Miners Journal.

POTTSVILLE, PA.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1865.

THE DEPARTMENT REPORTS.

It is impossible for a newspaper with limited space such as ours, to give these interesting reports at length. They abound with information of moment, which should be laid before the people. We should like to see them published in book form, not only in English but in German, and distributed throughout the length and breadth of the land.

Mr. McCulloch, the Secretary of the Treasury, has by his report, increased the confidence which the public previously reposed in him. It is true that he might with great propriety, have dwelt upon the great importance of protecting our industry and preventing a ruinous influx of foreign goods, and that his theory of finance may elicit criticism from those who hold opposite opinions, but it would be difficult to find a better man—one more honestly devoted to the interests of the people of the United States—to fill the important post of Secretary of the Treasury.

The able Secretary of War after giving interesting details of military operations, etc., sums up the causes which contributed to overthrow the rebellion, "besides the signal success vouchsafed to our arms." They are so striking that we direct especial attention to them. The Secretary says that among the chief of these may be reckoned:

1. The steadfast adherence of the President to the measure of emancipating the slaves in the rebel States. Slavery was avowed by the leaders of the rebellion to be its corner stone. By that system millions of people, constituting nearly the whole working population of the South, were employed in producing supplies for the plantation, in the workshop and manufactories, and in whatever labor was required, thus enabling the white population to fill the rebel armies. The policy of freedom, kindled by the emancipation proclamation, paralyzed the industrial power of the rebellion. Slaves found their chances to escape, discontent and distrust embarrassed their masters, and the fields were engendered, the hope of the Federal cause, stimulated by the success of the Federal arms, should each day more and more the fabric built on human slavery.

2. The resolute purpose of Congress to maintain the Federal Union at all hazards, manifested by its legislation, was an efficient cause of our success. Ample supplies appropriated for the army and navy, revenue laws for supplying the treasury, careful revision and amendment of the laws for recruiting the army and enforcing the draft gave practical direction to the patriotic purpose of the people to maintain a national existence that should afford protection and respect by means of the Federal Union.

4. The result of the presidential election of 1864 exerted an important influence upon the war. Intercepted letters and despatches between the rebel leaders showed that their hopes of success rested greatly upon the presidential election. If the Union party prevailed, the prosecution of the war until the national authority should be restored appeared inevitable, and the rebel cause desperate. Even on the battle-field the influence of the election was felt. The overwhelming voice of the people at the presidential election encouraged the heroic daring of our own troops, and dismayed those who were fighting in a hopeless cause.

5. The faith of the people in the national success, as manifested by their support of the government credit, also contributed much to the ultimate result. While thousands upon thousands of brave men filled the ranks of the army, millions of money were required for the treasury. These were furnished by the people, who advanced their money on government securities, and freely stated their fortunes for the national defence.

No higher testimonial to the patriotic position of the Union men of the North and to the valuable aid they rendered the Government, could be rendered. It shows that the Rebels and Copperheads were in complete understanding, and that their effort to destroy the country by carrying the Presidential election of 1864, was mutual. It shows that the Copperheads were bitterly hostile to the Government, and that to their course is due the prolongation of the war; the unnecessary slaughter of thousand of our brave soldiers, and the augmenting of our national debt by millions of dollars more than it would have been had they sustained the Government. How can any honest Democrat remain longer affiliated with such a traitorous party?

The Postmaster General makes an encouraging exhibit, showing that the department has become self-sustaining. The postal service in the Southern States, was before the war, a source of great expense to the Government, and the deficit in this department was annually heavy. The Secretary says:

The number of routes ordered into operation in States lately in rebellion is 241, their length 18,640½ miles, and compensation $721,949—a reduction, compared with former cost of service in these States of $381,109 per annum. The revenues, however, results in part from reduced service, which, if increased to the standard of frequency previous to the war, on the present rates of pay, the cost would be:

For railroad service, $560,053, instead of $989,365 per annum.

For "star" service, $266,848, instead of $320,025 per annum.

For steamboat service, which having been increased, estimated at former number of trips, is $65,501, instead of $299,565 per annum, making the aggregate under the present rate for all the service $880,402, instead of $1,609,028 per annum; showing an aggregate decrease *pro rata* of $722,056 per annum.

How long this encouraging state of affairs in connection with the Post Office Department, will last, it is difficult to predict. But we believe that if due care is taken in establishing only necessary routes in the South, and if the pernicious system of carrying merchandise in the mails should be abolished, the department will not only show annually, a handsome surplus, but the rates of postage could be reduced. There are two prominent evils connected with the system of carrying merchandize in the mails. One is, lumbering the mails with goods, in place of simply carrying letters, newspapers, magazines and pamphlets, thus enhancing the expense of transporting the mails. The other is, the system of concentration which is fostered in the cities. The business of the interior is injured by the facilities offered for transporting merchandise this way. In the end it is a mistaken policy. For when the interior of a State is built up and its business encouraged, it is always doubly advantageous to the cities. We would have been pleased had the Postmaster General made a suggestion that this system be abolished, and the mails devoted exclusively, to the legitimate matter we have enumerated.

