THE COURTS.

SATURDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

THE "ANNA MEISTER" SOCIETY.—SENTENCE OF KRAFFT FOR ARSON.

[Reported for The Press.]

SUPREME COURT—Chief Justice Lowrie and Justices Thompson and Read.—The court met on Saturday morning, but no business of public interest was transacted. After hearing two rules the court adjourned.

NISI PRIUS—Justice Strong.—Faran vs. Manigle. In equity. This cause came on to be further heard, and was argued by counsel, and thereupon, upon consideration thereof, it was ordered, adjudged, and decreed as follows, viz: That the special injunction formerly granted in this case to restrain the defendant be made perpetual, and that said defendant account for, and pay to, complainants the profits of all sales by him and his agents of said refrigerators; and it is further ordered that the defendant do pay to the complainants their costs of suit to be taxed, &c.

Daniel Delaney vs. The City of Philadelphia. An action to recover damages for injuries alleged to have been sustained by the laying of a culvert at Swanson and Walnut streets. It appears from the evidence that the defendants had a culvert laid in Walnut street, and in so doing used three steam engines, which were placed in the street, in front of plaintiff's house. The plaintiff keeps a public house at Swanson and Walnut streets, and he alleges that the noise and smoke from the engines incommoded his boarders so much, that they left his house, and sought other places to board at, and Mr. Bloodgood, who keeps a hotel near the plaintiff's house, testified that he was annoyed in a similar manner; that the steam engines were in operation both night and day, and were making from between 100 to 120 *revolutions per minute*. *The case is still* on trial.

We think the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company et al. vs. the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company. In Equity. And now, January 7th, 1860, this cause came to be heard upon bill and answer, and on consideration the court order and decree that the bill of complainants be dismissed.

COMMON PLEAS—Judges Thompson and Ludlow.—On Saturday morning application was made on the part of the Hestonville Railroad Company, to compel the West Philadelphia Railroad Company to agree to the appointment of appraisers to assess the amount of compensation which the former shall be required to pay the latter for the privilege of using the track of the same. The Hestonville Railroad Company claim the right under their charter to use the West *Philadelphia* Railroad.

The matter was argued by Mr. Cuyler for the West Philadelphia Railroad Company, and by Mr. Miret for the Hestonville Company. The court refused to grant the application, not being able to see that the Hestonville Company had the right to use the road of the West Philadelphia Company.

DISTRICT COURTS—Judges Sharswood, Stroud, and Hare.—Nothing of public interest transpired in this court.

QUARTER SESSIONS—Judge Allison.—A rather curious case was finally disposed of in this court on Saturday. People in this enlightened age are apt to talk complacently of the wisdom of their own generation, and to smile in pitying contempt at the superstition of their forefathers, who believed in witchcraft and in hanging or burning its professors. There are occasional glimpses obtained behind the scenes, in certain circles, which prove that there is still a pretty large sprinkling of fools left, and that planet-readers, "astrologists," seventh sons of seventh sons, *clairvoyants*, manages a flourishing and to advertise their business in the public prints. There is a society in existence in this city which—*more fully illustrates the maxim that "the fools are not all dead yet"* than even the support it receives to fortune-tellers and other swindlers. This society is known as the "Anna Meister," the members of which—and they are not few, but confined exclusively to our German population—believe that Anna M., a rather fascinating looking German maiden is the daughter of God, and that they ought to obey her in all things. Followers of this bold swindler have obeyed her so far that husbands have left their wives, and wives their husbands, she instructing them that they must live a pure life, which they cannot do if they cohabit.

The Anna Meister society has been in existence for several years, and numbers a large membership in Philadelphia. Anna Meister is of course handsomely supported, that being the first duty of her followers; not only is she robed in silks and satins, but she feasts perpetually on all the good things of this terrestrial ball. This impostor was found in a garret, in the Northern Liberties, and was in very straightened circumstances, until she hit upon this imposition, which answers her to so good a purpose. So infatuated have been the deluded followers that they have laid at her feet all their jewelry and all the ready money they could command, which she is not loth to appropriate to herself. Among other curious teachings, her followers are required to set aside one hour in the hour of the night, prepared in a particular manner, and she prohibits the use of anything but spring water. This impostor was convicted several years ago of some of her villainies, and she spent some months in prison. A little more experience of the same kind would do her no harm, and might do her crazy followers good.

