY	6 59	5 30	
11 THURSDAY	6 58	5 31	
12 FRIDAY	6 57	5 32	

To-morrow—Quinquagesima Sunday. Day's length, 10 hours and 22 minutes.

The Fifteenth Regiment, P. V.—The companies of this regiment, belonging to Schuylkill County, are expected to reach home to-day.

Doctor Charles H. Haseler, late of the 20th Pa. Cavalry, has returned home from the term of service having expired, and intends to resume the practice of his profession in Pottsville.

Good Intent Fire Company, No. 1.—The Members of the Good Intent Fire Co., No. 1, of Pottsville, are requested to meet at their Hall, on Fifth street, between Market and Norwegian, on Wednesday evening, February 10th, at 8 o'clock.

St. Nicholas Vocalists.—These favorite singers will give a concert in Ashland this evening, and one in Minersville on Saturday evening next. Their recent concert in Mahanoy City, was, we understand, quite successful.

Rev. G. D. Carroll, of Lancaster, will preach in the Methodist Episcopal Church to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock. Subject, "The providential mission of the United States to the American Continent." In the evening at 7 o'clock, Rev. H. M. Johnson, D. D., President of Dickinson College, will preach.

Serious Charge.—On Thursday last Charles Conrad and Joseph Dolan of this County, and W. M. Jenkins of Baltimore and a man named Ryan of Philadelphia, were arrested here by order of the military authorities of Philadelphia charged with procuring the enlistment of soldiers as substitutes, knowing them to be deserters. The accused were taken to Philadelphia yesterday under guard. Another party belonging to this County, against whom there is a similar charge, has not yet been arrested.

Distressing Accident.—On Wednesday evening last, after the ceremonies of the reception of the Forty-eighth Regiment, P. V., were over, Capt. Kaufman's company of Port Clinton was put in a train here to be taken down to that place. As the train was about starting at 8 o'clock, James Baker, a member of the Company, aged 23 years, fell under the cars, and had his left arm dreadfully mutilated, and the fingers of his right hand crushed. He was conveyed to the Hospital, where the arm was amputated close to the shoulder joint, by Dr. A. H. Halberstadt. For several hours Baker was in a critical condition in consequence of the severity of his injuries, but it is now thought that he will recover. Baker is a native of New Orleans, and was in the Rebel service until about a year since, when he made his escape to our lines, and enlisted in the Forty-eighth at Lexington.

The following contributions were made by the Ladies' Aid Society of Pinegrove: Mrs. J. Thock, 1 can quince butter, 3 lbs. sausages; Mrs. G. Miller, 2 jars jelly, 3 lbs. sausages; Mrs. Clayton, 2 bottles wine; Mrs. Christine, 2 lbs. sausages; Mrs. P. Filbert, 100 pickles, 3 jars pepper sauce, 2 cans preserved apples, 5 lbs. sausages; Mrs. W. Graeff, 8 lbs. sausages; Mrs. J. L. Nutting, 4 lb. tea, ½ lb. pepper, 1 lb. castile soap, 1 lb. chocolate, 2 packages farina, 2 lbs. dried apples, 1 bottle catsup, 1 sheet; Mrs. R. H. Steed, 2 bottles wine, 1 jar peach butter, 1 bottle camphor; Mrs. Henry, 2 bottles of wine, 7 cans of jellies, 3 lbs. dried apples, 50 pickles; Mrs. H. R. Tracy, 1 jar cranberries, ½ lb. castile soap; Mrs. Thomas, 5 lbs. sausages, quantity of cake, 5 lbs. corned beef; Conrad Gallacher & Co., 3 packages farina, ½ lb. chocolate; C. Wheeler, 1 pair of woolen socks. Articles made by Society, 5 pairs woolen socks, 12 Canton flannel shirts, 12 pairs Canton flannel drawers, 4 knee shirts, 4 pillow slips, 50 housewives furnished with needles, pins, buttons and thead, and tracts made by the children of the Lutheran Sunday School of Pinegrove.

Estimated Quota of the Borough of Pottsville.—The quota, credit and deficiency of the Borough under the draft of September, 1863, are as follows:

	Quota.	Credit.	Deficiency.
South Ward	79	40	39
N. E. Ward	49	10	39
Middle Ward	37	32	5
N. W. Ward	41	16	25

The estimated quota of the Borough—as we obtain it at the Provost Marshal's office for the draft of March, 1864, is as follows:

	Quota.	Credit.	Deficiency.	Total.
South Ward	56	32	24	88
N. E. Ward	32	39	7	71
Middle Ward	24	5	19	29
N. W. Ward	26	25	1	51
Total quota of Borough				239

The enrollment of the Borough is as follows:

	Class 1.	Class 2.	Total.
South Ward	345	188	533
N. E. Ward	223	107	340
Middle Ward	153	116	269
N. W. Ward	186	101	287
Total			1429

The quota, 239, is not official, but we are authorized to state that the number required to be furnished by the Borough, will not exceed and may fall below that.

