PERSONAL.

—A lively Paris correspondent, writing on the 6th ult., says: "Last night Prince Phalea (one of our New York princes of the blood common) gave his third 'grand ball of the season,' at his princely palace, No. 8 Rue de Cirque. And there was a marvellous mingling of the North and South, with a considerable sprinkling of French and English nobility. The Pennimans of New York were there, and the Winthrops of New Orleans were there! Oil and water, one would suppose, in these times. And his excellency Mr. Dayton and daughter were there, but not the Slidells and daughters. In dancing the cotillion it is now *a la mode de Paris* for the host to provide all his guests with beautiful and costly presents, which are given away by parties in the dance—ladies to the gentlemen, and gentlemen to the ladies. This makes the ball an expensive entertainment; and to give one like this is one of the luxuries enjoyed only by millionaires like Prince Phalen of the *Rue de Cirque*, but formerly of Providence, Rhode Island, where your correspondent first had the honor of making his acquaintance, before the enchanter's wand had touched, etc., etc."

—A weekly contemporary says that an officer of the Government called one day at the White House, and introduced a clerical friend from New England. "Mr. President," said he, "allow me to present to you my friend, the Rev. Mr. F., of ——. Mr. F. has expressed a desire to see you and have some conversation with you, and I am happy to be the means of introducing him." *The President shook* hands with Mr. F., and desiring him to be seated, took a seat himself. Then—his countenance having assumed an expression of patient waiting—he said; "I am now ready to hear what you have to say." "Oh, bless you, sir," said Mr. F., "I have nothing especially to say. I merely called to pay my respects to you, and, as one of the million, to assure you of my hearty sympathy and support." "My dear sir," said the President, rising promptly—his face showing instant relief, and with both hands grasping that of his visitor, "I am very glad to see you; I am very glad to see you, indeed. *I thought you had come to preach to me!!*"

— Mr. Theodore S. Fay writes from Berlin to the *Home Journal* that the loyal Americans in Baden and Rhenish Bavaria have presented a testimonial to Mr. B. D. Duncan, a young South Carolinian, who has been appointed American consul at Baden. Mr. Fay says:

"When our great rebellion broke out there was in Berlin a young South Carolinian, Mr. B. D. Duncan, completing his scientific studies. He was suddenly reduced to the alternative of either returning home to join his State in its treasonable course, or adhering to the North at the sacrifice, as he supposed, of all his prospects in life, to say nothing of his remittances. He did not hesitate, but instantly took his position, and has remained an open defender of the North, with his tongue and pen, although I do not believe his native State has a single citizen more earnestly attached to her, or more ready to sacrifice his life for her true interests.

"I understood several other South Carolinians in Europe have shown the same enlightened and conscientious sense of duty as Mr. Duncan, and the names of certain distinguished men, yet in South Carolina, have been mentioned who would now, if they could, and will, when they can, follow the same example."

—The Empress Eugenie has given the Parisian world a new subject of conversation. At a recent dinner she wore a train of pink-and-white-striped moire, and the whole set of ornaments of pink coral, which has been regarded as one of the greatest curiosities of our time. The set is now complete, having been obtained, by dint of perseverance, from every source, and collected far and near. The necklace alone is a marvel, being composed of the *bombes* or big bead of a number of necklaces—thus forming a row of the largest beads known in the world. The middle one was cut from the famous pink coral once belonging to Madame de Pompadour, and considered by that lady of such value that it forms an important item in her will; the others were selected

—The Countess Waldegrave, daughter of Braham, the vocalist, was married on the 20th of January to Mr. Chichester Fortescue, M. P., Under Secretary of State for the Colonies. The Countess Waldegrave has been married four times; the first to the Hon. John James Waldegrave, of Navestock, Essex; secondly, George Edward, seventh Earl Waldegrave; thirdly, Mr. George Granville Harcourt, M. P., son of Dr. Harcourt, Archbishop of York; and fourthly, the Hon. Chichester Fortescue, M. P. for the county of Louth. The Countess is just turned her 42d year.

—The Empress Eugenie, at the opening of the Boulevard, was sumptuously enveloped in the famous gold shawl. Her Majesty wore with this splendid envelope a gray silk dress, in the very best taste, to correct that of the over-brilliant effect produced by the glittering and kaleidoscopic changes of color produced by the sunlight upon the shawl. An immense width of skirt, with small fluted flounces, edged with narrow black and white lace, served to deaden the obtrusive glare of the bright gold; and a lovely bonnet, of transparent material, adorned with a wreath of white cock's feathers, gave a quiet grace and simplicity to the head.

—General Pierry has just addressed to the Emperor a report upon the condition of native horses in France, which he describes as having attained a very high degree of perfection. It will be no longer necessary, he says, for persons seeking handsome horses to buy them in foreign markets. He hopes that the Emperor and the other members of the imperial family will set a good example by patronizing the French breed. The Emperor recently purchased several fine Morgan horses in Vermont.

