THE PRESS,

PUBLISHED DAILY, (SUNDAYS EXCEPTED,)

BY JOHN W. FORNEY.

OFFICE, No. 417 CHESTNUT STREET.

DAILY PRESS.

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TRI-WEEKLY PRESS,

Mailed to Subscribers out of the City at THREE DOLLARS PER ANNUM, in advance.

WEEKLY PRESS.

THE WEEKLY PRESS will be sent to Subscribers by mail, (per annum, in advance,) at $2 00
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Five Copies, " " 8 00
Ten Copies, " " 12 00
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☞ Postmasters are requested to act as Agents for THE WEEKLY PRESS.

COUNTING-HOUSE ALMANAC FOR 1858.

1858.	Sunrise	Sun Sets	Moon Rises	High Water	Sun Rises	1858.	Sun Rises	Sun Sets	Moon Rises	High Water	Sun Rises
JAN.						JULY.					
1	3	4	5	6	7	1	4	6	7	8	9 10
10	11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15	16 17
17	18	19	20	21	22	18	19	20	21	22	23 24
24	25	26	27	28	29	25	26	27	28	29	30 31
FEB.						AUG.					
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28						29	30	31			
MAR.						SEPT.			1	2	3 4
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28	29	30	31			26	27	28	29	30	
APR.			1	2	3	OCT.				1	2
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MAY						NOV.	31				
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JUNE			1	2	3 4	DEC.			1	2	3
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20	21	22	23	24	25 26		19	20	21	22	23 24 25
27	28	29	30				26	27	28	29	30 31

Sale.

WARBURTON'S INIMITABLE COVERINGS FOR THE HEAD

Embrace all the points necessary to GENTEEL EFFECT, and all the details and nice elegances which impart FINISH, COMFORT, AND DURABILITY. Gentlemen are invited to sell and examine.

o025-4m 440 CHESTNUT Street.

Holiday Gifts.

AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES.

A beautiful selection of the HOLIDAY GOODS, suitable for Presents, to be found in GREAT VARIETY, at the corner of FOURTH AND CHESTNUT STREETS, such as

PORTEMONNAIES,
POCKET BOOKS,
PORTFOLIOS,
DRESSING CASES,
WRITING CASES,
BANKERS' CASES,
BANK BOOK HOLDERS,
BILL BOOKS,
MONEY BELTS,
CIGAR CASES,
RAZOR STROPS;
WORK CASES,
CARD CASES,
NEEDLE CASES,
POCKET CUTLERY,
ROGERS' RAZORS,
CHESS BOARDS,
BACKGAMMON BOARDS,
PAPIER MACHE WORK BOXES,
DESKS, &c
GOLD PENS, and
GOLD AND SILVER PENCIL CASES.

W. H. SMITH,
N. W. corner FOURTH and CHESTNUT Sts.

d27-2w

LOOKING GLASSES,

ENGRAVINGS, AND OIL PAINTINGS, FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

JAMES S. EARLE

Offers for sale the Largest Assortment of the above, at the LOWEST PRICES to be found in the city.

DARLEY'S beautiful ILLUSTRATIONS of "MARGARET," JUST RECEIVED.

EARLE'S GALLERIES,
816 CHESTNUT Street.

de18-3m

333 MELVIN'S 333
AMERICAN
GIFT BOOK STORE,
336 CHESTNUT STREET,
BELOW FOURTH.
HOLIDAYS! HOLIDAYS!
GIFT BOOKS
AND
GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS.
de19-2w

GREAT BARGAINS FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR PRESENTS.

LADIES' WINTER CLOAKS.
FINAL REDUCTION IN PRICES
TO CLOSE THE SEASON.
J. W. PROCTOR & CO.,
Successors to Geo. Bulpin & Co.,
de23-tjs12 708 CHESTNUT street.

A BEAUTIFUL PRESENT FOR A WIFE, DAUGHTER, SISTER, OR FEMALE FRIEND, ONE OF GROVER & BAKER'S FAMILY SEWING MACHINES, FOR SALE AT No. 730 CHESTNUT Street.

de22-tjs1

Watches, Jewelry, &c.

SILVER.—WM. WILSON & SON Have now on hand the largest stock of SILVER WARE IN THE CITY, Exclusively of their own manufacture and WARRANTED Persons desirous of purchasing are respectfully invited to call and examine for themselves, at the OLD ESTABLISHED STAND, de19-2w S. W. Cor. FIFTH and CHERRY Streets.