A Baby Imbroglio.—On Thursday evening of last week, about 8 o'clock, as Mr. George Shimpf was passing along Third street, between Mahantongo and Norwegian streets, he was attracted by the wailing of a babe. It seemed to be in the open air and near him. The place was rather dark, so he immediately went into a neighboring house, and Mrs. Kaercher who lives opposite to where he heard the crying, went with him to the spot. They discovered lying on the pavement, wrapped only in a thin shawl, the form of a pretty, healthy female infant, apparently about nine weeks old. The hands and feet of the little foundling were numb with cold, and had she not fortunately been discovered by Mr. S. she might in a short time have frozen to death. Mrs. K. picked the babe up, and took her into her house, where the child remained until the following morning, when as we are informed, a woman named Elizabeth Gruber came to the house and stated that Mr. Shimpf had sent her for the child. Mrs. Kaercher objected to letting the babe go, but the woman picked her up off of Mrs. K.'s lap, and took her away. When Mr. Shimpf heard of the occurrence, it seems that he was dissatisfied. He had found the baby, and thought that he had the best right to dispose of her, until some person who had a better right to her, appeared and claimed her. He sought legal advice in regard to the matter, and finally obtained an order to have the child taken to the Alms House. He gave the order to Constable Christmas to see it executed. Accompanied by Mr. Shimpf, the Constable went to the woman's house on Monday last to get the child. He asked for the baby, showing the order. The woman refused to permit the child to be taken away, and when the Constable endeavored to go up stairs to get it, she made a violent effort to prevent him. He as gently as possible, pushed her away, and she getting behind him placed her hands over his shoulders to seize his beard. The Constable caught her hands, and held her until Mr. Shimpf went up stairs and obtained possession of the baby.—The child was finally sent to the Alms House and bound to Mr. Shimpf. Mrs. Kaercher has the child now in her charge, and will raise it for Mr. S.

The final result of this interesting imbroglio was, that on the same day Constable Christmas and Mr. Shimpf were arrested, charged with assault and battery on the woman who was loth to part with so rare a prize as a babe. They appeared before Squire Conrad, with their attorney, innocent of any offence as they supposed. The Squire however, thought differently, for declining we understand, to hear any evidence, he held the accused to bail in the sum of $200 each to answer at Court.

The anniversary meeting of the Schuylkill County Female Bible Society was held in the Second Presbyterian Church of this Borough on Monday evening last. The various reports of its operations during the past year were read and adopted, and a very interesting address was delivered by Rev. I. H. Tuttiman, Agent of the Pennsylvania Bible Society. We regret that restricted space this week, prevents our publication of publishing the proceedings in full. They will appear in our next.

Accidents on the Valley Road.—On Sunday evening last as a passenger train filled with persons returning from the dedication of a Catholic church at Schuylkill Haven, was passing through Palo Alto, it ran on a siding, in consequence of a switch being turned wrong. The engine struck a number of empty cars breaking them to pieces, while the driving wheels of the locomotive were broken and the engine otherwise injured. Fortunately, no one on the train was injured. Mr. Sanders, the conductor, had a narrow escape from being killed.

On the following afternoon while the afternoon passenger train was beyond Middleport, a cow leaped a low fence on the road, and ran on the track. The engine struck the cow, and ran over her legs. Her body was caught by the wheels of the first passenger car, which was thrown from the track and upset. Fortunately, the coupling between the tender and car broke when the latter upset, or the accident would have been more serious. The passengers and conductor were bruised to some extent, but no limbs were broken. The car was wrecked. The man most seriously injured on the occasion was an employee of the Company who while trying to convince an Irish lady with a free tongue, the owner of the defunct animal, that she had no claims on the Company for damages, was stoned in the most liberal manner by the Hibernian lady and her friends, to the imminent peril of his life. He finally escaped after being badly bruised.