The Postmaster-General suggests that the law requiring the list of letters to be published in newspapers of the largest circulation, be repealed, and the mode of advertising left to his discretion. This is not a judicious suggestion. Public information is the great object in all advertising, and that object cannot be secured in any way so surely as by advertising. The department pays less for advertising its letters, than private parties pay for their advertising, and we believe the benefit is equally great. We trust that this suggestion of the Postmaster-General, will not be adopted by Congress. The balance of his report is worthy of all commendation.

The Secretary of the Interior makes an important suggestion in reference to the disposition of the mineral lands of the Government, which in these times when every possible source of revenue should be sedulously sought out and made available, is worthy the serious attention of Congress. The Secretary on this subject, says:

The organization of a Bureau of Mining was recommended in the last annual report of this department, and the attention of Congress is again invited to the subject. All lands denominated mineral, which do not bear the precious metals, should be brought into market, and thus placed under the guardianship of private owners. In no other mode. It is believed, can the great forests of timber, the growth of centuries, and of vast value to the nation, be effectually preserved from waste. Individual proprietorship, it is conceded, would stimulate the development of coal fields, petroleum, deposits of iron, lead, and other gross metals and mineral formations. There can, therefore, be no sufficient reason for withholding such mineral lands from market. Congress has not legislated with a view to securing an income from the product of the precious metals from the public domain. It is estimated that two or three hundred thousand able-bodied men are engaged in such mining operations on the public lands without authority of law, who pay nothing to the Government for the privilege, or for the permanent possession of property which, in many instances, millions to the claimant.

The existing financial condition of the nation obviously requires that all our national resources, and the product of every industrial pursuit should contribute to the payment of the national debt. The wisdom of Congress must decide whether the public interest would be better promoted by a sale in fee of these mineral lands, or by raising a revenue from their annual product. The impolicy of suffering them to remain in their present condition, without any species of legislation regulating or defining the rights of the parties in interest, must be apparent to all.

There are many other interesting points in these reports which we would like to particularize, but our space forbids. Congress would do well to authorize the publication for general distribution of all the reports, in order that the people might read and thoroughly understand all of the weighty matter pressing for action.

VIGILANCE NEEDED.

At the coming session of the Legislature unless the tax-payers of Schuylkill County exercise vigilance, iniquitous acts will be passed to further burden them. All remember that at the annual County meeting of the so-called Democracy, held in June last, a resolution was adopted to effect the repeal of laws which have saved annually to the taxpayers of this County some forty thousand dollars. And strange as it may seem, there still is a Democrat in this County who understands the art of reducing the public domain in his own interest, and three representatives, who it is quite likely, will obey the commands of their party, the tax payers will not, we are fearful, find their interests subserved. Abandoning all hope of securing needed legislation, our tax-payers should turn their attention to having a vigilant, active agent at Harrisburg, who will watch every bill affecting the interests of this County, which is introduced, and keep our people posted, so that iniquitous legislation may be defeated. Pay a competent man a fair salary for the session, and it will be the means of saving thousands to our people.

It is useless to call upon any of the officials in this County, of the so-called Democracy, to do their duty. We urged the Commissioners last Winter to have a bill passed, giving the Treasurer a salary, instead of permitting him to charge a per centage for his services, by which he received an annual compensation equal to the pay of the President of the United States. Instead of doing it, they busied themselves only in obtaining an increase of their own salaries, and capped the climax by voting themselves extra compensation. All of which came out of the pockets of the people. In no other County in the State did the Commissioners attempt such extortion. The private sale of the Poor-house lands was another outrage, which should never have been countenanced.

If this state of affairs should be allowed to grow from bad to worse, by iniquitous legislation and by the connivance of officers who should be the custodians of the public interests, we will have a repetition in Schuylkill County of the period when certain agents of coal land owners bought up County orders at a depreciation of ten, twenty and even thirty per cent., to pay taxes with, pocketing the shave. Such men may be interested in having a return of those times, but surely the honest, hard-working tax-payer, and land owner residing abroad, must look upon such a prospect with disfavor. We are, however, rapidly drifting towards that state of affairs in consequence of the ruinous policy of the party in power in this County. The only plan to check it, is to engage and pay an agent to guard our interests at the next session which will commence in January, and action in this matter should be taken at once. To protect ourselves we must be vigilant.

THE TARIFF—OUR REVENUES.

The suggestions made in the late report of the Comptroller of the Currency, Mr. Clarke, are admirable. They show that he has thought much upon a judicious application of means to the end to enable the government not only to meet all its pecuniary obligations with entire promptitude, but without imposing exactions that shall be unduly burden some or give just cause of complaint to the people. Mr. Clarke says truly, that under the present inflation of prices, our market is the best to sell in and the worst to buy in on the part of foreigners, and is such as to invite the direct competition of all other countries in it. This drains us of gold. The balance against us for the last five years, amounts to $128,000,000. To correct this state of affairs, the Comptroller suggests such an adjustment of the tariff, intermediate to the resumption of specie payments, as to discourage inordinate importations. Congress will we presume, give this suggestion the attention its importance merits.