BAILEY & CO., CHESTNUT STREET, Manufacturers of BRITISH STERLING SILVER WARE, Under their inspection, on the premises exclusively Citizens and Strangers are invited to visit our manufactory.

WATCHES.

Constantly on hand a splendid stock of Superior Watches, of all the celebrated makers.

DIAMONDS.

Necklaces, Bracelets, Brooches, Ear-Rings, Finger-Rings, and all other articles in the Diamond line. Drawings of NEW DESIGNS will be made free of charge for those wishing work made to order.

RICH GOLD JEWELRY.

A beautiful assortment of all the new styles of Fine Jewelry, such as Mosaic, Stone and Shell Cameo, Pearl, Coral, Carbuncle, Marquisite, Lava, &c., &c.

SHEFFIELD CASTORS, BASKETS, WAITERS, &c. Also, Bronze and Marble CLOCKS, of newest styles, and of superior quality. aul-4tw&wly

J. E. CALDWELL & CO., 422 CHESTNUT Street, have received, per steamers, new styles Jewelry, Chatelaine, Vest Chains, Splendid Vases, Hair Pins, Fruit Stands, Sugar Baskets, Jet Goods and Flower Vases, Coral, Lava and Mosaic Sets.

Sole Agents in Philadelphia for the sale of Charles Frodsham's LONDON TIME-KEEPERS. de10

SILVER WARE.—WILLIAM WILSON & SON, MANUFACTURERS OF SILVER WARE, (ESTABLISHED 1812,) S. W. CORNER FIFTH AND CHERRY STREETS. A large assortment of SILVER WARE, of every description, constantly on hand, or made to order to match any pattern desired. Importers of Sheffield and Birmingham imported ware. se30-6&wly

J. S. JARDEN & BRO. MANUFACTURERS AND IMPORTERS OF SILVER-PLATED WARE, No. 504 Chestnut Street, above Third, (up stairs,) Philadelphia. Constantly on hand and for sale to the Trade, TEA SETS, COMMUNION SERVICE SETS, URNS, PITCHERS, GOBLETS, CUPS, WAITERS, BASKETS, CASTORS, KNIVES, SPOONS, FORKS, LADLES, &c., &c. Gilding and plating on all kinds of metal. se2-1y

PHILADELPHIA TYPE FOUNDRY.—N. W. Cor. THIRD and CHERNUT Sts. L. FELOUZE & SON, thankful for the liberal patronage heretofore accorded to their Establishment, and desirous to merit its continuance, would announce to Printers and Publishers that their new SPECIMEN BOOK is now ready, and from their increased facilities, are now prepared to furnish every thing necessary in a complete Printing Establishment, at the shortest notice. Their long practical experience in the business, and the fact of their personal superintendence of the manufacturing department, justifies them in asserting that they can furnish a more durable and better finished article than their competitors.

Those, therefore, who desire Printing Materials, would do well to apply to them previous to purchasing elsewhere.

Old type taken at 9 cents per pound, in exchange for new at specimen prices. aul-tf

ARCHER, WARNER, MISKEY, & CO., MANUFACTURERS OF GASALIERS, BRACKETS, PENDANTS, FITTINGS, and all kinds of Gas and Lamp Work, Girandoles, &c., No. 820 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA. ARCHER, WARNER, & CO., No. 375 BROADWAY, NEW YORK. ☞ Buildings fitted with Gas Pipes, and all kinds of fitting and repairing of Gas Work. de12 3m

5,000 GALLS. WHALE OIL, 1,000 gall. Elephant Oil, 50 bbls. No. 1 Lard Oil, for sale by GROARDALE, PERCE, & CO., No. 104 N. Delaware avenue. se10-3t

5,000 TONS of MITCHELL & CROAS-DALE'S improved super PHOSPHATE OF LIME, for sale by GROARDALE, PERCE & CO., No. 104 N. Delaware avenue. se10-3t

ROSIN.—500 BARRELS SOAPMAKERS ROSIN, in store and for sale by J. R. FLANNER & CO., MARTIN & MACALISTER, 139 North Water street.

The Press.

VOL. I.—NO. 129. PHILADELPHIA, FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 1858. TWO CENTS.

LITTLETON COKE VERSUS FLORA Mc FLIMSEY.

BY THE BARD OF TOWER HALL.

(Continued.)