Fire in Market Street—Four Dwellings Destroyed.—On Saturday night last between 9 and 10 o'clock, flames were discovered issuing from the bake-house of John Henry Moser, baker, in Market street, on the north side, near Mt. Laurel Cemetery. The alarm was promptly given, and in a short time the fire companies of the Borough were on the spot. The flames, however, spread with great rapidity to the frame dwelling of Mr. Moser, and finally to the frame dwelling of Mr. Charles Oerther, on the east, and to two frame houses on the west, the property of John W. Roseberry, Esq., and Mr. John Simmons. The fire could not be subdued, and all of these houses were completely destroyed. Through the exertion however, of the firemen and citizens, the fire did not spread, although the contiguous property is composed of frame houses. Fortunately, there were no lives lost, nor any unprecedented accidents to the firemen, or citizens, in the vicinity of the fire, and by the fact that there was little or no wind blowing. The fire burnt fiercely for several hours.

Mr. Moser's loss on house and contents, is $1800, upon which there is an insurance of $666 in the York Company. Mr. Oerther's loss on house and contents, is $600, on which there is no insurance. Mr. Roseberry's house was occupied by Mrs. John Y. Wren, whose furniture was to a great extent, saved. His loss is, $1400, on which there is an insurance of $900 in the Lycoming Company. Mr. Simmons's loss on house, $1200; on furniture and clothing, $100—upon which there is an insurance in the York Company of $750.—Total loss, $4300. Insurance, $2316.

Proceedings of the Borough Council.—A stated meeting of the Council was held on Monday evening the last. Present, Messrs. Beveridge, Kienzle, Derr, Focht, Reed, Gressang, Heffner, Miller, Dobson, Cochran and Pitman, President.

Minutes of previous meeting read and adopted.

Com. on Market House reported that they have sold the old Market House at $90, and presented the receipt of the Borough Treasurer for the payment of same; also receipt of Borough Treasurer for $125 for woolen materials of Market House sold as previously reported.

Special Com. on building a Lock-up and Watch House, reported the work completed and building paid for.

Fifteen petitions signed by 433 citizens of the Borough of Pottsville, praying Council to make an appropriation of $150 each bounty to each volunteer enlisting, to fill the quota of the Borough under the late calls of the President of the United States were read, and on motion of Mr. Heffner, were referred to a special committee of three, who were to report at their earliest convenience.

Committee, Samuel Heffner, James Focht and Jacob Kienzle.

Petition of Adam Shortle and others, praying Council to have a number of lamps placed and kept burning on Lawton's Hill and in East Market street on Sunday and during the week, making use of profane language and engaged in other conduct annoying to the citizens in that locality, was read, and on motion, the High Constable was instructed to have the parties arrested and punished according to law.

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

On motion of Mr. Derr it was resolved that the Committee on Finance and Accounts be instructed to proceed at once to collect the claim of the Borough against Jeremiah Seitzinger, *et. al.*

The following bills were read and ordered to be paid:

J. L. Mennig and Street Laborers	$54 45
Henry Miller	2 50
John P. Bertram	4 00
H. Gressang per bill G. N. Downing	22 87
B. Barr	24 57
Four Watchmen	148 80
Mr. Swebel	12 50
Samuel Lewis	46 00
Frank Pott	79 70
	$394 89
Previous issue	8,114 78
	$8,509 67

Adjourned.

To Soldiers and Postmasters.—

An act to amend the law prescribing the articles to be admitted into the mails of the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That articles and clothing, being manufactured of wool, cotton, or linen, and comprised in a package not exceeding two pounds in weight, addressed to any non-commissioned officer or private serving in the armies of the United States, may be transmitted in the mails of the United States at the rate of eight cents, to be in all cases prepaid, for every four ounces, or any fraction thereof, subject to such regulations as the Postmaster-General may prescribe.

Approved, January 22, 1864.

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Jan. 23, 1864.

The foregoing law is published for the information of the public, and especially for the guidance of postmasters, and is thought to be so full and plain that no one can mistake its meaning. Postmasters will, however, bear in mind that packages of clothing entitled to pass by the maximum weight (ounces for pounds) must be manufactured from wool, cotton, or linen, and not exceeding two pounds in weight, and must be addressed to a non-commissioned officer or private serving in the armies of the United States. Consequently if a package addressed to a commissioned officer, or composed of other materials than as above specified, such as boots, shoes, &c., if sent by mail, must be prepaid at letter rates, viz: three cents for every half ounce or fraction thereof.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster-General.

Brilliant Reception of the Forty-eighth Regiment, P. V.—On Wednesday morning last, at the residence of Dr. Gen. James Nagle, Chief Marshal, that the veteran Regiment, the Forty-eighth, would reach here during the day. Every preparation was at once made by our citizens to give the Regiment a hearty welcome home. Private residences were decorated with large streamers of red, white and blue, while flags large and small, were displayed everywhere throughout the Borough. Along the route over which the procession would pass, were displayed the names of the battles in which the Regiment had participated. In Mahantongo street at the residence of Mrs. Silliman, three medallions suspended in the centre of the street, bore the names of Burnside, Sigfried and Nagle, under whom the Regiment had served with distinguished honor.