—The Boston papers mention the death of Hon. William Foster, at the age of ninety-one, at his residence in that city. He was one of the oldest and best known citizens of Boston, and was connected by blood and by marriage with some of the most notable families of Massachusetts. A sister of the deceased was the wife of Harrison Gray Otis. Mr. Foster was an honored and trusted citizen, and was often called to fill important and responsible offices. He was an ardent and earnest politician, and a frequent contributor to the columns of the public journals. He was almost the last relic of a marked generation of Boston men.

—Mr. Frith, the English artist who has been engaged by the Queen to paint a picture of the Prince of Wale's marriage, publishes a card in the London papers to correct a misstatement of the *Art Journal*. That magazine charged him with making hard terms and insisting upon the sole privilege of engraving and exhibiting the picture. Mr. Frith denies these charges, and says that his terms were acceded to in the most liberal manner.

—At a recent christening of the infant son of Dr. William Jenner, one of Queen Victoria's physicians, the Queen was pleased to stand sponsor, being represented on the occasion by Lady Bruce, who, in obedience to the wishes of her Majesty, gave the boy the name of Albert Victor, and accompanied it with the present of a magnificent tankard bearing a suitable inscription.

—During the reign of terrorism in France, a speculator projected and published a journal devoted merely to a list of the executed. Of this journal ten duodecimo numbers, of thirty-two leaves each, were published, and the work is known to modern collectors as the *Journal des Guillotines*.

—The Archbishop of Canterbury called a general meeting of the bishops of the English Church, for the 4th of February, for the purpose of considering what steps ought to be taken in reference to Bishop Colenso's recent work on the Pentateuch. The meeting was to be held at Lambeth Palace.

—At the second private ball of the Empress Eugenie, her Majesty wore a white dress of a light texture, trimmed with a deep lace flounce, and wore flowers wreathed in the hair, the whole kept together by means of a diamond comb. Her Majesty did not dance.

—The newspaper correspondents are determined to marry off *la petite* Patti. "Spiridion," the Paris communicator with the Boston *Gazette*, says she is engaged to one of the Aguados, a wealthy Spanish banker, and marquis. What a pretty little marchioness she would make!

—The Eldest of Rev. T. Starr King's Society in San Francisco recently wrote him a note, saying that unless he abandoned a certain style of preaching the church would lose many of its most respectable members. He read it aloud, and said if any more such epistles were sent to him, the church would lose its most respectable minister.

—Joseph Gest, one of the oldest citizens of Cincinnati, having settled there in 1815, when the population was less than ten thousand, died on the 23d ult. He had held several positions under the city government, and was permanently identified with several benevolent and Christian enterprises.

from different collections, and the whole forms one of those valuable and curious ornaments destined to become historical. The difficulty created by the necessity of matching the color of the various pieces has caused the greatest excitement among the jewelers of the great capitals of Europe for more than five years past.

— A number of the merchants of Cincinnati have presented Governor Morton, of Indiana, a seal made of a hickory nut, the hollow end of which has a small copy of a likeness of General Jackson. On a gold band are engraved the words: "The Union must be preserved."

— Mrs. Lander, wife of the late General Lander, has been appointed general superintendent of hospitals in the department of the South. She is at Beaufort. Any ladies who may wish to be employed as nurses can make application to Mrs. Lander through Miss Abby May, 22 Summer street, Boston.

—A stone pillar, nearly seven feet high, is being sculptured at Laon, by order of the French Emperor, to indicate the spot where Cæsar's camp stood at Mauchamp. M. Viollet-Leduc has furnished the design and inscription for this memorial, the form of which will resemble the ancle stone of ancient Rome.

—London Hansom cabs are rather profitable investments, notwithstanding the low rate of fare. It seems that each, on an average, nets to its owner, over and above all expenses and wear and tear, £100 a year.

—Gen. Scott once more begs to be excused by correspondents. Rheumatism in the hand makes it difficult to write. Hence the mass of unacknowledged letters, mostly asking for autographs, is daily increasing upon him.

—Major Gen. T. L. Crittenden, commander of the Twenty-first army corps, which was so distinguished in the battle of Stone River, arrived in Cincinnati on Saturday, to testify before the Buell Military Commission.

—"Ralph Waldo Emerson, this evening, at Nordheimer's Hall." This catch line is scattered all over the columns of the Montreal *Herald* of the latest received dates. Happy Montrealese!

—The name of a son of Hon. Edward Everett, of Boston, stands second on the list of "Junior Optimes," at the Commencement of Cambridge University, England, for last month.

—Judge N. S. Howe, of Haverhill, has been invited to accept a position in the Interior Department, which will make him virtually judge of appeals on questions arising in the Land Office.

—"Extra Billy" Smith announces in the Richmond papers that he is a candidate for Governor of Virginia.

—Commodore Stockton has been appointed by the Governor of New Jersey a major general of the State militia.