Describing his mansion, in vain should I tell
Of the carpets from Turkey, the carpets Brussell,
Which, in richness of finish, in pattern and dye,
Gave a bloom to the cheek, and a light to the eye.
Ah! well might the feet that those carpets shall press
Be proud of the honor of such a caress;
As proud as the bee when in summer it goes
To take for its carpets the leaves of the rose,
And over the carpets, in pattern so rare,
Some pencil artistic had wrought on the ceiling,
And cupids and cherubs were smiling from there,
The taste and the skill of the artist revealing.
There were mirrors, and pictures, and sofas in pairs;
Pianos and ottomans, lounges and chairs;
Statues in marble, where artists had wrought
The poet's conception, the symbolied thought.
Curtains of damask, and curtains of lace;
Tassels suspended in beauty and grace;
Cornices golden, and gay chandeliers,
To brighten and lighten that charming abode;
All that convenience and fashion endears,
The richest in finish, the latest in mode.
He'd a nice trotting gig, and a very light chaise,
A carriage, a coachman, a pair of fine bays;
With a trotter admired, a spirited steed,
Perhaps from the stock of the "Tartar Ukraine;"
A very distinguished and popular breed,
Maseppa once rode, without bridle or rein.—
'Tis certain I am not enough of a linguist,
To give you in Tartar, the points that distinguish
A horse of this breed, of which Byron has said,
"It moved like the winds, like a comet it sped."
Now the horse of my story was not quite so fast,
He had never been matched 'gainst a comet or blast;
And in case that he had, I am now of the mind,
I should bet two to one on the comet or wind;
Though our pony, when crowded, would come to the poore
Inside of two-forty five minutes, or more.

The Emperor Nicholas, of Russia, the Czar,
Was always unhappy without his cigar;
And Littleton Coke was most wretched indeed
Without Spanish wrappers enclosing the weed.
For smoking, he thought, to his life gave a zest,
And having the money, he purchased the best.
He also was fond of his wine and champagne,
Though believing sobriety right in the main;
But, when asked by a friend if the pledge he would sign,
And give up his juleps, his brandy, and wine,
He bade him begone, with a frown;
He would not surrender his rights any how;
He had read the Maine Law, and had heard of Neal Dow,
But he was not prepared to *cancel debtes*.
Little Littleton Coke, with his mansion so fine,
Had something within him his pleasure to mar;
A something that could not be washed out with wine,
Nor could it be smoked out, with pipe or cigar.
This something within, all the gold he possessed,
Could not lure from his bosom, or bribe to depart,
And this something, was *nothing*; twas this, *more or less*,
A tenantless chamber, a void in his heart.
He often had thought if a married man's life
With his feelings and views had accorded,
He might to his bosom have taken a wife,
And a void in his heart *could*-ed.
With this thought in his mind to his couch one night,
While tears from his eyes were stealing,
He went in the hope that some spirit of light,
A balm of relief revealing,
Might come to his pillow, suggesting there,
Some maiden his love and his wealth to share.
Then vanished the world, and its troubles before him,
The balm of forgetfulness gently stole o'er him,
And leaving his burdens and sorrows behind,
The angel of sleep, on its soft, downy pinions,
Had ushered him into those blissful dominions,
The bright world of fancy, the realm of the mind.

(To be continued.)

And as the old year is not to be continued, I advise my readers to make 1858 a "Happy New Year," by securing some of the bargains in Clothing, offered at BENEDICT'S TOWER HALL, No. 518 MARKET Street, south side, between Fifth and Sixth.

Notices.

INSURANCE COMPANY OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 24, 1857.

The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders will be held at the Company's Office, No. 4 EXCHANGE, on TUESDAY, January 5th, 1858, at 12 o'clock noon; and an Election for Thirteen Directors will be held at same place on MONDAY, January 11, 1858, between the hours of 10 o'clock, A. M. and 1 o'clock P. M.

de25-tjal1 WILLIAM HARPER, Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE NORTH PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY.

The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of "THE NORTH PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY" will be held at the office of the Company, No. 123 WALNUT, above Fourth street, Philadelphia, on MONDAY, January 11, 1858, at 11 o'clock A M., at which time and place an Election will be held for a President and Ten Directors, to serve for the ensuing year.

de25-tjja11 EDWARD ARMSTRONG, Secretary.

NOTICE.—Office of the Westmoreland Coal Company, Philadelphia, December 19th 1857.

