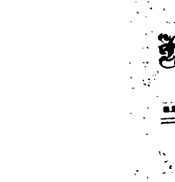
Miners' Journal.

POTTSVILLE, PA.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1869.



FUNDING THE NATIONAL DEBT.—FREE BANKING.

The Hon. D. L. Morrell has presented a bill to Congress providing for the funding of the national debt to an amount not exceeding $2,500,000,000, in sums of not less than $50, at a rate of interest not exceeding three and sixty-five hundredths per cent. per annum, payable in coin and free of taxation; these bonds to be irredeemable, and sold in the markets to redeem the present bonds now due, and as they may fall due. They are to be issued in series of $100,000,000; and it also provides for funding the legal tenders in the same kind of bonds. We cannot approve of such a bill. It in fact fixes the rate of interest so low that it would banish all our bonds to Europe, which would be one of the greatest calamities that could be inflicted upon the country. There is no person who believes for one moment that the holders of these bonds in the United States would convert them into this new load at such a rate of interest. In fact it provides for the Secretary of the Treasury sending agents to peddle our securities in Europe for sale at these rates. Secretary Boutwell's plan is infinitely preferable, and we firmly believe that if he had recommended the putting a loan on the market, say $1,200,000,000 at 40 years, as fast as required to take up obligations now due, at a rate of interest not exceeding 5 per cent., for 10 years, 4½ per cent. for 10 years, and afterwards at 4 per cent. until they are all redeemed by the Government, all now due could be refunded at once, and all the others as fast as they fall due.—At these rates a very large portion of the present holders would fund their bonds, and all would hold them for investment, and not for speculation as so many now do. The difference in the rates of interest would be fully counterbalanced by keeping it at home, and it would be less burthensome to the people. There is no sound statesmanship exhibited by those who desire to go abroad to sell loans instead of encouraging home investments. The whole debt of England, amounting to about four billions of dollars, is probably taken on debt, held at home, and the interest is not sent abroad to enrich other nations. Every inducement ought to be held out for home investments.

The bill also provides for free banking. We admit that it would be preferable to the present limited system—but it would be almost as objectionable as the old State Bank System so far as the producing interests of the country are concerned; it would be about as fluctuating as that discarded system, and the larger portion of the banks would be located on the seaboard, as they now are under the present distribution. It is just as necessary, so far as business is concerned, to fix a proper limit to the issue of paper currency, as it is to stamp the value on coin as a basis for currency. By basing the issue on the real and personal property of the country at the rates of $30 in currency to $100 in property, and then distributing it among the States in proportion to wealth and business, it would check expansion in issues, and at the same time expand in proportion as the wealth and business of the country expands.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL'S REPORT.

The annual report of the Postmaster General, Hon. A. A. Creswell, just transmitted to Congress, is an able report. On the question of the abolition of the franking privilege it is frank and outspoken, and the views expressed by Mr. Creswell meet, we are sure, the hearty approbation of the nation. An army of 31,988 officials, from the President down to postmasters, have the privilege of *ad libitum*, of franking mail matter. Besides these there is a countless host who address communications to members of Congress, and all others authorized to frank official matter. To check the abuses growing out of this system seems impossible, and the Post Office Department is being overwhelmed by frauds. What wonder that this Department is in a state of chronic bankruptcy, when these abuses exist.

The Secretary very properly advises the abolition of the franking privilege entirely, and to make official publications, like all private matter, chargeable with postage. He also properly thinks that if the diffusion of the knowledge of public affairs among the people is the object in retaining the franking privilege, a far more telling expedient may be resorted to. An unburdened press, managed and directed by private enterprise, can do more than Congress to enlighten the masses. Better far in the Secretary's opinion, that the franking privilege should be abolished and that all newspapers sent to regular and *bona fide* subscribers from a known office of publication should be carried free without regard to weight, throughout the country wherein printed and published.

Should this reformed system be adopted, the Secretary predicts that millions will be saved annually to the Government, the department be redeemed from bankruptcy, and the postal service become the potent condition of the people in developing and advancing our great country.

We trust earnestly, that the wise suggestions of the Postmaster General will be adopted by Congress. The people throughout our broad land, after passing through a long war with its consequent burdens of taxation, now asked to be relieved in every manner possible; they imperatively demand reform; to have all frauds and every leak stopped; and Congress will fall short of its duty if it fails to meet the people's expectations in these matters.