Mr. Clarke advises as the first step to be taken towards a reduction of the government issues used as currency, the conversion of all the interest-bearing legal tender notes into 5-20 six per cent. bonds. In regard to the increase of the national bank circulation, and as a gentle mode of further reducing the volume of legal tender notes, Mr. Clarke suggests:

That the National Currency act be so amended as to allow an increase of the limit to four hundred millions of dollars, on conditions only that all the banks be required to redeem their notes in New York, Boston, or Philadelphia, and also that an issue of five per cent. 50 year bonds be authorized to the amount that it will require to secure the additional circulation, under the provisions of the act, which bonds the banks when organized, shall immediately deposit as such may require of the Secretary of the Treasury, at such fair rate as he may from time to time prescribe, but not less than their par value, and pay for the same in the United States legal tender notes, which they may receive shall be canceled and destroyed. The bonds so issued would not affect the price or demand for other bonds, as they would be held as security for the circulation, and only offered in market in the event of the failure or closing of a bank.

With the requirement to redeem at the central and accessible points mentioned, there would be but little danger of bank issues exceeding the limits prescribed by the demands of legitimate business.

In alluding to the sources of revenue, the Comptroller says:

The tariff can be so adjusted as to produce one hundred and twenty millions of dollars; one hundred millions can be raised on whisky, malt liquors, and domestic spirits; fifteen millions on tobacco; one hundred and twenty five millions on cotton; fifteen millions from stamps; from licenses twenty millions, and from the premium on the surplus of gold, after paying interest on bonds, ten millions making in the aggregate four hundred and five millions of dollars, a sum probably one hundred millions in excess of the amount that will be required under an economical administration of the government, leaving a large margin on the above estimate for reduction. The estimates however, of the revenue derivable from the several sources indicated are the result of loose conjecture, but each is founded upon a careful inquiry in reference to past productions and revenue under the existing laws.

It is estimated that the cotton crop the next year will amount to between two and a half and three millions of bales; a tax of ten cents per pound on two and a half millions would produce one hundred and twenty-five millions of dollars. It is reasonable to suppose that the annual crop of cotton, after two or three years, will equal in amount the average of the crop for a few years preceding 1861, which was about four and a half millions of bales. A tax of eight cents per pound on that quantity would produce one hundred and eighty millions of dollars, a sum more than sufficient to pay the interest on the whole public debt at the entire amount is funded. The license and stamp duties could be dispensed with after the next fiscal year, and it is to be hoped that after that period no more income will be derived from premium on gold.

In thus restricting the subject of revenue to a few articles of general production, the cost of collection would be greatly reduced by the discharge of a whole army of assessors, collectors, &c., to the manifest advantage of the public treasury, nor would the least of the benefits to result from this action be found in the fact that such an adjustment of the system of taxation would deprive the grounds for public complaint, and consequently preclude dishonest and disloyal politicians from uniting with the enemies of the Union in assailing the public credit and repudiating the national obligations.

This report is eminently practical, and the views presented must meet the approbation of all thinking men. We have in finance as well as other national matters, knotty problems to solve, but it is satisfactory to know that there are able men at the head of the Government, and that with the assistance of Congress the best plans in all cases, will be adopted for the welfare of the people.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

NEW MUSIC.—The following new music has just been published by Horace Waters, 481 Broadway, New York: 'Tis sweet to think of Heaven, a sacred song, by H. P. Danks. Also, by the same composer, a serenade, entitled, Come to the Window, Love, dedicated to Miss Mettie Spotts, of Louisville, Ky. Both are really charming compositions. Wait, my little one, wait, is a sweet ballad by Mrs. E. A. Parkhurst, and dedicated to Mrs. Wm. P. Ledwick. Another exquisite piece, words by Mrs. M. A. Kidder, and music by Mrs. Parkhurst, is entitled, Do they love me still as of old? and dedicated to Miss Mary F. Moore, Brooklyn. We might remark *en passant*, that Mrs. Parkhurst is rapidly placing herself in the front rank of American composers. Her efforts so far, have been creditable and satisfactory.—The Nation's Jubilee, words by W. H. W., and music by A. B. Clarke, is a spirited, patriotic song with this chorus

Shout! our redemption's come,
Our nation now is free;
Echo the chorus wide,
Proclaim the Jubilee.

Sep. Winner, 933 Spring Garden street, Philadelphia, has just published a beautiful ballad, and eye-pleasing sheet of music, with words by J. H. Nones, and music by Albert H. Bassler.