The annual meeting of the Stockholders of this Company will be held at their office, No. 230 South THIRD Street, on WEDNESDAY, the 6th of January, 1858, at 12 o'clock, at which time an Election will be held for Eleven Directors, and a Secretary and Treasurer, to serve for the ensuing year. F. H. JACKSON, Secretary.

de21-tja

NOTICE.—Office of the Beaver Meadow Railroad Company.

PHILADELPHIA, December 14, 1857.

The annual meeting of the Stockholders of the Beaver Meadow Railroad and Coal Company will be held at their office, No. 322 WALNUT Street, on MONDAY, the 11th day of January, 1858, at 12 o'clock, when an election will be held for President and ten Directors for the ensuing year.

de15-dtja16 L. CHAMBERLAIN, Sec. and Treas.

PHILADELPHIA, WILMINGTON AND BALTIMORE RAILROAD COMPANY.—DECEMBER 10, 1857.

The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of this Company will take place in WILMINGTON, at the office of the Company on MONDAY, the 11th of January next, at 12 M. for the Election of Directors to serve for the ensuing year, and for the transaction of such other business as may legally come before the meeting.

de11-twtJ11 ALFRED HORNER, Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE WESTMORELAND COAL COMPANY, No. 230 South Third street, corner of Willing's alley.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 24th, 1857.

At a meeting of the Directors, held this day, a Dividend of EIGHT PER CENT. was declared on the Capital Stock, payable to the Stockholders at the Office of the Company on and after January 4th, 1858.

The Transfer Books will be closed until January 8th next.

de24-fmwtja4 F. H. JACKSON, Treasurer.

PHILADELPHIA AND READING RAILROAD CO.—Office 227 South Fourth Street, PHILADELPHIA, Dec 24, 1857.

To avoid detention, the holders of Coupons of this Company due on the 1st proximo are requested to leave them at this Office on or before the 31st inst, when receipts will be given, and checks will be ready for delivery on the 22 proximo in exchange for such receipts.

de24-tjs1 B. BRADFORD, Treasurer.

OFFICE OF THE LOCUST MOUNTAIN COAL AND IRON CO.—PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 16, 1857.—The annual meeting of the Stockholders of this Company will be held at their office, No. 88 S. FOURTH Street, on MONDAY, the 18th January, at 11 o'clock A. M., at which time there will be an election of Directors to serve for the ensuing year.

de20-dtja18 WM. C. LUDWIG, Secretary.

REMOVAL.—The business of the PENNSYLVANIA BANK will be removed on the 1st proximo, to the second story of the building, WALNUT street, east of Third. The owners of property lodged at the Bank for safe keeping will please remove it before that day, or it will be stored elsewhere at their expense and risk.

de9-tjs1 J. L. FENIMORE, Assistant Cashier.

For Sale and To Let.

COLLIERIES.—To let, at a low rate per ton, valuable COAL-MINES, well situated to all the Southern as well as Eastern markets, having outlets by railroad and canal, with coal-breakers, cars, and all conveniences for a large and profitable business. Communications addressed to W., at the Grocery Store of WILLIAM L. MADDOCK, No. 115 South THIRD Street, Philadelphia, with name and reference, will receive early attention. de23-tuwf-3t

FOR SALE.—The four-story GRANITE BUILDING, on the north side of CHESTNUT Street, west of Fourth, intended for the Pennsylvania Bank, and now nearly finished. If not sold prior to January 1st, the Banking Room, and other parts of the building, will be rented separately, or together.

Apply to THOMAS CRAVEN,
de5-stuthtJ1 No. 4 MINOR Street.

DESIRABLE OFFICES at 520 WALNUT St., opposite the State House; one of the best business locations in Philadelphia, with heat, light, and all modern conveniences. Apply on the premises, Room No. 8, to G. W. J. BALL, Agent. no20

Express Companies.

WELLS, FARGO, & CO., NEW YORK AND CALIFORNIA EXPRESS CO. and EXCHANGE DEALERS; A JOINT STOCK COMPANY. CAPITAL $600,000 OFFICE, 400 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

Express sent to CALIFORNIA, OREGON, and SANDWICH ISLANDS on the 5th and 20th, and to HAVANA on 7th, 12th, and 27th of each month, from NEW YORK.

EXCHANGE for sale in sums to suit, and COLLECTIONS MADE on California, Oregon, Sandwich Islands, and Havana.

W. F. & Co. receive freight consigned to them at SAN FRANCISCO, Per Clipper Ship, and collect invoices on delivery of the same.