In reply to the Anthracite *Monitor*, we will only remark that we do not know whether the workingmen's candidates elected in Massachusetts, are all Free Traders; we only know that the organization of the workingmen's party in that State is composed of Copperhead Free Traders, and a small portion of the workingmen who profess to be Free Traders; that the candidates elected were nearly, if not quite all elected by a combination of the Copperhead Free Traders and these workingmen; that one of the principles in their platform is Free Trade. Now if Free Trade is going to benefit workingmen in this country, then it may be all right, but we think differently. To prove that we are correct in what we state, we copy the following article from page 105 of the Free Trader, published in New York for December, the editor of which is an Englishman:

"Mr. E. M. Chamberlin, the working man's candidate for Governor of Massachusetts, was not elected. We scarcely expected that he would be. The working men's movement was neither rightly conducted, nor did it have, in our estimation, the right basis to start. But Mr Chamberlin had a very fair show of votes, enough to prove the power that lay behind him and quite enough to show our Western Free-Traders that the New England workingmen are on their side in this great movement. Our readers will remember that we quoted in our last number some first rate doctrine from a speech of Mr. Chamberlin's."

The great mass of intelligent and practical workingmen in Massachusetts, supported the Republican candidates for the legislature, who are not Free Traders, and who have done, and are doing more to advance the interests of labor than all the Free Trade fools that you can scare up in Massachusetts or anywhere else in the United States.

We do not want to be understood that we are opposed to electing workingmen to our legislative halls—we only wish we had them filled with such men, but there are quite as hard workers in brain work as in mere manual labor, who are honest, and who will advance the interests of labor and home industry quite as well as those who are mere manual laborers, and who are generally ignored as workingmen. Within the last forty years we have known several persons elected to Congress by workingmen's parties, and in every instance they betrayed the workingmen, and sold as many as they could to the so-called Democratic party for office, for themselves and a few of their friends. Such has been the history of every workingman's party that has sprung up in this country so far. We do not charge those who nominated them with conniving at such betrayals, but workingmen are so apt to select any man who has nothing to loose, who seeks office, and who will make all kinds of promises and professions until he obtains it, and then uses it as a stepping stone to advance his own interests, and then slides back again into Copperheadism, that great receptacle of all demagogues, and whose every leading principle is hostility to the labor and productive industry of the country.

Until workingmen's parties show more judgment and discretion in selecting candidates to represent their interests than they have done heretofore, we do not hail them as beneficial auxiliaries in advancing the interests of the working classes.

Local Affairs.

Weekly Almanac.

Dec.—1869.	SUN RISES.	SUN SETS.	MOON'S CHANGES.
			D. H. M.
11 Saturday	7 15 4	22	
12 Sunday	7 15 4	23	New M. 2 5 45 mo.
13 Monday	7 16 4	23	First Q. 10 6 13 ev.
14 Tuesday	7 16 4	23	Full M. 18 6 54 ev.
15 Wednesday	7 17 4	23	Last Q. 25 9 33 ev.
16 Thursday	7 18 4	23	
17 Friday	7 18 4	23	

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE.

State of the Thermometer for the week ending this day. Kept for the MINERS' JOURNAL by W. S. Lather.

Temperature for the Week.

Dec —1869.	6 A. M.	NOON.	6 P. M.
5 Friday	28	36	183
6 Saturday	10	34	25
7 Sunday	20	35	24
8 Monday	19	33	22
9 Tuesday	8	2	10
10 Wednesday	10	36	35
9 Thursday	14	34	22

Suicide.—The funeral of Mr John W. Shaw were interred in Odd Fellows' Cemetery on Sunday last. Over two hundred Odd Fellows were in attendance.

The County Treasurer's accounts on the first of the county year will be the cleanest on record upon which has been known in that office for twenty-five years, thanks to the exertions of the efficient Treasurer, Conrad Seltzer, Esq. Every collector's account for 1868 has been settled in full.

The man's name who recently swindled the Pennsylvania National Bank of this Borough, is not Marshall as he gave it before Squire Reed, but Morse.—He is from Washington, D. C.

Wallace Salem concludes their engagement in this Borough on Tuesday. They are now playing in Harrisburg.

A meeting of the Committee of Gowen Post, No 21, G. A. R. to make arrangements for the reception of the "Drummer Boy of Shiloh," will be held this evening at 8 o'clock, at S. M. Purdy's office.

Sleighing has been good during the week.