—Ex-Lieutenant Maury is in London inditing squibs to such of the English papers as will print them.

—Elihu Burrett, the "learned blacksmith," is lecturing in England with marked success.

DEATH OF A CENTENARIAN.—Mr. Anthony Rufner, Sr., died at his residence, on Nicetown lane, near Germantown, on Friday last, at the advanced age of one hundred years.

THE CITY.

The Thermometer.

FEBRUARY 28, 1862.			FEBRUARY 28, 1863.		
6 A.M.	12 M.	3 P.M.	6 A.M.	12 M.	3 P.M.
27	29	30	38	44½	45
WIND.			WIND.		
W by S.	W by N.	W by N.	WSW	NE	NE
MARCH 1, 1862.			MARCH 1, 1863.		
6 A.M.	12 M.	3 P.M.	6 A.M.	12 M.	3 P.M.
27	35½	38½	39	42½	45
WIND.			WIND.		
W by S.	W	W by S.	N NE	NSW	SSW.

SPRING HAS COME.—Yesterday was the first day of spring. Dull and dreary though it may have been, it was the inauguration of all that was beautiful and bright. The black and icy thick-fold of winter has been passed. Deep snows and biting blasts may lie await in prospect, but the conventional season of spring has come. How should Spring be pictured? Shall she be a bashful girl festooned with roses, and radiant with dew? Shall her mouth be redolent of melody, and her eyes reflective of the stars? Shall her sweet-veiled limbs be veined with delicate pulses, her trembling fingers touched with tender bloom? Or, shall Spring be a bay, half-grown and stalwart, a sash of roses round his waist, and violets twined between his golden curls? Practically speaking, spring is the first of the four seasons. It commences on the first of March, and ends on the thirty-first of May. There is a legend connected with this season. The legend states upon the very best authority, (not the Almanac, however), that March winds and April showers bring forth May—and so forth. The majority of people have no objection to either showers, occasionally, or flowers—besides they rhyme very well. But they have a decided objection to March winds. That man is dust and unto dust will return, is a providential provision. But where is the use of the dust constantly reminding one of it? It is flying in the face of Providence—and pedestrians also. Pleasure is only to be purchased by pain. Red blossoms are very pretty, but red eyes ain't. The same way with summer. Sun flowers may be tolerated, but sunstrokes can't. If you want the sweet you must take the sour. If you want May flowers you must take April showers. Yet, Spring, however poor in her present, is rich in her future. Sweetness and strength, green buddings and ripe glory, the quintessence of winter and the essence of summer, the weariness of age and the joviality of youth, centre and concentrate themselves within her swelling breast. Her heart is beating to a tune of sweetness, her mouth is mellowed in the light of love; her brow is haloed with a bow of promise; her dainty limbs in misty folds are clad. But her breath! She ought to have gone to a meteorological station and had her eye tooth taken out; that, perhaps, would have improved it. The first breath of spring is not only unpleasant, it is also unwholesome. Spring initiates the season of serenading; but (considering March winds), under such circumstances, *guitars* and *catarrhs* go together. "Thomson's "Seasons," contains perhaps more delicate allusions, more refined sweetnesses in regard to this subject, than are to be found outside the English language. Casting aside, however, the prose of poetry and the poetry of prose, spring is the season of promise and of hopes, of strength and of sweetness; for, the adage tells us, it comes in like alion and goes out like a lamb.

LECTURE ON GARIBALDI BY MASON JONES.—On Saturday evening a lecture on Garibaldi was delivered at the Musical Fund Hall by Mason Jones, and was received with frequent applause by a crowded and intelligent audience. Mr. Jones is a young man of apparently thirty years of age, of medium stature, striking personal appearance, remarkably large, lustrous, darkly-flashing eyes; a sonorous voice, possessed of power enough to fill the largest edifice, and able to speak out with force which electrifies the audience. In his mode of addressing the public, Mason Jones differs from most other orators whom we remember. He uses no theatrical gestures, makes no gyrations on the rostrum, nor resorts in any way to the rhodomontade of *rhetoric*. Speaking calmly and deliberately, without any written aid, he nevertheless enunciates with so much energy that the auditor has no option but to listen.

The speaker commenced by recounting the incidents of Garibaldi's early life, then proceeded to describe the Italian campaign, and related the particulars of the battle of the Volturno, as witnessed by himself. In the course of the lecture Mason Jones handed a philippic against Louis Napoleon, which was received with tumultuous applause.

The speaker referred to a conversation which he had had with Garibaldi on the subject of his successful career as a military leader, in the course of which he said that great chieftain remarked:

"If you want to do anything in this world, never take advice. In my past history I have made four great mistakes, and on each of those occasions I acted against my own judgment, and accepted of advice. In the future I never intend to take any advice, though I always get quantities of it, and get it gratuitously. My experience has taught me that it is generally worth the price paid for it."