NOTICE TO CALIFORNIA BONDHOLDERS.

W. F. & Co are now prepared to receive the OLD BONDS of the State of CALIFORNIA, transport the same to Sacramento City, and procure new ones, in accordance with the act of 28th April, 1857, and return same to this city.

de21-1m D N. BARNEY, Jr., Agent

THE ADAMS EXPRESS CO., OFFICE, 320 CHESTNUT STREET, forwards PARCELS, PACKAGES, MERCHANDIZE, BANK NOTES and SPECIE, either by its own LINES, or in connection with other EXPRESS COMPANIES, to all the principal TOWNS and CITIES of the United States.

E. S. SANDFORD,
aul-tf General Superintendent.

Attorneys at Law.

LEWIS S. WELLS, ATTORNEY AT LAW, No. 2 AIRY STREET, NORRISTOWN, Pa., will attend with punctuality, and to the best of his ability, to all business entrusted to his care. oct-3m

DANIEL DOUGHERTY, ATTORNEY AT LAW, Southeast Corner of EIGHTH and LOCUST Streets, Philadelphia. aul-1y

MYER STROUSE, ATTORNEY AT LAW, CENTRE street, Pottsville, Pa. aul-1y

MANILLA ROPE.—SUPERIOR MANILLA ROPE, manufactured and for sale by WEAVER, FITLER & CO., oct-w No. 34 N. Water st., and 29 N Wharves.

STORAGE on SECOND and THIRD FLOORS can be had at 119 North Water street. Apply to MARTIN & MACALISTER. no28

WELCOME RANGE.—SOLD BY CHADWICK & BRO, 506 N. SECOND St. au18-3m

The Press.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 1858.

VALEDICTORY TO 1857.

Change is the perpetual fate of every thing, and, however slow its progress, it is inevitable. Time does not stand still, in any case, and year after year glides into the unfathomed abysm of the Past, surely though almost imperceptibly. We now stand on the narrow isthmus which separates the shadowy Past from the far-extending Future. Even while we write, the Present is vanishing. The hours, the closing moments of 1857 are nearly run out, and the New Year is ready, in all the vigor of youth and hope, to run the race which, from the commencement of time, his predecessors have run.

There is something sorrowful, and even subduing, in parting with an old friend—aware that the separation is for ever. Well did BYRON speak of

"The Past, the Future—two eternities,"

seeling that Memory and Hope are the handmaids who wait upon us through the destined term of our human existence. Years steal on us, and steal from us, and it would indeed be sad to remember the cares and pains which each month has heaped upon us, were it not that Hope remained, holding out bright promise for the days to come. As we grow older, we have more and more to remember, and the sorrows and the cares of life strike us more sensibly than the joys and the happiness; for

"Joy's recollection is no longer joy,
But Sorrow's memory is a thing that will."

The thoughtful mind will turn back, and meditate upon the changes which have occurred in the closing year, even within his own circle, even in his own life. On some the dark shadow of mortality has cast its gloom. On others, love and friendship have become chilled and changed, and gay hopes of happy life have faded away, like the dissolving views exhibited by a magic lantern. Many have fallen from worldly prosperity into comparative, or even actual necessity. With some, the soarings of ambition have been checked. With *others, paradisal glimpses of domestic happi*ness have glided into cold reality—have dazzled but to disappoint. Amid these changes, have come others of a softer and gladder aspect—*the fulfilment of expectations which the heart* had scarcely dared to confess even to itself; the realization, even to fulness, of ambitious aims; the enjoyment of home felicity; the increase of worldly fortune.

Pretty evenly balanced, we do believe, are what we call good and evil in this world—ignorantly call them, for in the seeming ill, there may be, and there must be, some high purpose of the Omnipotent. What each man may look upon as a misfortune, is likely enough to have been sent as a lesson; and surely not sent in vain, if it lead him to the more serious consideration of the fleeting nature of earthly joy or sorrow; of the importance and the necessity of turning the mind heavenward; of seeking consolation, where alone it can be found, in what Religion teaches, in the promises which Faith accepts and Experience sanctifies.