Mr. William Short, sr., died at Port Clinton, died suddenly on Monday morning, aged 83 years. He was a soldier, and was buried on Thursday with military honors by Post No 47, of that borough.

Philip Schaum, a miner, of St. Clair, committed suicide on Saturday night, by hanging. He was 50 years old. Cause, real and domestic difficulty.

A gold headed cane, worth $25, was voted to the friends of Thomas Donohoe of Tuscarora, and John Orbison, of Tamaqua, at the late Catholic Fair in Tamaqua, and the result netted the fair $167. Bid books for Mr. O'Brian are lie in time, before the fair closed, containing $500 more. Mr O'B. would have received the cane and it would have netted the fair the seven fifteen and a half hundred dollars.

At Pottsville, on Monday night, Mr. Patrick Dormer, County Commissioner, and Mr. Michael Keller, of Cass Township, had a legitimate encounter, in which, Mr. Keller's cheek suffered by an incision of Mr. Dormer's teeth in it.

For the benefit of the treasury of the Pottsville Benevolent Association, which has many calls upon it at this season, an entertainment is projected, to consist of readings, to be given by Col James A. Gonder, Hon. David R. Porter, Hon. G. W. Pierce, and other gentlemen. We believe that such an entertainment would be a decided success.

On Monday night, in Mr Seville's saloon, Rahn, a constable from Ashland, drew a pistol and threatened to shoot a man named Hughes, who was supposed to be a thief, and a citizen knocked him down and took the pistol from him. The less said the better, and it is to be hoped that it will be beneficial, as he lets the habit of drawing his pistol on unarmed and inoffensive people.

Two Lodge Fairs are in progress in Town—St. John's Church at Union Hall, and the German Reformed at the old Town Hall. Both are liberally patronized.

On Monday afternoon a man assaulted two school girls above Fishback, while they were going home from school. He threw one of them down in the snow, and made improper advances. The impression is that his purpose was to commit a rape. Some workman who heard the alarm given by the girls pursued the man, but he escaped.

Benjamin Fowler, employed in cutting timber near Gordon, Schuylkill County, was killed on Tuesday, by a tree falling upon him. He leaves a wife and children, and was a worthy, industrious man.

On Tuesday night last, while two young men, residents of Tamaqua, named Reuben Dewalt, a wagon maker, and Hiram Koenig, a machinist, were walking on the Little Schuylkill Railroad, from Centreville to Tamaqua, they were run over by a coal train and killed. Their bodies were found on the track, on Wednesday morning, horribly mutilated. The occurrence took place about a mile below Tamaqua. Dewalt was a married man.

On Wednesday an inquest was held and a verdict rendered of the accidental death on the railroad." Dewalt was buried yesterday afternoon by Tamaqua Post, No. 4 A. R., in the Soldiers' lot, Odd Fellows' Cemetery, of that Borough. Koenig will be buried to-morrow afternoon.

The basement of the church now being erected in Shenandoah, by the Evangelical Association, will be dedicated on Sunday, 19th inst.

The Pottsville Sacrificial Association has once did a certain little deed of charity, well known to our citizens by his begging propositions into the school for feeble-minded children, at Media, Pa.

Jos. Lewis, jr., aged about fifteen years, had a leg broken by a fall of coal in the gangway of the Henry Clay Mine Shenandoah, on Saturday last.

At the same colliery, on Monday, Jonathan Tillet was severely hurt and dangerously burned, by an explosion of fire damp in the shaft.

A new stock of goods, just received at Fochts, 201 Centre street.

Shawls at reduced prices, just received at Fochts, 201 Centre street. 42-tf

Hanging Baskets filled with plants for sale at Greenwood Nursery. Some Camelias are now in bloom.

Messrs Fisher Bros. have just opened a fine selection of Holiday Goods at 193 Centre street. Call and examine our stock. 48-tf.

The next session of the Northumberland Presbytery will be held at Ashland, commencing on Tuesday, 11th inst.

Turkeys.—Fifteen thousand of the year, and third in Ashland Dec 8 night, 9 hours and 17 minutes.

New style Fall and Winter Sacks, Beaver Cloths, Newmarkets, Ulsters, Jackets, Ladies' Sacques, Boiands, 122 Centre street, Pottsville. 47-tf

To Rent. Burdett Hall, will preach in the School House Pottsville Church, Market Square, Sabbath morning, at 10½ o'clock, subject, Christian Heroism. All are cordially invited. Seats free.