He said, though Garibaldi was greatly to be praised and admired, (and he thanked God for bringing such a man into the world,) yet he had, like the rest of us, his failings. He was deficient in one quality, which was most essential for every great military commander. This was the utter absence of all talent for organization and discipline. Garibaldi's army was never anything better than a mob, though a very brave one. Anarchy and confusion reigned supreme. Everybody went everywhere, and nobody obeyed anybody. Victory always preceded Garibaldi, while desolation was as sure to follow.

As a military commander, Garibaldi could not, he thought, be compared with any one. He could not, the speaker was sure, pass a preparatory examination at West Point. He either never acquired the ordinary rules of tactics, or else wilfully disregarded them. In fact, like every man of genius, he made rules for himself. He placed his men on the battlefield in positions such as every other military commander would condemn.

Elaborate kinds of battles Garibaldi regarded as the greatest nonsense. He always held that the more complicated the plan the more easily was it opposed. He never paused to consider disparity of numbers, or inequality of the ground. He often waited for some slight mistake on the part of the *officer in command of the opposing forces*, or sought in some way to create a momentary panic among the enemy, when, with his genius, he would seize upon the incident and make it the occasion of his victory. Common men were generals by rules, Garibaldi was a general by genius. His aim was chiefly to dazzle and confound, by the rapidity, daring, and suddenness of his movements. Eastern officers said that they never knew where to find him. If they looked *for him* at one point he was sure to turn up at some other, where least expected.

The cardinal point in Garibaldi's military creed was, that a leader who hoped to be successful must always be the attacking party. It was Garibaldi's firm conviction, that any general, no matter how great his powers, who remained in his entrenchments, and waited to be attacked, was half defeated by that very act. [Enthusiastic applause.]

Gen. Burnside has been subjected to a great deal of criticism, on account of his recent brilliant attack upon the enemy at Fredericksburg. He was convinced, from what he knew of Garibaldi's character, that if he had been placed in the position in which Gen. Burnside then was, he would have done precisely the same thing. [Vociferous applause.]

Of all things in the world, it is the most ungenerous, most cowardly, and most contemptible to condemn another merely because he has failed. He believed that if Gen. Burnside had not been opposed, or thwarted by others, but allowed to follow out his own plan, and renewed the attack the next morning, he would have won the greatest victory of the war. [Loud and prolonged applause.]

Speaking of the almost idolatrous attachment which the forces of Garibaldi had for him, he said one great reason of it was that this great leader *manifested a special interest in the welfare of each* individual under him.

He observed, in passing, that if any of our military leaders desired to gain the affections of their men, they had only to show some sympathy for their *sufferings*, be frequent in their visits to the hospitals, and display a simplicity in their mode of dress, style of living, and general conduct.

As an evidence of Garibaldi's greatness, he referred to the fact that he had, in a very short space of time, transformed the character of his whole people.

A wonderful drama is shortly to be enacted in Europe. Although at present there is quietude and peace there, the acute observer can discern the signs of the coming storm; and when that storm does come, it will be one of the most terrific tempests of political warfare that was ever witnessed in Europe. In that coming contest Garibaldi will ride over the winds and through the storm, as it were, in a halo of glory. [Applause.]

France is already becoming uneasy, and the rider sits uneasy in his seat. The star of Napoleon is on its wane; and there is not a lover of liberty in France, or any other portion of Europe, who does not long for the moment when Garibaldi's standard shall float in the breeze with the proud words of "Liberty, and death to tyrants" emblazoned upon it.

Then, if the nations of Europe were deserving of good government, they would get it, for he was inclined to the belief that a people always had as good a government as they deserved. Governments, like newspapers, were always indicative of the character of the people, for both were made and supported by them.

The orator terminated with a glowing description of Italy, which roused the audience to the highest pitch of enthusiasm.

This evening, Mason Jones is to deliver his oration on "Curran and the Wits and Orators of the Irish Bar."

"LANCERS."—Since this country has assumed the situation that requires our maintaining a large army as a necessity, the subject of properly arming troops has become of much importance.

At the breaking out of the rebellion it was thought by the military authorities of this country that cavalry was comparatively of little value, but the error of that opinion has since been clearly proved, and at the present time the cavalry force of our army numbers upwards of seventy thousand (70,000) men. In that force there is but one regiment of "lancers;" that raised and commanded by Colonel Richard H. Rush, of Philadelphia. At so small a number of men equipped with that efficient arm is manifested by military men, and others, much surprise, when the greatest military nations of the world have constantly kept a large number of troops armed with the lance. The cavalry of the Austrian army numbers fifty-seven thousand (57,000) men, of which number twenty-one thousand six hundred and ninety-six (21,696) are lancers.

Prior to 1848 the Austrian army only contained four lancer regiments, recruited exclusively in Gallicia, and chiefly mounted on Polish horses. In the Italian campaigns in 1848 and 1849, and in the Hungarian war, the great value of these lancers was so clearly proved, that not only were six *chevaux legers* (light cavalry) regiments converted into lancers, but two more were raised, so that they now amount to twelve regiments.