It is peculiarly fitting that, at the close of a year, men should review, in their own minds, the events which have personally affected themselves within its limit, and of soberly considering how much of the sufferings each has experienced may have arisen from his own misdoings or short-comings. In how many instances will it be found that a duty neglected has led to serious inconvenience or sorrow, and that, in fact, there is no such thing as a causeless event, any where. The errors of omission and commission shape our ways, and—could we but see and acknowledge it—*most of our sorrows, vexations, and trials* have originated with ourselves. This is a thought which a self-communing man will seriously apply, and if he be warned in 1858, by what *occurred in 1857, he may profit by the lesson.*

It much the same with nations as with individuals. Look, for example, to India, and see what fearful events have occurred there within the year which, even now, *is slowly* passing away. Who will say that England, partly by misgovernment and partly by neglect, has not deserved the fearful retribution which has fallen upon her in Hindostan. Who shall declare that there is not a palpable lesson in the sad events which have there occurred. Not that writing upon the wall which made BELSHAZZER tremble, and sit "like one astonied," spoke more directly to his mind than does the Indian revolt speak, trumpet-tongued, to the heart of haughty England.

The Empire of which CLIVE laid the foundation in 1757, has been nearly broken up in 1857, and nothing, under God, except the gallantry of HAVELOCK, WILSON, and such commanders of more handfuls of British troops, beset by myriads of relentless and savage Sepoys and Mahomedans, could have prov ented that ruin. England, looking on Hindostan only as a treasury, neglected the moral and religious culture of the Hindoos, and having sown the wind has fearfully reaped the whirlwind. In this very 1858, into which we are now passing, a new system will probably be commenced in India, to retrieve the past in that great land.

There is a charming rural custom, in many parts of England, of ringing the old year out and ringing the new year in. The chimes, on the last day of 1857, will sound a welcome note through the silence of the midnight. We have no such custom here. There is no *requiem for the departing, no merry welcome* for the coming year. Yet not unnoticed, not unhonored, is the advent of the new year. In France, they call its opening *le jour de l'an—emphatically the day of the year—and set it* entirely apart for visit-making and gift-bestowing. In England, it is celebrated with almost as much solemnity and sociality (for the two elements can combine) as even Christmas day itself.

In New York, and also in some other great cities in this country, business is wholly suspended on New Year's Day, and, from early morn to the close of day, gentlemen are in one continued whirl of excitement and of visit-paying. Hospitality is freely dispensed at every house, and all goes "merry as a marriage bell," though there *may* be some severe headaches in the morning.

The clock peals out the last stroke of twelve, and, while 1857 departs, we stand in the presence of 1858. May the New Year find us all happier and better than the old one has left us. To all friends, in true sincerity, we wish "A Happy New Year!"

FROM THE JUNIATA VALLEY.

LEWISTOWN, Dec. 24, 1857.

MR. EDITOR: The Democracy of old Mifflin still cherish a fervent devotion to the great doctrine of popular sovereignty, as embraced in the Kansas-Nebraska bill, and endorsed by the Cincinnati Convention. You will not, therefore, be surprised to learn that, almost to a man, we are opposed to the admission of Kansas under the Lecompton Constitution. With the peculiar qualities of that instrument, we claim to have nothing to do. If it suit the people of Kansas, it will suit us. But it is a matter that concerns us, to know whether it embodies the sentiments of a majority of the *bona fide* settlers of the Territory, or is abhorrent to their views of interest, right, and justice. Upon this question there can be no real conflict of opinion. The Convention was not a representation of the voters of the entire Territory, as a large proportion, without any fault of their own, were prevented from sending delegates to the Convention, and to add insult to injury, the framers of the Constitution, in violation of their solemn assurances, and to the disappointment of the just expectations of the citizens of the Territory and the whole country, refused to submit it to the popular tribunal, because they were ashamed of their work, and knew it would receive a most hearty condemnation.

We think the Democracy ought to be a unit upon this question. Rely upon it, the honest-hearted and clear-headed masses will sustain *The Press* in its fearless vindication of truth and exposition of error. "The will of the majority" is a principle to which they have pledged an eternal fidelity, and no considerations of expediency will induce them to violate their solemn obligations.

Yours, truly, KISHACOQUILLAS.

THE GAS WORKS.

In the midst of the gloomy atmosphere, moral, and financial, by which we are surrounded, it is refreshing to have an occasional glimpse of purer and brighter spots, giving rise to a cheerful hope that confidence may yet be reposed in human nature even when in official station. We have in our midst a public institution which has been managed for more than twenty years by the same hands and heads, with an unobtrusive assiduity and skill having but few parallels in the annals of municipal enterprises.