The celebrated Hickory coal at Pottsville coal yard. 18 tf

A Lodge Fair will be held in Port Carbon for the benefit of the new Methodist Episcopal Church of that place, to commence on Wednesday, the 22nd inst., and continue one week. Dec 22.

The Borough Fathers of Ashland had their annual feast a few evenings since. Our town papers have not told us the number, but now it is a custom more honored in the breach than the observance.

Workingmen's Benevolent Association.—Take Notice—Kegs, Banners and Rosettes, made to order at the shortest notice at

FISHER BROS, 193 Centre St.

Sad Suicide.—An old lady residing at Sunbury, Northumberland Co., hanged herself to a rafter in the loft of her house on Thursday night last. It is supposed she was laboring under aberration of mind at the time, as she had been in good health for some years.

Incendiary Fire.—On Thursday night last, between 10 and 11 o'clock, a frame dwelling house, belonging to Mr John Kroll, in Yorkville, was totally consumed by fire. It originated from the stove in the kitchen. We did not learn the amount of loss.

Wolf Hunt.—A public sale, on Monday, December 13th, 1869, at Wolf's Hotel, in Norwegian street, the following household furniture—Carpets, Oil Cloth, Matting, Mattresses, Bed Clothes, Bed Steads, Table, Chairs, Stoves, &c. D. H. SEIDEL. 49 2t

Accident.—On Thursday a laborer named Lindermuth, in the employ of Adam Dreher, was seriously injured by falling from a plank, dislocating his right shoulder. His injuries were attended to by Dr. Hand.

Collapse Mahoney, mother of Christopher Mahoney, the defaulting tax collector of Palo Alto, has secured the bondsmen of her son, and they will sustain no loss by the defalcation.—The action on the part of Mrs. Mahoney is worthy of commendation.

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The best Holiday Presents a policy in the New York Life Insurance Company. Assets $13,000,000. E. F. BONZY, agent, Pottsville. 49 1m

The best christmas present a husband can make his wife is to buy a good Cook or Parlor Stove. Also parties wishing to make presents to their sons and daughters will find a splendid assortment of Skates and Sleighs, at Solomon Hoover's Stove, Tin and house furnishing store, No. 205, Centre street. 50-5t

Always on hand, the celebrated Mason & Hamlin Cabinet and Metropolitan Organs, which we are selling at reduced prices, at Fisher Bros., 193 Centre street. 48 4t

The Continental Life Insurance Company of New York, is not in any way connected with any other company under the sun. It is the most successful Life Insurance Company of its age. 13-4t

Rev. Edward P. Roe, late chaplain of Harris Light Cavalry, will lecture in Tremont Temple on Monday and Thursday evenings next, on subject connected with the late War. These lectures have been delivered elsewhere by Rev. Mr. Roe, to delighted audiences, and Trenton we confidently believe, will be no exception to the rule.

Mahanoy Township ahead.—John Cochlin the A No 1 Inspector in Schuylkill County for 1869—On Tuesday morning last, John Cochlin, collector of State and Bounty taxes of Mahanoy Township for the year 1869, stepped into the office of Conrad Seltzer, Esq., County Treasurer, and paid the amount of his duplicate in full. Mr. Cochlin is the only one among the 53 collectors appointed for this year, who has settled up his duplicate, and therefore stands at the head of the list. Who will be No. 2 on the same?

The following is a list of unclaimed letters remaining in the Pottsville Post Office, Dec. 10, 1869:

Ai ers Chas D	Davis Eliza	Moore M G
Armstrong Edw	Davis Cadi	Miller John
Bittenseer Geo	Davis Mary	Moyer Peter
Bischoff Joseph	Hughes Chas	McKinney Patrick
Brisle James	Hughes Michael	McLaughlin Patrick
Bichel Peter	Hill Margaret	McDonald E
Bower Solomon	Jones Edwin	Nagle Jacob
Britton Walter	Johnson Sarah A	Patterson Sarah H
Christman Geo W	Kittinger Martin	Ryan Timothy J
Condelo Gaspar	Kistler William	Reed Hannah E
Collihan J P	Kramer Kate	Sutherle Charles
Conroy Patrick	Kerr Mary Ann	Scherr Bert Frank
Caren Thomas	Lewis John M	Spade Frank
Cull Caroline C	Leigh	Self, Geo J
Collins Bridget	Lawrence N C	Seyler John L
Connell Mary	Lawton Walter	Schatz William
Dipp G	Loyd Hannah	Searry Chris.
Davis Jenkin	McAy v a J	Taylor James
Doran Michael	Mosey G S	Webb David
Dalong Robert	Moglich Henry	Webster George
Derby Stephen	Moore John	Wooley Ellis
Davis ——Mrs		