THE EDINBURGH REVIEW.—The October number has been republished by Leonard Scott & Co., 38 Walker street, New York. It embodies ten able and interesting articles—Journal and Correspondence of Miss Berry, who was dearly loved by Horace Walpole when he was an old man; Life in the Criminal Class; The Rock-cut Temples of India; Life of Carl Maria von Weber; Campbell's Frost and Fire: Posthumous writings of Alexis de Tocqueville; Palgrave's Arabia; The Cromwellian Settlement of Ireland; Sir Thomas Wyse's Peloponeans; American Psychomancy,

Messrs. Scott & Co. have also republished Blackwood's Magazine for November, the contents of which are, A Fenian Document; Miss Majoribanks.—part 10; Cornelius O'Dowd upon Men and Women, and other Things in General.—part 18; Memoirs of the Confederate War for Independence, by Heros Von Borcke, Chief of Staff to Gen. J. E. B. Stuart.—part 3—giving a narrative of the Maryland Campaign of 1862; Sir Brook Fossbrooke.—part 6; French Periodical Literature; Lord Palmerston.

These admirable publications are furnished at a cheap price by the New York firm. We know of no magazine literature that in any respect, equals them. They contain an immense fund of agreeable and instructive information.

REASONS WHY the *American Agriculturist* is taken by more than a hundred thousand subscribers 25 is for the whole family—for the farm, the Garden, the Orchard, and also for the household, including the children and Young Folks; citizens of thousands of towns are taking it; and farmers and village's for the Home and Health's Department alone, it is valuable to every one cultivating a rent of land. It is most beautifully printed and illustrated with hundreds of fine engravings every year. These are both plentiful and instructive; the *Agriculturist* may well be styled a rural and household illustrated Magazine. It is an ornament to the table of any family. It is not a loosely thrown together "Scissors and Paste" Journal, but the largest possible amount of information is condensed into every page. Every line is carefully prepared by thoroughly intelligent, practical men of long experience and large observation—by men of sound common sense, who know what they write and talk about. The information they give with the thousands of hints and suggestions, cannot fail to be worth to every reader, far more than the subscription price, which is very low, owing to the large circulation. In short, the *American Agriculturist* is full of good, reliable, interesting, and instructive articles and items, and is adapted to all parts of the country, and to every man, woman and child in the land. We advise every family to subscribe at the present time, and receive the 25th annual volume, now beginning.

TERMS.—$1.50 a year. Four copies for $5; Ten for $12; Twenty or more copies, $1 each. An extra copy to the one making up a club of ten or twenty.

Volume XXV begins with the next number.—Published by Orange Judd & Co., 41 Park Row, New York.

THE LADY'S FRIEND.—The publishers of this magazine have issued a magnificent number for January. The leading steel engraving, "The Forest Gleaner," is a gem. Then we have a gorgeous colored plate, "The Hand Banner Screen in Chenile on Velvet," which the ladies say is magnificent. The large double colored Steel Fashion Plate is as usual superb—we had almost said unequalled. Another engraving, called "Stephen Wharton's Will," which illustrates a fine story, is very suggestive. Then we have a beautiful plate of children skating, intended to illustrate the winter styles of children's clothing; with numerous other plates illustrating Hair Nets, Winter Dresses, Borders for Jackets, various new styles of Bonnets, Winter Cosques, Pelerotots, Jackets, Embroidery, Chemises, Night Dresses, Ancient Head-Dresses, Patchwork, &c. The literary matter is excellent. Among the articles, we note "Stephen Wharton's Will," "Mrs. Trunk," by Francis Lee; "Paul's Story or French Lessons," "Clarice," by August Bell; "The Two Nightingales," "Stories of Our Village," by Beatrice Colonna; "In Illness," by Florence Percy; "Rachal Dana's Legacy," by E. A. Bordon; "Ar-thur's Wife," and "Loving Mary," Editor's Department, The Fashions, Household Receipts, &c.

Price $2.50 a year; 2 copies $4; 8 copies (and one gratis) $16. Now is the time to get up clubs for 1866. Specimen numbers for the purpose will be sent for 10 cents. Wheeler & Wilson's celebrated Sewing Machines are furnished as premiums in certain cases. The Prospectus of this magazine for next year embodies a splendid list of contributors.

Address Deacon & Pearson, 319 Walnut street, Philadelphia.

Local Affairs.

Weekly Almanac.

1865.—Dec.	SUN RISES	SUN SETS	MOON'S CHANGES.
16 SATURDAY	7 18 4	31	Full M 2 1 48 evng
17 SUNDAY	7 18 4	32	L Q 9 7 12 evng
18 MONDAY	7 19 4	33	New M 17 11 49 evng
19 TUESDAY	7 19 4	35	First Q. 25 7 35 mng
20 WEDNESDAY	7 20 4	36	
21 THURSDAY	7 20 4	37	
22 FRIDAY	7 21 4	37	

To-morrow.—Fifty-first Sunday of the year, and third in Advent. Day's length, 9 hours and 16 minutes.

A desirable residence in East Market street, this Borough, is offered for sale. See advertisement.