The facts given below have been brought to notice by the well-directed efforts of a committee of investigation appointed by Common Councils nearly three months ago.

In the course of a scrutiny recently made by a committee of Councils, appointed on the 1st day of October last, to examine into the affairs of the City Gas Works, certain statistical facts have been elicited, the study of which will enable any competent accountant, or person of business capacity, to arrive at a correct judgment as to the relative economy and skill displayed in the construction and management of this large public work, in comparison with one built by private capital, which has been selected by the originators of this inquiry, under a well-founded belief that it affords a favorable example of careful frugality and thrift.

The statistics are derived from official records laid before Councils and their Committee on Gas, at various times within the past two years, by the Boards of Trustees of the two establishments, whose periodical statements, repeated annually for twenty years, must be esteemed worthy of confidence.

The relative positions of the two works, as respects their facilities for cheapness of construction, may be deemed as nearly identical as is possible with so great difference of magnitude.

The first section of the City Gas Works was put into operation in the year 1836, under the supervision of Mr. S. V. Merrick, the engineer who planned and constructed them.

The first section of the Northern Liberties Gas Works was built in the year 1836, under the supervision of the same gentleman, who, with the advantage of having the use, free of cost, of many of the patterns made for the City Works, and of starting with improvements in the apparatus that had then been added to the other after they were built.

Both works have been kept in continuous operation, and have been enlarged from time to time, as the demands for gas increased.

In the month of March, 1856, the Trustees of Northern Liberties Gas Works had before a joint committee, authorized by Councils to negotiate for the purchase of their works, a detailed inventory of their property, real and personal, in proof that it was worth the price named by them in treating for a sale to the city, and, in proof of the same years, they had presented their usual annual report of receipts and expenditures, showing the cost of the several items contained in the inventory. The Trustees of the City Gas Works have likewise made annual reports to Councils, twenty-two in number, exhibiting, with very minute details, the amount of their various property and its cost. From these reports have been derived the statistics of both works.

By a statement compiled from those official records give, in minute detail, the value of the property of each establishment, measured by its effective capacity and tons of iron, with the cost of each item.

From these are prepared collated inventories showing their ratios of value and cost.

As the inventories show simply the quantity of property, as measured, only by its capacity for making, storing, and distributing gas, without any regard to the permanency of construction, styles of finish, or convenience of arrangement for saving labor, any comparison of the two establishments, in the terms of these inventories, must be to the disadvantage of that one in which the greatest regard has been had to those important elements of skilful engineering; and some extra *cost* would be justifiable at least for the first and named items.

In the following tabular statement of the collated inventories, no account is made of any superiority of either the *works in these respects*, the values set down being represented by their productive capacities as so much machinery. *Collated statement of the amount of the property of the two establishments in term of its useful capacity for making, storing, and distributing gas.*

	City Gas Works.	N. L. Gas Works.	Ratio.
Capacity factory	2,700,000 c. f.	300,000 c. f.	9.0 to 1
" storage	3,450,000 "	340,000 "	
Street mains	13,107 tons.	742 tons.	17.5 to 1
Meters	24,396	2,886	12 9 to 1
Value in lights	144,265	10,111	14 2 to 1
Service pipes	24,446	2,427	10 0 to 1
Entire ratio of value	12,5 to 1		50 0 to 4

Collating in like manner, the reported *cost of these items gives the following ratios.*

	City Gas Works.	N. L. Gas Works.	Ratio.
Works and gas	$1,266,819 19	$167,266 19	8 5 to 1
Holders & mains	906,612 37	93,125 37	9 8 to 1
Meters	228,356 10	27,341 22	9 3 to 1
Service pipes	205,208 48	33,367 50	6 4 to 1
	$2,661,002 64	$275,168 03	39 to 4

Or a ratio of 9½ to 1.

From this it appears that the City Works, with more than twelve times as much useful machinery and apparatus, have cost only nine and three quarter times as much as the works in the Northern Liberties. In the latter are included the cost, the former, measured by the same scale, are worth $600,000 more than cost, independently of any superiority in durability or economical convenience. Adding this sum to their reported cost shows their value to be $3,215,774 63.