Applications for Life Insurance in the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York are promptly solicited by James Wooly, New Philadelphia, Schuylkill County, Pa. Assets of the company, over $12,000,000. 6

The Pomeroyile Lectures.—In January, Wm. L. Dennis, Esq., will deliver in Union Hall his celebrated Pomeroyile Lectures. The series will consist of four, and their object is to show up popular follies. In these lectures Mr. Dennis has entered a new field, and one which he explores with remarkable freshness and vigor. In them under the guise of rare humor, the lecturer teaches lessons of hard common sense, and of admirable practical wisdom, which both pleases and instructs. Wherever these Lectures have been delivered they have been received with unusual favor. In Philadelphia he received unsought others, the following testimonial:

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 15, 1869.

William L. Dennis, Esq.: Dear Sir:—Having been present at Dr. Talmage's church, on the occasion of your Lecture, entitled "Dr. Dippe," we feel bound to express our gratification at your felicitous and humorous delineation of that too common character. We are sure, that highly amused as were the crowded audience with the descriptive story of "Dr. Dippe" career, they carried away with them something more than the impression of an agreeable evening, and will be more likely, in the future, to be on their guard against the lures of charlatans and quacks. The moral of your lecture was not less felt that it was heralded by laughter; "holding both his sides."

HENRY FLANDERS, DAVID W. SELLERS,
J. O. MARCY, D. R. ASHTON,
and others.

Seats for the course can be secured at the store of Bannan & Ramsey, where a plan of the Hall may be seen.

We are confident that these Lectures will be very attractive, and draw large audiences.

Court of Common Pleas.—List of Jurors for 1st week, commencing Monday, Dec. 20, 1869, at 10 o'clock, A. M.:

Daniel Felty, farmer, Pinegrove Township
Henry J. Hinkin, boss, Cass Township.
Jacob Kramer, yeoman, Auburn.
David Conrad, plumber, Pottsville.
Patrick Bolden, miner, New Castle
William Marshall, farmer, Byon.
Daniel W. Maurer, farmer, Kildred.
Thomas J. Walker, merchant, Pottsville.
Francis B. Bannan, founder, Pottsville.
Wm. J. McGuade, pattern maker, Fort Carbon.
S. C. Kerr, teacher, Tremont.
Morgan W. Will, blacksmith, East Brunswick
Wm. Dreher, yeoman, North Manheim.
Peter Martz, yeoman, North Manheim.
Wm Neifert, yeoman, Rush.
Lewis Haas, yeoman, Butler.
David H. Geiger, lumberman, St. Clair.
James Barton, machinist, Tamaqua.
John Rouse, blacksmith, Cass.
George Haas, mason, Frailey.
John Hower, innkeeper, Butler.
John Pollock, tailor, St. Clair.
Daniel E. Reed, farmer, Wayne.
Godfrey Leonard, painter, Pottsville.
Wm. A. Reeds, clerk, Schuylkill Haven.
Joseph Tobias, yeoman, Hubley.
James Reeser, yeoman, Cumb.
P. C. Lawrence, merchant, Minersville.
George W. Stitzer, merchant, Mahanoy City.
Samuel Harry, yeoman, Pottsville.
Jacob Hunsinger, merchant, Pottsville.
Noah Eline, boatman, Schuylkill Haven.
John Bowman, yeoman, Schuylkill Haven.

The Young Men's Literary Association did not discuss the question "Which has been the greater evil, War or Intemperance?" on last Thursday evening, that being the time for re-election of officers. The question was postponed until the next Thursday evening, however discussed the question, "Is it not a stronger passion than hatred?" Decision in favor of the affirmative. The following persons were chosen officers to serve for the ensuing term: President, J. Wesley; Vice President, T. J. Hutton; Secretary, Edward Dougherty; Treasurer, R. Knight; and Critic, W. J. McCarty.

On Saturday night last the sisters gave a concert in Robert's Hall, and I understand that those who heard them were very well pleased with their performance.

A collision occurred on Monday morning on the Lehigh Valley Railroad at Penn Haven. The engine of the down passenger train collided with the engine of a coal train. The former I learn was damaged pretty badly. Whether more other damages I have not learned.