In the French army we find the lance a valued weapon. The French cavalry is divided into four distinct classes, viz.:

First. Heavy cavalry, or reserve cavalry, composed of ten (10) regiments cuirassiers and two (2) of carbineers; the reserve cavalry is intended for attack in close column, and is mounted on very powerful horses, principally drawn from Normandy and North Germany; this class numbers about fifteen thousand (15,000.)

Second. The so-called line cavalry, consisting of twelve (12) regiments of dragoons and eight (8) lancer regiments, organized precisely like the heaviest, except that each regiment contains sixty (60) more men. The total strength of the line cavalry is thirteen thousand (13,000) dragoons, and eight thousand six hundred (8,600) lancers.

Third. The light cavalry consisting of twelve (12) regiments of *Chasseurs d'cheval*, and nine (9) Hussar regiments, containing together about twenty-four thousand nine hundred and forty eight (24,948).

Fourth. The so-called African cavalry, consisting of four (4) regiments, and containing 3,400 men.

In the Russian army we also find the cavalry force divided in different classes—viz: The guard cavalry corps, the light cavalry, and the reserve cavalry, in which three classes there are nearly eighty thousand (80,000) men, of which twenty-five thousand seven hundred and forty (25,740) are lancers. The total strength of the Cossacks of the Russian army, principally armed with the lance, is one hundred and twenty-four (124) regiments of one hundred and twenty-six thousand (126,000) men and 224 guns. "But still the Cossack of the present day is far from being the same man as he who struck terror to the heart of the French army on the disastrous retreat from Moscow. The Russian cavalry on no occasion have distinguished themselves in the field, and whenever any credit has been attained it has generally fallen to the lot of light-heeled Cossacks" armed with the lance.

And again in the British army, we find the lance, which is there considered an arm of much merit. The English cavalry is divided into heavy cavalry and light cavalry; the entire force numbering in 1859, eleven thousand (11,000) men equipped for the field. Their light cavalry, which they consider the most valuable portion of their force was, in 1859, equipped thus:

Five (5) regiments of dragoons.
Five (5) regiments of hussars.
Five (5) regiments of lancers.
Two (2) regiments have recently been added, the 5th Lancers, in lieu of 5th Dragoons, disbanded during the Irish Rebellion, and the 18th Light Dragoons.

The Sardinian army, which owes its present efficiency to Charles Albert, has on the peace establishment a strength of seventy thousand (70,000) men, which, in war, owing to the excellent system of reserves, can be raised to one hundred and twenty thousand. The cavalry, splendidly trained, and well mounted, comprise four (4) regiments of dragoons, and four *chevau-legers* (light cavalry), the latter armed with lancers, which they use with deadly effect.

Thus five of the great European Powers have the lance in use to a great extent. This is not only the case now, but such has existed since a very remote period, when their campaigns were carried on in a country equally, if not more, wild and unsettled than that in which our armies are now operating, and it is singular that our military thinkers appreciate so little the value of the lance, which war nations consider, in the hands of well-drilled cavalry, a weapon unsurpassed.

SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCILS.—On Saturday, a special meeting of both branches of City Councils was held for the purpose of approving the sureties of the heads of departments elected on Thursday last.

SELECT COUNCIL.—The ordinance from Common Council, approving of the sureties of the heads of departments, was received, and some discussion ensued in regard to the fact whether Councils had knowledge of the sufficiency of the sureties offered. No time was allowed for an examination, in order to ascertain if the properties had not been encumbered with judgments.

Mr. Miller introduced a proviso, instructing the City Solicitor to make the necessary searches before accepting the new bonds. This was adopted, and the ordinance, as amended, was passed. Adjourned.

COMMON COUNCIL.—At four o'clock, the President, Mr. Wilson Kerr, called the Council to order. Upon calling the roll no quorum answered. A recess was taken for fifteen minutes, at which time the requisite number were present.

Mr. Baird, from the Finance Committee, reported the sureties of the following-named heads of Departments:

George W. Schofield, Chief Commissioner of Highways.
John Kelch, Commissioner of Highways.
J. J. Morrison, Commissioner of Highways.
Isaac S. Cassin, Engineer of the Water Department.
Charles McDonough, Commissioner of City Property.
John Hazel, Superintendent of City Railroad.
Dominick Torpey, Commissioner of Markets and Landings.
F. McCormick, Superintendent of Girard Estates.
R. R. Young, agent of Girard Estates.

The report of the committee was approved.

Mr. Leigh offered a batch of bills in place, relative to the various departments. These bills were passed by the last Select Council. Mr. Leigh said he introduced them that they might take the proper channel to be properly considered.

Mr. Trego moved that the consideration of the bills be dispensed with, and that the bills be referred to the several appropriate committees. This was agreed to.