Some time since a man named John Rudman made application to the Court of Quarter Sessions for the custody of his child, a boy five years of age, who was in the care of his (the child's) mother. The latter (the father) alleged, was living apart from him, and being a follower of Anne Meister, he did not consider her a fit person to have charge of the training of so young a child. The evidence completely exposed the deception practised by the pretended prophetess, and the delusion of the people in following her. The case, in short, was as follows:—Rudman, Esq., appearing as counsel for the father. A number of the followers of Anne Meister were examined, and they testified to their belief in her divinity and teachings, calling her "the last witness." After a full hearing, *Judge Allison said*, the best way to dispose of the case, would be for the parties to live together again as they had done, at the time they were first married, but as the mother was not willing so to do, he would have to decide the case in accordance with the law relating to such matters. She said that she would like again to live with her husband, provided he would observe a "pure life" in accordance with the teachings of Anne Meister, which manner forbids any connubial commerce.

Judge Allison said, the law in the case was perfectly clear about such matters, that Mrs. Rudman was entitled to the custody of the child until it should have attained the age of seven years, at which time it would have to be given to its father as its lawful guardian and protector.

William Kraft, who was convicted of arson in setting fire to a looking-glass and picture-frame manufactory, of which he was part proprietor, in Fifteenth street, above Ninth, was called up for sentence. Mr. Remak, the counsel for the prisoner, made an earnest appeal to the court for mercy. Judge Allison, in passing sentence, spoke of the enormity of the crime of which the accused had been guilty, and imposed upon him an imprisonment of ten years in the Eastern Penitentiary. This seems like a severe punishment, but it is none too severe when the infamous character of the crime is taken into consideration. Kraft desired to swindle the insurance companies out of some thousands of dollars, and to secure this object he did not care what amount of human life was sacrificed, or how much property belonging to others destroyed. Bad men can only be deterred from practising this species of villainy by the probability of their crime being brought to light, and by the certainty of severe punishment in the event of detection. Krafts exhibit no emotion whatever on the receipt of his sentence, but conversed freely with some friends who gathered around him.

QUARTER SESSIONS—Judges Thompson and Ludlow.—The motion for a new trial in the case of Robert J. Douglas, colored, convicted of perjury, was argued by Benjamin H. Brewster, Esq., for the prisoner, and D. P. Brown, Esq., for the Commonwealth. Judgment reserved.

Additional testimony was heard in the complicated matter touching the disappearance of a man charged with the larceny of a watch, to which reference was made on Saturday. A witness testified that he was told the defendant was out on a shad*ow* with any serious offence, and obtained a man to go his bail. Where he is now the witness was unable to tell. Confederate, in the mean time, remains in prison, being unable to obtain bail. He is said to be a bad man.

LAWYERS AND THEIR CLIENTS.

We have taken the liberty of making the following extract from the eloquent address, delivered by B. H. Brewster, Esq., before the Law Academy of this city:

"You must be faithful to your client—yes, loyal as ever true knight was to his bounden duty or his plighted vow; you are not to be the servile, immoral partisan, but the manly, candid protector to your client and his cause, and your constancy will be shown more in the truthful exposure of the *defects of his cause, and in earnest efforts to persuade him to adopt the right course and do justice*, than in all the fierce displays that were ever made to uphold a wrong and shield men from the just consequences of iniquity. In Protestant countries, where the discipline of the confessional is unknown, lawyers often supply the place of spiritual directors to those who, were they accustomed to such advisers, would apply to their clergy. This how dignified and solemn is the duty that cast upon you. How sacred the confidence given to you. The secret griefs and casualities of whole families are revealed to you as one father with the mysteries of the human heart, and the control of the human reason. This morbid anatomy of perverted moral nature lies spread before you. Fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, sons and daughters, *all come to you and tell* their griefs and disclose their wrongs committed beneath the cover of domestic privacy, to publish which would make the wrong an infamy. To your masters and their servants expose their unhappy conflicts. These unless in a perilous duties, and full of trouble. In such matters remember first and last and always that then it is you most owe your fidelity to your client. In ordinary cases, were you base enough, to attempt to disclose the communications made to you as counsel the law would not suffer you; but, on occasions like these, every obligation of duty and honor would bind you to keep the confidence bestowed on you with solemn secrecy; and then your fidelity but begins. You must weigh each thought, and guard each word, so as not to mislead. You must sift with severe scrutiny the *narrative* submitted to you, on the peril of your soul, strive to heal dissension, to obliterate the recollection of injury and to establish peace. Never inflame domestic discord or excite contentions between kinsmen. Treat your client as if he were an adversary, and with a strong compelling hand, force him away from the doors of the court-house, and bid him sit down with you in the solitude of your office, and there heavenly forget his wrongs, and as bravely—repair his errors. What can be more revolting and impure than the public proclamation of household sorrows before a crowd of idle spectators and vulgar scandal mongers? Let not the eyes of the public or of the court be turned upon such disgusting scenes. All families have their skeletons, and no one should wish to tear aside the veil that conceals their ghastly terrors. Cicero, in his defence of Dejotarus, has said, "when the secrets of families are suffered to be divulged and rise up against their masters, the world must be turned upside down. Servants become masters, and masters servants."