Our bank, I believe, is about to be a success. All the stock has been taken. It will begin operation as soon as a suitable location can be secured.

A bell, I learn is soon to be purchased for our public school building, to cost one hundred dollars. The directors, I understand, pay one-half, and the citizens the other. Much credit is due Mr. T. J Hutton, Principal of our Public Schools, for his exertions in this matter.

Rev. J. H. Bailey, of East Mauch Chunk, will preach in Mt. Carmel church next Sabbath both morning and evening, at which time the Sabbath quarterly services will be held. The next meeting of the Sunday School Association will be held next Sabbath afternoon in the Lutheran Church, when we hope to have a full attendance.

YOUNG, &c. C.

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.

From the annual report transmitted to Congress by the Hon. J. A. J. Creswell, Postmaster General, we take the following extracts, which embrace all the points of general interest:

The ordinary revenues of the Postal Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1869, were $19,314,826 22, and the expenditure $23 629,131 59.

The entire net expenditure for the year ending June 30, 1869, was $20,854,093

The revenues, estimated at 10 per cent. increase over last year, $20,125,000

Standing appropriation for free matter 700,000

$20,825,000

Leaves a deficiency of 4,093 122

The foregoing estimates do not include the special appropriations for the maintenance of mail steamship service between San Francisco, Japan and China; for the service between the United States and Brazil; and for the service between San Francisco and Sandwich Islands.

The number of postage stamps, and stamped envelopes and newspaper wrappers was 506,722,560, of the aggregate value of $15,201,676.

Since the completion of the railroad line to the Pacific arrangements have been made to have accepted, throughout the world, the 2 cent rate of postage in Washington, New York, Boston, Philadelphia and San Francisco, and in Salt Lake City, Sacramento City and San Francisco and back. The remainder of the Atlantic and Pacific States have not yet been reached by the Department. They know that mails are carried through from San Francisco to Washington in six days, and thirty hours and fifteen minutes to New York in six days, forty hours; to Chicago in five days, seven hours and thirty minutes; to Cincinnati in five days, twenty-two hours and thirty minutes; and to St Louis in five days one hour and thirty minutes. The shortest distance ever made by the Atlantic express.

The total number of letters passing between the United States and foreign countries, during the year, was 76,168,000, an increase of 12,396,624, of which 6,655,955 were sent from and 5,501,795 received in the United States. The number of letters registered was 6,164,127, an increase of 1,464,172. Estimating the number of letters in the mails of the United States, at only an average of three to a pound, the number of letters exchanged with foreign countries, estimating the average to weigh one pound, would have amounted to 24,014,153 15.

The free delivery system has been in operation during the year in 449 of the principal cities, at the following aggregate results:

Population	1,546
Mail letters delivered	49,071,069
Local letters collected	18,324,487
Newspapers delivered	5,044,170
Letters collected	28,7 0,304
Amount paid carriers, including incidental expenses	$1,383,915 31
Postage on local matter	944,167 42

This shows an increase over last year of:

Letter carriers	48
Mail letters delivered	17,782,566
Local letters collected	4,982,174
Newspapers delivered	5,044,170
Letters collected	28,7 0,304
Amount paid carriers, including incidental expenses	$152,902 72
Postage on local matter	144,167 42

The number of the several classes of letters, domestic and foreign received at the usual hours of delivery for the last fiscal year, was as follows:

Domestic letters classed as—	
Ordinary	2,637,412
Drop	436,000
Free matter	31,988
Unclaimable	1,000
Held	16,658
Fictitious	17,417
Not delivered	2,242
Returned from foreign countries	63,000
Total domestic letters	3,159,676
Foreign letters	193 158
Whole number	3,352,834

Letter carriers increased one hundred and twenty, bearing "return receipts," that is, requests that they receive or leave a receipt for the letter, also in 1868, 1869 the number of registered letters increased one hundred and fifty-six thousand, and that all newspapers sent to subscribers in the United States, from a known office of publication should be carried free without regard to weight. It appears that the United States, as the world throughout the country where printed and published. The report of the department for the last year from the postmasters throughout the country, of $1,328,

This portion of its report is the department can fairly claim to be proud of, and it may be stated that, in the three years, in amount, inexpensive from the department.