Daniel Nagle advertises several houses and lots for sale. They are located in this Borough. See advertisement.

Explosion of Fire Damp.—An explosion of fire damp happened in the mines of E. W. McGinnis, East Mines, on Wednesday afternoon last. The miners, Benjamin Howard, David Davis and Lewis Reese were seriously but not fatally injured.

Beautiful Vases, etc., for Holiday Presents.—J. R. Troxell, Centre street, above Norwegian, Pottsville, has on hand a supply of beautiful, new goods, suitable for holiday presents. His vases, china sets, toys, etc., are worthy of inspection by our citizens.

J. Dutton Steele, Esq., formerly Chief Engineer of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, has been tendered and accepted the Presidency of the Sterling Iron and Railway Company, of New York, and will enter upon the duties of that position at an early day.

A suitable holiday present, and one that would be acceptable to every soldier whose name is contained therein, would be the Memorial of the Patriotism of Schuylkill County. Let the friends of the brave men, select this as a Christmas present. The work can be obtained at the book store of B. Bannan in this Borough.

Books, photographic albums, pocket-books, ladies' satchels, gold pens and other articles suitable for holiday presents, can be obtained at the bookstore of B. Bannan. He has just received Ticknor and Fields' magnificent "Farringford Edition" of Tennyson's poems, complete in two volumes. It would be a beautiful and acceptable Christmas present.

A Pottsville Killed in Reading.—The Reading *Record* says that a man named Lock, of Pottsville, while under the influence of strong drink fell from the platform on the cow catcher of an engine below Chestnut street, when he fell and was dragged about half a square. He was mangled in a shocking manner, and taken to the house of a relative where he died about 11 o'clock at night.

Seven persons were baptised by Rev. Mr. Austin of the Baptist Church on last Sunday evening, and we learn that from fifteen to twenty are awaiting the ordinance. The meetings are calm and solemn. Evidently there is much feeling upon the subject of religion at present. Rev. Mr. Buckboe will continue to lend the pulpit during the next week.

Coroner Johnson has appointed the following deputies, to act in those sections of the County which he cannot conveniently reach. They should report promptly to him at all inquests held by them: Patrick Gallagher, Ashland; Michael M. Ketner, Mahanoy; David Davis, Union; John O'Brien, Tamaqua; Jonas Robinhold, Port Clinton; David B. Seidel, Washington; William Uhler, Pinegrove; Isaac P. Bechtel, Tremont.

Christmas Holidays.—The show windows of the different business places along our streets give evidence of the approach of the holidays. The dry goods and notion stores are well supplied with everything that can delight the heart of the children. The headquarters for Santa Claus in the confectionary and toy line was never more bountifully supplied. Our advertising columns are the best and surest directory by which our citizens should be governed in making purchases. Those who also advertise liberally are sure to deal the same.

Cocoa-nut Oil and Glycerine.—This preparation for preserving and beautifying hair, by the celebrated New York Pharmaceutist, Dr. J. Bunnell, is in this Borough by John G. Brown & Son, druggists, Centre street, who are sole agents for Schuylkill County. The peculiar merits of this preparation for hair which render it so popular, may be briefly summed up as follows: It stimulates the growth of hair; prevents it falling off; softens hair when hard and dry, and gives a rich lustre. A single trial of this preparation will bring conviction of its great superiority over any hair restorer in the market.

Cordially Outrage.—On the night of the 5th inst., about 12 o'clock, a man approached John Robinson, watchman at Forrestville Colliery, Cass Township. Mr. Robinson suspected that his intentions were evil, either to rob him, or assault him. He has not learned which. While Mr. Robinson was talking with him a comrade of the fellow stole noiselessly behind Mr. Robinson, and struck him so violent a blow on the head with a club, that he has since been lying in a precarious condition.—For the arrest of the perpetrators of this cowardly, unprovoked outrage, the New York and Schuylkill Coal Company offers a reward of five hundred dollars.

A Thoughtful and Acceptable Christmas Present.—No citizen with a family dependent upon his exertions, and who may be likely to meet with misfortune by the unsparing hand of Death, should neglect to get his life insured for the benefit of his beloved ones. The thought that mars many a man's happiness, is, that he may be removed suddenly or prematurely, before his plans of life have been matured, leaving his wife and children exposed to the cold charities of the world. Now this care can be removed by obtaining a policy of life assurance in a reliable offi', and at this festive season no presents would be kinder, more thoughtful or more acceptable to a wife, than this. Mr. Robert C. Hill of this Borough, is agent for several old and reliable companies, and will attend to this matter promptly, for those who favor him with a call.

The proceedings before the Pottsville Literary Club, on last Monday evening were, if possible, more interesting than ever, and the well crowded room attested the appreciation of the people. Dr. Chas. H. Hassler delivered a lecture on "The importance of the study of Physiology." The able manner in which the subject was handled deserves more than this passing notice. The approbation of the Dr.'s ideas by the audience was manifested in the hearty "aye" to the vote of thanks.