Of the amount set down as the entire cost of the works, the report shows that the sum of $378,466 62 had been paid for directly out of the profits, without the issue of any loan, and that of the loans issued, amounting to $1,780,000, the further sum of $691,500 had been redeemed out of the profits at a cost of $705,441 03, leaving as the whole amount of outstanding bonds, over and above those in the sinking fund, only $1,088,700. Adding to this sum the amount of city funds assumed by the gas works under ordinance of March 20th, 1855, "for the relief of taxation," makes a gross sum of $1,538,700, which represents the entire debt of the Gas Works at the date of the report. And as the works now stand to be worth, according to the Northern Liberties' economical scale of construction, $3,215,774 35, there remains a clear gain to the city, from the operations of the Gas Works, of more than one million six hundred thousand dollars.

In what manner the earnings of the Northern Liberties works will compare with those shown above, their report to Councils does not afford the means of ascertaining, as there is no account given of the amount of coal, &c., on hand, nor of the debts due to them or by them. But the details of the profit and loss account, given in the report of the City works, furnish data for determining what would be their earnings, if the prices charged for gas were the same as those of the Northern Liberties' works, and will thus enable any one who may be familiar with the affairs of the latter to make an accurate comparison of the relative economy in the daily working of the two establishments, which appears to be one of the questions raised in the discussion of the subject in Councils.

The prices heretofore charged, in the Northern *Liberties*, were $2.70 per M *to private customers*, $1.75 to public lamps, and an intermediate price to other gas companies. Those of the city were $2.25 to private consumers, $1.50 to public lamps, and $1.687½ to gas companies. The discounts for cash being alike in both works, need not to be taken into account.

The profit and loss account in the city gas report shows that after appropriating from the earnings of the year 1856—

To pay interest on loans, the sum of $104,455 00
To the sinking fund, under ordinances 51,885 00
For city loans, assumed under ordinance of March 20, 1855 ..... 35,000 00
These remained of earnings applicable to extensions 42,201 93

Adding to these the amount that would have accrued, if the prices of the Northern Liberties had been received, say—

Forty-five cents on 304,961,000 feet $137,232 45
Less 5 per cent. discount 6,861 62
$130,370 83
And 50 cents on 80,935,200 feet charged to public lamps 40,467 60
170,838 43

Would make the earnings of that year, $405,323 36

Which is over 18 per cent. on the whole indebtedness that had ever been incurred for the works, real estate, and public lamps, and over 25 per cent. on the entire amount of debt outstanding at the date of the report.

INTERESTING STATISTICS FOR 1857.

A Record of the Old Year.

We present the readers of *The Press* to-day with some very useful and interesting statistics relative the different departments of the city government, which we have been engaged in compiling for some time past. The figures which we give, may well be termed the history of Philadelphia during the past year. In a few statistics can be concentrated the substance of ten thousand facts, and a single column may show forth the lights and shades of myriad-colored life. Among these figures, those which give the gauge and dimensions of human misery are not the least important. Pauperism is rapidly increasing in our midst. The almshouse, the county prison, and the squalid hovel have their *regular inmates, marked and* sealed for such abodes, and their numbers tell no trifling tale of want. Fifteen thousand prisoners committed to the county prison in one year, most of them for offences arising from destitution, show how poverty can verge into crime, and furnish an array of criminals.

We received from Henry W. Arey, Esq., Secretary of the Board of Directors of Girard College, the following facts relative to that noblest of our Philadelphia institutions. During the year, 77 orphans have been received into the institution, 33 have been bound out to learn trades, 3 died, and 1 was expelled for violation of rules, leaving in the College, at the present time, 340. The affairs of the College have been so managed that $5,000 of the appropriation made by Councils for the year 1857 has been returned as unexpended. This is an example that some Departments would do well to imitate. In a recent number of the *Press* we gave a full and correct account of the essential changes which have been made in the interior *construction of the College*. The ladies and gentlemen connected with this institution have a most important trust committed to their care, and the experience of the past year fully attests that they have not been unmindful of their responsibility.

MURDERS IN THE CITY.

During the past year there were sixteen murders committed in this city. There were eleven trials, and three convictions. The following are yet to be tried, so far as we know time, as we learn by inquiry, has not been fixed:

George Freeth—offence committed on the 17th of August.

John Gallagher—offence committed on the 12th of October.

Edward Dempsey—offence committed Oct 16th.

Wm. Ridgeley—offence committed in October.

John Kilpatrick—offence committed Oct. 20th.

James Quigley—alleged offence committed Oct. 28th.

Thomas W. Smith—offence committed on the 4th of November.

George Ackford—offence committed Dec. 25th.

The following is the whole number of arrests made by the force during the year 1857, as compared