The Postmaster General mentions the fact that no American vessels are engaged in the foreign mail service, and makes the following remarks:

If it be possible, I do not greatly prefer such legislation by Congress as would so far revive and encourage our own shipbuilding interests as to enable American builders and mechanics to enter into active competition in the construction and equipment of steam vessels with the builders and mechanics of other countries. If, however, it should be decided that this cannot be done, then I would respectfully suggest the propriety of so modifying our navigation laws as to authorize the vesting of American rights to vessels which shall hereafter be purchased and shall be employed by citizens of the United States under contracts with the Department in the transportation of our foreign mails. Should such a change in our commercial laws be adopted, and the liberty given to the Postmaster General to contract for the transportation of the mails for a term of ten or fifteen years, it is confidently not to exceed the ocean postage, it is believed that lines of first class American steamships would be speedily established for the conveyance of our mails and freights across the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, to the great benefit alike to the commercial and other interests of the United States.

The following is a list of the officials exercising the franking privilege:

President of the United States and his Secretary	2
Vice President	1
Members of the Cabinet	9
United States Senators	74
Members of Congress	241
Delegates in Congress	4
Assistant Secretaries, chief clerk, etc., State Department	5
Assistant Attorney General and chief clerk	2
Area ant Secretary, Commissioner, chief clerk, etc., Interior Department	5
Chief of Bureau, chief clerk, etc., of Navy Department	13
Chiefs of Bureau, chief clerk, etc., of War Department	17
Assistant Secretary, chief clerks, etc., of the Treasury Department	42
Assistant Postmaster General, superintendents of foreign mails, and money order system, and chief clerks Post Office Department	460
Add internal revenue officers, assessors and assistant collectors and deputies	4,116
Postmasters on 1st November, 1869	27,37
Total	31,923

In this statement there is an array of figures, which generally speaking, lord the mails at will with whatever matter they please. In the others, the mails are granted only a limited privilege, yet, practically, the restrictions are no longer operative. To these should be added the 5 cents allowed to address communications to members of Congress, delegates, the Clerk of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Senate, heads of departments, heads of bureaus, chief clerks and all others entitled to frank official matter. How all this is to be checked and reduced can be imposed and enforced against a privilege so widely extended.

The objection that Congress may desire to print and disseminate public documents, is a very small against the appeal of the department for daily, relief, and far fromsuch a fact overwhelming it. If the privilege be abolished, the Congressional Library will be supplied in the mails. It is only asked that they like all other matter, be prepaid. In the case of the Sinking Fund it is urged that this would prevent or impede the diffusion of the knowledge of public affairs among the people, that they need to keep, daily, and if it be the purpose of Congress to give information to the people, it is not to the public service, but to an unbonded press, managed and directed by private enterprise, can do more than Congress to enlighten the masses. Better far that the franking privilege should be abolished, and that all newspapers sent to regular and bona fide subscribers from a known office of publication should be carried free without regard to weight, throughout the country wherein printed and published. The Secretary predicts that millions will be saved annually to the Government, the department be redeemed from bankruptcy, and the postal service become the potent condition of the people in developing and advancing our great country.

We trust earnestly, that the wise suggestions of the Postmaster General will be adopted by Congress. The people throughout our broad land, after passing through a long war with its consequent burdens of taxation, now asked to be relieved in every manner possible; they imperatively demand reform; to have all frauds and every leak stopped; and Congress will fall short of its duty if it fails to meet the people's expectations in these matters.

Only 20 cents for a Superior Oyster Supper at Potts's Indian & Ginda Restaurant, No. 191 Centre street. Prices reduced to suit the times. Call and see for yourselves.

EDITOR MINERS' JOURNAL: SIR: Will you have the kindness to insert the following in your Week's Journal:

The White Baptist Church of Mahanoy City, was benefited with a dest of from $400 to 500. The debt was being less in number and poor, they found it necessary to resort to some plan for raising the above sum. They bought a box of tools used by the boxers in the coal mines, containing a compass, spirit level, and a wire tape, to be given to the boxer obtaining the greatest number of votes at 25 cents each vote. The following gent emen volunteered to contest for it, viz: Mr. Thomas R. Williams, Mahanoy City; Thomas Lewis, Mahanoy City; Mr. Thomas Evans, of Pottsville; Mr. Daniel Davis, of Buck Mountain, and Mr. Lewis Evans, St. Nicholas.