The English question still absorbs the attention of debaters. It will be continued on another evening.

Messrs. Prior, Burlingame and Hazen supported the affirmative on Monday evening last, and Messrs. Langdon, Miller, and Bechtel the negative. E. H. Burlingame will lecture on next Monday evening.

Daily Paper.—Having been making arrangements for some time—the principal need being a new and improved steam power cylinder press,—to publish a daily paper, we have deferred noticing the fact, until we could state a definite time for the appearance of the first number. But there being a difficulty in filling our order for the press in consequence of the number of orders at the manufacturer's ahead of ours, which may interfere with the starting early in the coming year, of our new enterprise, and other parties having announced a similar undertaking, we make this statement to show that we are not behind the spirit of the age, but that we have entertained the project for some time, and would have commenced it before this, if our order for a new press could have been promptly filled. This County which is rapidly becoming one of the first in the State, in population and enterprise, needs a spirited, live daily paper, such as we know, can be issued from this office.

Jewelry and silver-ware, chaste in design and artistic in execution, can be obtained at the store of Mr. R. C. Green, Centre street. His stock from which holiday presents can be selected, is exceedingly attractive.

School House Dedication.—The new Grammar School building for girls, on Cantry street, will be formally dedicated on Friday evening, 22 inst.—The ceremonies will such as consist of a presentation by the President of the Board of Directors, and a reception on the part of the public by Lin Bartholomew, Esq. The Dedicatory Address will be delivered by Prof. Wickersham, of Lancaster County. The School Superintendent is expected to be present, as also the County Superintendent. The exercises will be conducted in the Lecture room—to commence at 7½ o'clock; and as the capacity of the room is limited, no children will be admitted.

During the day, the House will be thrown open to visitors, from 9, A. M., to 3, P. M., for inspection. By order of Board of Directors:

CHRISTOPHER LITTLE,
Chairman of Com. of Arrangements.

Innocent Amusement of the "Men who are only Fighting their way through Life."—On Saturday night last at Mount Pleasant, this County, a party of Italians went to the house of Mr. Thomas Stephens, an Englishman, and broke up everything he had in his house, even to the cooking-stove in his kitchen. They also broke all of his barrels, spilling the liquor. Mr. Stephens and his wife, in great terror, fled to the woods to escape rough usage at the hands of the ruffians. The secret part of the story remains to be told. On Sunday morning one of the perpetrators of this gross outrage went to the hotel and accosting the man whose property he had assisted to destroy in such a wanton manner, said, "Good morning, Mister Stavins, how do yees fale after bein' claned out?" and cautioned him not to bring a prosecution on the peril of his life.

These are the men who rule this County. These are the Copperhead organ defends on the ground that the perpetrators are only fighting their way through life—that they have a perfect right to commit them. It is not wonderful that crime is rampant under Copperhead rule when its organ excuses the most atrocious acts of its party dupes.

The Sad, Sad Season for Porkers.—The time for the slaughter of hog flesh generally has arrived, and the voice of the butcher is heard over all the universe. From early dawn to twilight the lamentable shrieks with expiring porkers, and the blood of the slayer's sacrifice is gathered in pools in every farm-yard and out-house. Innocent victims of man's carnivorous appetite! Well may you be filled with consternation at the direful custom which is depopulating your race! It is for this you have been pampered and petted, and feasted and fatted, only to have your throats cut, your bodies ripped up, and your jolly sides chopped into sausage meat or salted down for the sustenance of your oppressor. Sad, sad indeed, is your fate! Our heart bleeds for you. Yet, such is the law of nature. The stronger is constantly overpowering the weaker, and using him for his own advantage. And the only satisfaction we have in contemplating your tragic end, is in the savory visions of long rafters crowned with elegant sausages and tables groaning with choice slices from your hams.

It might be noted by the way, that the price of pork has declined considerably within the last few weeks. The sausage manufacture a week ago, paying $14 per hundred for dressed hogs last week. It will be lower yet, if not lower than this in the city $18 was the price paid here at the opening of the business this fall. There is not much change in the retail price of sausage, etc. Considering the low price of pork, we think still you the farmers very well even at this reduced rate.

Alms House Report.—The regular monthly meeting of the Directors of the Poor of Schuylkill County, was held at the Alms House, December 4, 1865. Present, A. Bressler, R. C. Wilson and Isaac Orwig, Jr.

The following is the census of the House for the month ending Nov. 30, 1865:

No. of inmates in the House, Oct. 31, 1865.	341
" " " Nov. 30, 1865.	383
Increase last month	42
No. of inmates in House, Nov. 30, 1864	338
" " same time this year	383
Increase	45

Of the above, 52 are insane and idiotic; 60 under medical treatment; 53 children.

Admitted during the month, 62; discharged and absconded, 11; bound out, 4; born, 0; died, 5.

Lodging and meals were furnished to 231 persons.

Out-door relief has been granted to 216 persons, amounting to $740 75.