THE ARRIVAL AND PRESENTATION OF COLORS.

At 3 o'clock, P. M., the train containing the Forty-eighth Regiment, reached Mt. Carbon, and the men were drawn up in line to receive the colors presented and prepared by the ladies of Pottsville for presentation to the Regiment. We recently gave a discription of them. Hon. JAMES H. CAMPBELL made the presentation eloquently, as follows:

OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH REGIMENT:

I have been honored by the ladies of Pottsville, your sisters, wives and mothers, with the pleasing duty of presenting this flag, gridiron and stripes, as their testimonial to and appreciation of your patriotism, bravery and devotion to the cause of the Union.

You bring with you tattered flags from glorious battle-fields—flags rent in conflict, and worn by the long march, but of stainless honor. The ladies of Pottsville here leave to place by the side of these, this beautiful flag, the work of their fair hands.

Where the white horses ramp in the azure field, you see inscribed Chantilly, Antietam, South Mountain and East Tennessee, one and all recalling memories of heroic deeds that will live while time endures.

The fair donors have watched with sympathetic bosoms, your trials, bravery and suffering—the deadly struggle, the sufferings in hospitals, on the weary march, and by the unnamed bivouac, all heroically borne by you. While they have shed tears for the gallant dead, they come to-day, with words of welcome and smiles of gratitude, to greet their returning brothers and husbands.

Soldiers, you have registered a vow in Heaven that the old flag shall fly in all its original splendor over every inch of territory the Nation ever possessed—and that too, over free territory. A few years since it was loved and respected everywhere,—for it was everywhere, by glacial pinnacles, and under the suns of the tropics—in the marts of the old world, and the wilderness of the new. It must not now be shorn of its glory.

Soldiers, *you carry peace on the points of your bayonets, and the diplomacy in your cartridge boxes.* We can have no true, lasting or honorable peace until the rebels submit to the laws of the country. We as good citizens, cheerfully submit to constituted authority. We ask no more of them; we will submit to no less.

Mr. Campbell concluded by welcoming the soldiers of the Forty-eighth home, in the name of the ladies of Pottsville.

At the conclusion three hearty cheers were given for the ladies.

Col. Sigfried replied in a neat and appropriate speech. He sincerely thanked the ladies for the honor conferred upon his command by them, in their beautiful gift, and promised that the colors should be brought back from the field of battle in honor, or not at all.

At the conclusion of his response, Col. Sigfried was the recipient of a beautiful wreath, handed to him by a young lady.

THE RECEPTION.

The procession then formed, and proceeded up Centre street, in the following order:

Gen. Nagle and Aids.
Col. Oliphant and Staff.
Battalion of Invalid Corps.
Pottsville Band.
Forty-eighth Regiment, under command of Col. Sigfried.
Honorably Discharged and Convalescent Soldiers, under command of Major Jas. Wren.
Seventh Pa. Cavalry, under command of Major Jennings.
1st New York Artillery, under command of Lieut. Hall.
Miners' Lodge, No. 20, I. O. of O. F.
Carriages containing Committee of Arrangements.
Citizens on Horseback.

As the procession commenced moving a national salute was fired by the New York Battery.

The veterans were greeted all along the route by cheers and the waving of handkerchiefs. The streets were filled with thousands of people. A more exalted spectacle is rarely witnessed here. The battered flags of the Forty-eighth were objects of great interest.

After passing over the route designated by the Chief Marshal, the veterans halted in front of the Union Hotel, where they were welcomed to their homes, by John Bannan, Esq., on behalf of the citizens, after a fervent, patriotic prayer by Rev. H. Kroner. Colonel Sigfried thanked the citizens for their kind reception, and spoke of the spirit that animated his men in re-enlisting. He stated that the command would return to the field recruited up to its full strength.

A collation was prepared by the ladies at the Union Hotel, of which the Regiment partook. The Regiment returned with 340 men. The field and staff officers are, Colonel, J. K. Sigfried. Lieut.-Col., Henry Pleasants. Major, J. A. Gilmour. Surgeon, — Blackwood. Quartermaster, Lieut. Bohannan. Adjutant, D. D. Mannings. The companies are—A, Capt. Kauffman; B, Capt. East; C, Capt. Gowen; D, 1st Lieut. Fisher, com.; E, Capt. Winlack; F, Capt. Hoskins; G, Capt. Bombshell; H, Capt. William J. Hinkle; I