Mr. Leigh called up the ordinance relating to the erection of wooden buildings in the city. After a brief debate the consideration of the ordinance was made the special order of the day at 5 o'clock on next Thursday afternoon.

TAX ON SILVER.—It seems that every assessor differently defines the law placing a tax on silver plate. One tells you that you are compelled to render an account of every article of silver in your possession; another, that you are only expected to account for such as you have in use daily, leaving out entirely, perhaps, a large service and surplus that you only use a few times and on extra occasions, but that you do use; another, that all presents are exempt; and another, vice versa. The Revenue Commissioner is decidedly undecidable: cases "kept for use," in the schedule in reference to silver plate, to except silver plate kept for sale, and also that which is in possession of a family or its members as souvenirs and keepsakes. The plate property taxable is that which has been purchased for the use of the family, or has been presented to the family as part of the family property, and that as such is kept for use, whether for ornament or actual service. Thus it seems that table silver of all kinds, whether used constantly or only occasionally, is taxable. But a vase, urn, or medal, presented as a mark of respect or honor, would not be taxable. The exception is upon the weight of forty ounces troy, and not avoirdupois.

THE CITIZENS' VOLUNTEER HOSPITAL, Broad and Prime streets, take pleasure in acknowledging the following donations for the week ending February 27th: Proceeds of a lecture, by Rev. Benjamin Watson, $26.08; proceeds of a festival held at Musical Fund Hall, on the 18th inst., by five ladies, (Daughters of the Forest,) Rachel Forepaugh, Margaret Walton, Jane Lauson, Lydia Whiteman, and Annie H. Leedom, $256.02; Fair of the ladies from the Ladies' Aid Society at Harrisonville, Gloucester county, N. J., 12 flannel shirts, 12 pairs muslin drawers, 18 muslin shirts, socks, slippers, handkerchiefs, bandages, &c., &c.; Ladies' Aid of the U. P. Church, Broad and Lombard, 10 flannel shirts, 10 pairs flannel drawers, 15 white shirts; Ladies' Aid of Kenderton and Rising Sun, 40 flannel slippers, 10 hospital and flannel shirts, and handkerchiefs; proceeds of a fair held at 714 North Third street, 3 boxes 8 pounds each, of black pepper, cloves, allspice, and mustard; Mrs. Latimer, of Wilmington, Del., 12 jars of tomatoes, 10 jars of preserves, and 4 bottles of cordial; George De Forest & Co., 1 piece of brown shirting; Mrs. Frost, 1 barrel of apples; Miss Ada E. Willard, 1 barrel of apples, lot of cakes, books, &c.; Mrs. Sharp, 1 dozen woolen stockings; Mrs. Mackay, 3 red flannel shirts; a Friend, castile soap and lot of towels.

THE MAMMOTH FAIR for the benefit of the Citizens' Volunteer Hospital, Broad and Prime streets, commences this afternoon at 2 o'clock. Nothing has been left undone by the noble ladies of the institution to make the most attractive feature of the day. The interior of the hall will be gaily decorated with flags, &c. A band of music will be in attendance every evening. Among the valuable articles to be given away is a piano-forte from the ware rooms of Schomacker & Co., a locket, a set of silver ware, and other articles of equal value. The Fair will close on Friday night by an auction sale of all the articles unsold, in order to have the room clear for the grand concert on Saturday night by the Männerchor Society, aided by numerous prominent performers, who have kindly volunteered their services for the benefit of this charitable institution.

E. W. CLARK, treasurer of the Port Royal Relief Committee, acknowledges the receipt of the following contributions to the new fund:

Previously acknowledged	$3,616 81
Colored people of Penningtonville, Pa.	3 40
Cash ($4, $1.60, $6.)	11 60
Mrs. Olden, New Jersey	50 00
L. Coffin	25 00
A. D. Jessup	50 00
Mrs. E. P. Gurney	50 00
Dr. J. F. Meigs	25 00
Thos. Ridgway	50 00
James V. Watson	20 00
S. R. Shipley	25 00
J. T. Caldwell & Co.	50 00
Josiah Forster, Tottenham, England, for education of colored refugees at and near Port Royal	328 90
Abm. L. Pennock	50
	$4,353 63

PETROLEUM FOR EUROPE.—The following statement shows the number and names of the vessels loading with petroleum at this port for European ports, and the quantity of the article about to be exported:

		Brls.
Bark Leland, for Havre,	by P. Wright & Sons,	2,500
Ship St. Peter, for Liverpool	"	4,000
Schr. Kate Brigham, "	(3 masted) "	1,500
Bark Edwin, "	"	2,500
Bark Gen. Berry,	" by T. Richardson & Co.	3,500
Bark Fountain,	" by D. L. Miller,	3,000
Brig Darien, for London,	A. R. McFlemy & Co.	2,000
Bark Onward, for Havre,	"	2,800
Bark Catharine, for Liverpool,	"	4,000
Bark Wm. Penn, for Havre,	"	3,300
Ship Marathon,	"	2,300
Total		38,700

BUILDING PERMITS.—The following table will exhibit the building permits issued during February:

Dwellings	71
Stores, three of them four-story	5
Stables	3
Shops	2
Factories	1
Slaughter-house	1
Saloon	1
Engine house	1
Foundry	1
Ice houses	2
Offices	2
	92
Alterations and additions	17
Total	109

Of the above, 98 were three-story, 32 two-story, and 3 one-story buildings.