Bills were read, and orders drawn, amounting to $5,273 86

Previous issue 59,330 75

Total in 1865 $64,604 61

Reading Railroad Company.—The money market writer of the Philadelphia Ledger, says:

The Reading Railroad Company announces a semi-annual dividend of ten per cent. on the preferred and common stock, in cash or in the stock of the company at par, at the option of the holder, or clear of all taxes, payable on the 30th inst. This is the first cash dividend paid by this company since 1856, and yet its balance sheet has annually shown large profits. These have gone regularly to increase the Company's facilities for its steadily growing business, and is partly represented by stock issues in the shape of annual dividends. The exhibit made by the Managers of the Company, for the fiscal year ending on the 30th ult., shows net profits to the amount of 23 per cent., which gives a showing as this some of the stock-holders thought there should be a larger dividend, and we are informed that the New York Director moved that, in addition to the ten per cent. cash dividend, there should be declared a five per cent. stock dividend, but the motion was not entertained. The excess over ten per cent. is said to be necessary to aid in extending the proposed road affording an outlet to the Fulton Coal Company's mines, and to aid in some other improvements supposed to contribute largely to the interests of the Reading Railroad. The amount of money required to pay ten per cent. on the capital, is two millions of dollars; but it is not supposed that any very considerable amount will be taken in cash. Certainly not, if the stock holds its present price of 57@58. The English shareholders will no doubt, in any event, take their dividend in stock."

What a Stranger thinks of Us.—It is always interesting, sometimes useful, to hear what a visitor has to say of one's abiding place. A gentleman, a citizen we presume, of Delaware County, Pa., who has it seems, been prospecting in Pottsville, thus gives his impressions of the place in the Chester Republican, from the last number of which paper we extract it:

DECEMBER 1, 1865.

MR. WALTER—Perhaps no town of equal size as young in years as Pottsville, is likely published in the JOURNAL and spread abroad throughout the world than this, shut up as it is among the hills of Schuylkill County. With but one great artery—the Reading Railroad—leading from it, the interior produces nothing in the vicinity; has been, and is being transported continually, by land and sea, to the very ends of the world. The millions of tons of the fuel are now annually sent to the North from this County, are now annually from freezing the poor widow and her little ones, who receive a few bushels from the hands of a charitable committee in the interior of the city, with a temperature, perhaps, at zero, while the opulent consumer of the millionaire, who is receiving an income of one thousand dollars per day from the exhaustive mine, which has reached down to the bottom of the blast-furnace, and there reduces the earthly metal to a condition from which an iron palace may be erected, or a twenty-inch gun may emerge, capable of hurling an elaborately-wrought nine-pound ball, may speak so loud that all the nations may hear, not only that treason and slavery are dead in this land, but that freedom must soon come to all parts of the world, and that the Pacific coast and China must come to the Arctic zone and to the Tropics. It propels the steamer to Europe and around Cape Horn—even across the Isthmus of Panama, and the Pacific Ocean. It is the motor of hourly and daily intercourse between near and remote points. And yet on looking over the first number of the MINERS' JOURNAL—just twenty years old—I find the quotations of the market quoted by the bushel, at eighteen cents, which was the maximum price then. Now, the same paper mentions the price by the cargo. The history of the place, for the last quarter of a century, is a fit type of the unparalleled growth and prosperity of our country, and to its discovery and use is this prosperity, in a great measure, due.

Pottsville has a population of nearly fifteen thousand; and has the reputation of being the wealthiest town of its size in the country. There are not less than one hundred persons, who are assessed for taxation from one thousand to over fifty thousand dollars each, and one in the vicinity, of nearly three hundred thousand. Then there are large and increasing revenues from small amount, but simply sufficient, to indicate that they are in comfortable circumstances. With all this wealth there is no display of it, the richest being content to dwell in plain brick houses with but two or three noticeable exceptions. The residence of Charles M. Atkins, just finished, is a beautiful and costly building, doubtless the most expensive in the County. B. Bannan, Esq., the veteran editor of the MINERS' JOURNAL, is preparing to occupy his new residence on a hill at the edge of the town, and on our opposite elevation is that of his brother, John Bannan, near the Station. In front of his residence is the City monument, erected ten years ago by the citizens of Schuylkill County, and the ground present of by Mr. Bannan. The height of the column is about fifty-feet, and of the statue fifteen feet. It is of iron, and an admirable likeness of the great statesman. The whole is painted white, and looks like fine marble at a short distance—I may say in passing, that the JOURNAL of a week or two ago has an article by the editor, in which he submits to the consideration of Congress a mode of recruiting the currency, and which embodies a plan to give stability to it that seems so simple and practical that it is exciting great attention in the country, and may meet with a favorable reception during the present session.

Besides the great coal interests, the iron trade is adding largely to the business growth of the place. The establishment of George W. Snyder, Esq., a gentleman of large wealth, and one of the pioneers in the settlement of the town, is among the first. The Atkins brothers, James Wren, Pott, Pomeroy, Haywood and others, while several within a mile or two, are at Mount Carbon, Port Carbon, &c.