LANCASTERIANS IN CALIFORNIA.—*We notice that* Jerome B. Painter, of the extensive job-printing house of O'Meara & Painter, has purchased the interest of his partner, and taken his two brothers, John M. and Theodore Painter, into the new firm. This establishment engages extensively in the sale of news and job type, and other printing materials. Both Jerome and John learned their trades in the *Express* office. Their industry in the Pacific State has met with the most gratifying success, and shows that gold digging is by no means the only way of making money there, where even poor printers soon prosper and "set up" for themselves. In a few years, in one of the most profitable situations in the country. Continued success to these. The *Express* carries its New Year's greeting to them, away off in the Golden State.—*Lancaster Express.*

LIST OF LETTERS REMAINING IN

the PHILADELPHIA POST OFFICE up to 12 o'clock P. M. on Saturday, December 31, 1859.

Persons applying for advertised Letters will please mention the date of the list.

Open on Sunday from 7½ to 9½ o'clock A. M. and 2 to 3 P. M.

LADIES' LIST.

Ables Hester
Arpine Ella
Armstrong Leah
Alley Emma R
Arnew M Jane
Adams Sarah
Allen Miss G J
Ashton Sarah
Barnes Rebecca
Bailey Mrs S W
Beerly Marie
Bailey Caroline
Bell Mrs Mary
Bare Eliza
Bailey Mrs
Beesley Hannah
Bailey A
Bater Hannah E
Beuker Augustus
Mrs
Biddle Sarah L
Birkhead Ella
Brun Isabella
Bunch E E
Bride Mrs E G
Boyer Amanda T
Bunn Ellen
Bodwell Mrs S
Bowman Amelia
Bowey Jane
Bolts Libbie
Boyles Mary E
Brewster Anna
Bailey Mrs
Ashton Thos G
Ashton Geo W
Avery F
Andrews H L
Allen Jas M
Bacon Jas
Baker Jas
Barr Alex W
Bussey Thos
Baker S O
Barnes W H
Barber Jas S
Barnes Joseph
Barnes Charles
Barnes Chas H
Bart ett Wm O
Bate John G
Bate John G
Barrie Geo K H
Cliff Elizah C
Bimonde El ze
Callen Maryt
Combs Mary E
Cozvil Silas
Coats Charles
Comar Marot
Coleman Sarah A
Chauncey Mary
Clark Geo K H
Cliff Elizah C
Bimonde El ze
Callen Maryt
Combs Mary E
Cozvil Silas
Coats Charles
Comar Marot
Coleman Sarah A
Chauncey Mary
Clark Geo K H
Clarkin Ellen D
Currie Fannie
Crosby Mrs
Collins Martha
Colebery
Corgan Margt
Curtis Ann
Corson Caroline
Davis Anna
Davis Ann
Davenport C
Dermott Hen'a
Davis Eliza
Denning Sarah
Devoll Sarah E
Devoll Sarah E
Dunn Ellen
Dishron Jno
Dempsey Jas
Dill Wm A
Dickson A Thos
Dickson Orr &
Co
Davis Jas S
Dobbins Chas J
Dole Geo A
Dobson J S
Donahue Hanl B
Dowell C
Doherty Chas
Donelson Thos
Dyer Jno
Dillon Mrs E G
Dillon Mrs
Dillon Jno
Dillon Jno
Dillon Jno