SICK AND WOUNDED SOLDIERS.—On Saturday afternoon, at six o'clock, a number of sick and wounded soldiers arrived at the Citizens' Volunteer Hospital, and were removed yesterday to the Broad and Cherry-street Hospital by our firemen. The following are from Pennsylvania Regiments:

John W. White, E, 135.	Moses Bobb, H, 149.
Henry Riehl, B, 135.	B. F. Lerech, E, 57.
G. S. Montgomery, B, 135.	Jason Kirk, E, 149.
Michael Jacobs, K, 46.	Geo. W. Keade, I, 135.
A. Aerts, I, 127.	J. N. Nelson, I, 135.
Srgt. J. M. Gordon, A, 91.	Julius Hodgers, G, 150.
W. Cook, A, 135.	J. Soutenger, D, 1.
D. J. Carey, K, 149.	J. V. Robinson, B, 135.
W. Torrence, G, 116.	J. Ambrose, F, 135.

LIBEL SUIT ENDED.—The suit for libel against Messrs. Prizer & Darlington, of the Bucks County *Intelligencer*, by Colonel Owen Jones, of Montgomery county, which was to have been tried at Norristown last week, has been amicably settled by the parties interested. The editors of the *Intelligencer*, having been satisfied by the highest authority that the charges against Colonel Jones were entirely unfounded, tendered that gentleman a satisfactory reparation; this was frankly accepted by Colonel Jones, and a *nol pros.* being entered with the consent of the court, the case was dismissed.

ARRIVAL OF COASTWISE AND FOREIGN VESSELS.—During the month ending Saturday, the arrivals at this port of coastwise and foreign vessels were as follows:

Foreign.—Ships, 3; barks, 10; brigs, 14; schooners, 91; sloops, 1; total, 27.
Coastwise.—Barks, 6; brigs, 12; schooners, 349; sloops, 347; steamers, 42; barges, 26; boats, 262; total, 1,044.

FIRE.—On Friday afternoon, about three o'clock, a fire occurred at the hide-and-tallow establishment of Lindley M. Elkinton, near Jenkintown, in Montgomery county. The flames originated in a small frame building used for rendering fat. The structure contained the boilers, &c., and was burned down. About a thousand pounds of tallow and a hundred bushels of salt were destroyed. The building and machinery cost two thousand dollars.

CONSOLIDATED.—The 150th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, Col. Charles Ernenwein, and the 157th, Col. Wm. A. Gray, have been consolidated at Fort Delaware. This makes four full companies with the maximum number of men. These companies are to be taken to Washington at once, under the command of a field officer to be designated by Governor Curtin.

FOUND DEAD.—John Cartwright, who resides at the public house of Adam Davis, at Rose and Market streets, in the Twenty-fourth ward, was found dead on Saturday morning. Coroner Conrad held an inquest in the case. The death of the man resulted from natural causes.

THE PROVOST GUARD.—The barracks at the old hospital, Fifth and Buttonwood streets, intended for the accommodation of the provost guard, under command of Capt. Finnie, will be ready for occupation to-morrow.

CALL ACCEPTED.—Rev. J. H. Conrad, of Germantown, Pennsylvania, has accepted a call to the rectorship of St. John's Episcopal Church at Clifton, Staten Island.

IN PORT.—There were 69 vessels lying at our wharves on Saturday, of which 10 were ships, 17 barks, 17 brigs, and the balance schooners and sloops.

THE POLICE.

[Before Mr. Alderman Beitler.]

Wash Clothes Stolen.

On Saturday afternoon, a colored boy named George Chambers, was arraigned before Mr. Alderman Beitler, at the Central Station, on the charge of stealing a quantity of clothes from the line in the yard attached to the residence of Mrs. Caroline Marquezo on Spruce street, above Seventh. The goods were recovered at a pawn-shop. Mrs. Marguezo testified that the articles were worth about $20. They were stolen from the yard on Monday night or Tuesday morning last. Detective Levi testified that the prisoner acknowledged to him that he had stolen the goods. The accused was committed in default of $1,000 bail to answer at court.

[Before Mr. Alderman Carter.]

Robbery and Arrest.