The institutions for the instruction and enlightenment of the people are numerous. There are about twenty churches, several at present being greatly improved, the Episcopal (Trinity) Church, numbers among its members many of the leading citizens. The building is at present undergoing a great improvement, and the large congregation worship in the Court House—an excellent building, by the way—and the commodious court room is always well filled at the time of service.

The public schools of Pottsville are deserving of special notice. They contain fifteen hundred pupils, and about thirty teachers. The Female Grammar School building, lately finished, is the most complete for the building, lately finished, is the most complete in my travels, and is a model that those who are to construct public school buildings elsewhere would do well to see. The interior arrangements are most excellent. The mode of access—an important—consists of double stairways at the front and rear. The building is three stories high, the upper ones only being used for instruction. The scholars' desks are of the most approved pattern, and have comfortable seats, which is rarely the case with schools.—The building has probably cost over thirty thousand dollars, and is indeed, an ornament to the town. It will be a monument to the liberality of our citizens, we have no doubt, the citizens approve of this liberal outlay by their efficient board of School Directors. On the vestibule wall is a tablet containing the names of these gentlemen, and prominent among them is that of Christopher Little, Esq., several years ago well known to the people of Chester, and who left there with the regret of many warm friends, to take up his residence in Pottsville. While here, for some years, he acted as assistant editor of the JOURNAL; from thence he took charge of the law office of Hon. James H. Campbell, our present Minister to Sweden. Then becoming connected by marriage with one of the principal families of this place, he established himself in the practice of law. In almost every instance of his employment and benefit of the people here, Mr. Little has taken a leading part, and there is in his nature an unselfishness of spirit that is a rarity in these days, combined with a readiness to act along with others and nullifying industry, that not alone wins him hosts of friends, but also crowns their mutual efforts with remarkable success. I may add that the bar of Schuylkill County numbers among its younger, as well as its old members, considerable talent. One of the indispensable institutions everywhere, and especially in the mining region, is a place of punishment for criminals. The County prison here is intended to hold convicts after the manner of the penitentiary—solitary confinement with labor. I was surprised on a visit through it yesterday, to find but forty cells. These are not sufficient, it seems to me, to hold the number who ought to be sent there at one term of the quarter sessions, of the County sometimes; and besides, this place is a place for temporary incarceration, but for the longest term required for the offence. During the war, the keeper told me there had been room to spare, but it is not likely to be so now. The employment of prisoners is weaving checks, rag carpets, and shoemaking. The cells are three and a half by two and three feet, lower and subterranean to the front of the building, give it an imposing appearance. As for the sentiment that prisons yard, say, eight feet square, and six high could easily finish one. It does not, it must be of little use, except to keep dogs from barking too near the back windows.

The enterprising Philadelphians have had considerable to do with the early settlement of the town, is evident from the names of a number of streets. For example: Market, High, Arch, Race, Callowhill, are prominent, but Centre street is the great business thoroughfare. The attempt to rival Philadelphia in extent of surface is to me utterly here, for at the end of two or three squares in most directions, the streets run square up against the mountain sides. Thus far can they go and no farther. Houses to live in here, as indeed everywhere, are in such demand that the most miserable shanties are being purchased at high prices by business men who want some buildings for their workmen. No dwellings are at present being built, save an occasional one for the owner to live in. A time for improvement in the shape of a new Town Hall, is nearly finished. It is of brick and iron. Several large stores will occupy the lower story, and the upper will be a splendid hall, with a ceiling twenty feet in height, a suite of rooms for dressing, refreshments, &c., to contain all the perfection of modern improvement. It is built by a stock company, at a cost of about sixty thousand dollars.

E. M. F.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

[REPORTED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE MINERS' JOURNAL BY CHRISTOPHER LITTLE, ESQ.]

December Term—Quarter Sessions.

Hon. James Ryan, President Judge; and Judges Heilner and Kline, associates.

A large number of cases have been disposed of since our last report, mostly of a trivial character, and we therefore condense our statements of the proceedings as much as possible.

Robert Phillips, Jr., was indicted for not repairing the public roads in New Castle township, and convicted. Not sentenced.

Each of the following named persons plead guilty to selling liquor without license, and was fined $10 and costs: Rhoades Hower, Catharine Carter, Peter Keller, Dominic Callahan, Elizabeth Andrews, Carle Sweeny, Mrs. Kelly, Pat. Carey, Michael Hannon, John Murphy, Jacob Shoppy, Elizabeth Smith, John Keller.

Wm. Kirk also plead guilty to a similar charge, and was fined $25 and costs.

Ellen Kilmurry—Assault and battery on Rose Reilly. Not guilty, and pros. for costs.

Catharine Horan and Margaret Dailey were charged with malicious mischief in wantonly cutting certain clothes of Ellen Burns, but acquitted, though directed to pay the costs.

John and Susanna