The number of votes and amounts of money received, were as follows:

	VOTES.	CASH.
Thomas R. Williams	252	$63 00
Thomas Lewis	481	120 25
Thomas Evans	400	100 00
Daniel Davis	1116	281 40
Lewis Evans	1600	415 00
Total	4026	$1000 25

Through the kindness of those gentlemen and the liberality of those friends who contributed so freely, by giving their votes for their respective boxes, the church is free of debt, and the members thereof rejoice over the fact, and feel truly grateful to those gentlemen for their aid, as well as to all that contributed towards this worthy object. Mr. Lewis Evans was the prize.

THEOPHILUS JONES,
Pastor of the Church.

Mahanoy City, Dec. 6, 1869.

(CONTINUED.)

"HONOR TO WHOM HONOR IS DUE."

At the late fair in connection with the Lutheran Church, Ashland, a whipper was voted for and contested between Rev. Thomas and Williams, the former a Congregationalist, the latter a Baptist. At the close of the fair it was ascertained that Mr. Thomas was the successful one. On Friday evening last a public meeting was convened for the purpose of presenting the Rev. gentleman with the whipper, as a token of esteem from the Church of which he is pastor, and the public generally, the ceremony being chiefly performed by sisters Maggie Rees and Anne Price, great praise is due to these for having accomplished their labor of love so successfully. Several gentlemen addressed the meeting, amongst whom were Wm. J. Morgan, Joseph Rhodes, David Vaughan, John Philips, congratulating Mr Thomas on his success, though attributing it to the noble exertions of the ladies, and stating that it was sufficient proof that he was highly respected by them. The singing was conducted by Mr. Mason. It was really delightful. The ladies before mentioned presented the whipper, expressing their pleasure at having the opportunity of acknowledging the general appreciation of his valuable services since residing in Ashland, and wishing all his efforts to be crowned with the same success as theirs were in the late contest. Mr. Thomas responded in a very able speech, expressing his sincere thankfulness and appreciation of the honor they have conferred on him.

A votes thanks to the Chairman (Mr. H. Roberts) concluded the meeting.

W. J. M.

Ashland, Dec 6.

SCHUYLKILL HAVEN.

SCHUYLKILL HAVEN, Dec. 9, 1869.

DEAR JOURNAL: Unless there should be a sudden change in the weather, the canal may be considered closed for the season. Every effort is being made to keep it clear of ice in this neighborhood, but it appears to be a hard matter to combat with the cold, more especially in a dead level. This is bad for our boatmen, who expected to continue on until the close of the present month, to make up for lost time during the late freshet.

Mr. John H. Maris, who was reported a week ago as having lost a boat load, was again unfortunate in losing a mule, he falling overboard near Leesport some time last week. The load and team were in charge of Captain George Kauffman, and every effort was made by him to save his team, but of no avail.

The arrest of Marshall, who defrauded the Pennsylvania National Bank, caused quite an excitement at this place last week. Officer Dunlap, who took place in a livery conveyance a short time previous to the arrival of the afternoon train from Philadelphia. He appeared to be a perfect gentleman, and affirmed he was in the very best, smoking a pure Havana, its fine aid grows being a criminal offence, it naturally created quite a stir. Great credit is due to the bank officers for this bank movement, as they ever daily did well in recovering a portion of the funds and caging the sharper.

It is no doubt a pleasure to you to publish in your columns analogies of growing praise addressed to your daily as though it were unanimate being. A correspondent from this place, writing over the signature of "Hank," has won for himself a wonderful fame as the christener and cologist of "Little Spritghty," as he terms it, and which I notice is recognized as his pet name. This is all very good. Your sub critters in this locality are pleased with the "little pet" name, and all appreciate the true merits of the author, as that correspondent has now twice given us the same story. It is hoped that here after he will apply part of his brilliant journalistic talent in furnishing borough news and items of interest to all, he having a superior knowledge of borough affairs, would thus relieve me to a certain extent in my promised correspondence with the daily.

The building season has closed with no improvements for Schuylkill Haven that I can name, and the beautiful buildings of Messrs. Cove and Saylor must wait another year for enter prise to give them company.

Post No. 86, G. A. R., has secured the beautiful and magnificently furnished room of W. C., No. 47, F. O. S. A., for meeting purposes, at almost a give away rental, which speaks well for the Camp, and will enable the Post to make better progress, as it brings them right into the heart of town.

Mr. L. W. Wisinger, cattle broker, and a popular citizen of this place, sustained a severe loss in his line of business, the dogs having killed over three hundred head of sheep within an enclosure, where it was thought no dogs could reach them. Three dogs were engaged in this horrible butchery, one of which was captured; many of the sheep were killed outright,