Julia McMahon was arraigned before Mr. Alderman Carter yesterday morning, on the charge of the larceny of about six hundred dollars worth of jewelry and clothing, the property of Rev. Dr. Washburn, the rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church. The accused was arrested on Saturday by Sergeant Britton, of the Fifth police division. It seems that she was formerly employed in the family of the reverend gentleman, and of course had gained some knowledge of household affairs. Articles of jewelry, Canton crape, and cashmere shawls, were stolen. She was taken into custody on Locust street, and finally made a confession of the facts. She was committed to answer at court.

[Before Mr. Alderman McMullin.]

She was Bound to have Brandy.

A young woman, giving the name of Margaret McClain, was arraigned on Saturday, on the charge of the larceny of a quantity of wash clothes, the property of some people in the neighborhood. She was arrested in the vicinity of South and Twelfth streets. It is likely the goods were purloined from some one residing in that neighborhood. The accused admitted stealing them, but would give no further information. She said that she was bound to have brandy, even if she had to steal to get it. The poor miserable fingers of dissipation have made their marks upon her once fair, but now bloated face. It is said by several officers, that a few years ago she was known as an apple-girl. She was committed to prison.

[Before Mr. Alderman Miller.]

Petty Larceny.

Joseph Archer, a young man, was committed, on Saturday, by Mr. Alderman Miller, to answer the charge of stealing a sleigh from the premises of Mr. Stengers, at Forty-second and Pine streets. Jane Glenshaw, a girl, was committed for stealing a diamond pin valued at $20, the property of a lady who lived next door to her. The accused admitted the charge, and was sent to prison to await her trial.

LEGAL INTELLIGENCE.

Supreme Court of Pennsylvania—Chief Justice Lowrie and Justices Woodward, Thompson, Strong, and Read.

THE CASE OF COUNCILMAN MEESER—A WRIT OF QUO WARRANTO AWARDED AGAINST HIM.

Commonwealth, ex. rel. WM. MEESER. An application for a writ of quo warranto against defendant, to show by what right he holds and exercises the office of member of Common Council from the Fifth Ward. Before argument the opinion of the Court by the Chief Justice was delivered on Saturday morning, as follows:

Commonwealth ex. rel. vs. William Meeser.—It would be a vicious rule of law that would allow all public officers to be annoyed by a quo warranto at the pleasure of any intermeddler or officious busybody, and, therefore, we have hesitated in granting this writ at the suit of a private person. But it is quite apparent that relators here really represents a large and respectable political party, and is not induced to act by mere personal motives. And we observe that the act of 24th of April, 1854, section 3, (not cited to us in any argument, and not before noticed by us,) any tax payer may obtain an injunction against any violation of the charter of the city, and we may take this as a fair analogy for granting this writ, especially as we can always prevent the abuse of it by the exercise of the discretion which belongs to all prerogative writs. Yet it is not without some hesitation that we pass this objection, and come to the essential question of the case.

Is there a reasonable cause shown for disputing the defendant's title to the office of Common Councilman? We think there is. It is denied that there was any vacancy to be filled by the Sheriff at the time of the last election, and this appears to be well *founded*: for it does not appear that the ward had elected any Commissioner of Taxes and taxables of the preceding year, and the sheriff issued no proclamation for an election for the office, and therefore the question is not understood that there was to be an election for it, and only five of them out of nearly 4,000 taxables voted.

This would not be already one member, and is not entitled to another unless it had 4,000 taxable inhabitants. Here, then, are the regular steps to a valid election, namely, the Commissioner of Taxes of the preceding year, showing 4,000 taxable inhabitants, proclamation of the Sheriff of a vacancy to be filled, which proclamation is expressly required, and an actual election in pursuance of the proclamation, and the proper officers and certified as the law directs. If any of these steps are wanting, then the election was irregular, and defendant's title to the office is at least doubtful. But let us be careful here. This Court has no authority to judge whether the election was regularly conducted or not; for that duty is assigned by law to the Councils. Our duty must be confined to the decision of the question whether there was an office or vacancy to be filled.

Was there a vacancy to be filled in the Fifth Ward that could lawfully be voted for at that election? Was there the competent number of taxable inhabitants? The relator relied on the record to show that there was not, and the defendant appeals to oral evidence that there was. One sticks to the letter of the law, and contends that the other appeals to the spirit and substance of it. How shall we dispose of this appeal?

We think we have many cases in which a strict adherence to the letter of the law would be destructive of justice, and it is quite impossible for the law to create a rule which will fit all the customary rights of a people, or to express certain rights arising from the ever-changing forms of social transaction. The law is a very large field of social relations wherein the law, whether statutory or customary, must ever remain somewhat indefinite, in order to be adapted to society.

But is it so with our election laws? We think not. All our electoral rights depend on written law, and the rights of property also. The rule that written law depends itself on literal or principle, or natural law; but those principles are subject to very great diversities of application, and lack entirely that definiteness which is essential to the rule of law as a rule of *common* or social conduct. Law is intended to be a definition of those principles in such form as to fit them for the ordinary conduct and control and to avoid the disputes that