he made some mistakes; but he has been thwarted in the most malignant manner from the very outset by the politicians in Congress and the radicals in the Cabinet. The greatest fault imputed to him is excessive caution and lack of self confidence. But this arises from a just appreciation of the difficulty of his task. An inferior mind would be blind to this, and commit such terrible blunders as that of Burnside at Fredericksburg. McClellan was gradually feeling his way and fitting himself to be a great military leader. He was becoming bolder and bolder every day, and more expert in handling a large army, as at Antietam, when his career was cut short by an order from Washington, and inferior men put in his place.

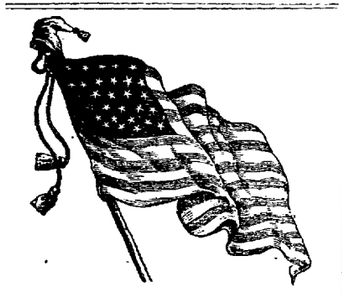
It is not in a year or two years that a soldier, even with a good military education, but who has seen little or no service, can rise from the position of a captain of cavalry to that of a successful general commanding 100,000 men. How long did it take to make the victor of Waterloo? How many battles did he fight in India and in the Spanish Peninsula before he attained the skill to cope with Napoleon? At an earlier period of his history Bonaparte asserted with truth that he did not know one man in Europe who was capable of conducting fifty thousand men to battle. Why, then, should the fruits of the ripe experience of years and genius combined be expected from so young and inexperienced an officer as General McClellan? By the greatest military judge in the country, the veteran Winfield Scott, he has been recently pronounced the ablest general the war has yet developed. He had done the best his circumstances allowed, and would have matured into a first class general as rapidly, perhaps, as any who ever preceded him, with two or three rare exceptions. But he was recklessly sacrificed last fall by a combination of party spirit and imbecility, and from that day to this the Army of the Potomac has made no progress, while it has suffered serious disaster. We fear that, through the same blundering which has characterized the acts of the War Department and the performance of so many of our generals in the field, other disasters may be in store for our army in the present campaign.

But there is one source of consolation and national pride in the report—one distinguishing feature of the war—and that is that the incompetency of generals and of the War Department has been redeemed by the intelligent courage and discipline of the men. They have fought like heroes on every field; and even when they knew that they were marched into the jaws of death, without any advantage to the cause, they shrank not from the sacrifice. This was the case at Fredericksburg, where they said to each other:—"Boys, we are going into a slaughter pen; but we must do it: come on." And even after the dreadful defeat which they anticipated they were ready to try it over again next day. There is no example in history of troops fighting so bravely and so well who have been so badly led. By their brilliant fighting qualities they have won imperishable renown. By the conduct of the war from first to last the country has been disgraced.—*New York Herald.*

Gazette and Democrat.

READING, PA.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 1863.



HAIL! brightest banner that floats on the gale,
Flag of the country of Washington, hail!
Red are thy stripes with the blood of the brave,
Bright are thy stars as the sun on the wave;
Wrapt in thy folds are the hopes of the Free,
Banner of Washington! blessings on thee!

☞ "X's" COMMUNICATION, in reply to the *Journal*, is in type, but again crowded out, by an unusual pressure upon our columns. We are sorry for it, but our "pent-up" pages compel us to serve our best friends in this way much oftener than is agreeable to us.

VOLUME XXIV.

This issue of the *Reading Gazette* commences its *twenty-fourth* year. The present publisher, who was also one of its projectors, finds no little gratification, and some degree of pride, in contrasting its small beginnings and timid experimental efforts with the fixed, permanent, and self-sustaining position it now holds among the newspapers of the interior of the State. The *Gazette* is old enough to speak for itself and to take care of itself; and, in circulation and influence, has attained to a point beyond which few weekly presses ever reach. Its subscription list, which has been steadily increasing, from the date of its first publication, was never so well filled with good, paying subscribers as at this time; and its increase at present is more rapid than ever. Since the first of January, 1863, we have entered more new names upon our books than were added during any previous *year* of its existence; and new subscribers are still coming in daily. All this has been accomplished without any special effort on our part, or other inducement, beyond a steadfast adherence to the principles which we early embraced, in the full conviction of their truth and justice, and which we believe to be essential to the preservation of the free political institutions that our forefathers established. Amid all the mutations of parties and changes of administrations, which have occurred within the last sixteen years, the *Gazette* has remained faithful to the party which has proved itself, by experience, to be alone capable of administering the Federal Government, under the Constitution, in peace and union, and in harmony with the reserved *rights of the States*; and will labor earnestly for its restoration to power, as the only hope that remains to the nation of saving the Government from anarchy and dissolution, on the one hand, or from the equally fearful evils of arbitrary centralized rule and military despotism, on the other. Grateful to the friends who have stood by us through so many eventful years, we enter upon another editorial year with the encouragement of their past approval and support to nerve us to renewed diligence and energy, and to inspire us with the confident hope that their good-will and "material aid" will continue to attend us.

BROKE JAIL.—William Muthart, a well known horse thief, who was recently arrested for stealing horses in Luzerne county, and committed to jail at Williamsport, succeeded in making his escape from prison a few days since. The Sheriff offers a reward of $75 for his re-arrest. Muthart is well known to the police officers in this locality and we hope that he may be captured.

☞ BURNSIDE'S ORDER No. 8, referred to in recent Congressional investigations, but never exhibited to the public, appears in the New York *Herald* of Wednesday. It demands the dismissal of Hooker for insubordinate criticism in the army before Fredericksburg; of Franklin, Smith, Sturgis, and Ferrero, who were useless; and of Newton and Cochrane, for going to the President with impertinent criticisms of their commander.

☞ THE Easton *Daily Express* appears in an enlarged form and a new dress, which improve it vastly. These are substantial evidences of success, which has been well earned. We wish its enterprising publishers a continuance of prosperity.

A MONSTER MEETING.

The Democratic County Meeting on Tuesday last, was a monster gathering of the people. Called only by a single notice in the *Adler* and *Gazette* of the previous week, without handbills, circulars, music, or any of the means commonly employed to create an excitement and draw crowds, it was yet by far the largest mere *county* meeting that ever assembled in Reading. The spacious court-room, usually large enough to accommodate all who attend our ordinary public meetings, was found too small to hold even one-half of the attendants on this occasion, so that, after organization, the meeting was adjourned to the Court House yard, the ample space of which was soon filled with thousands of staunch Democrats from every quarter of the county, eager to testify by their presence to their undying devotion to those principles of personal freedom and constitutional right which were bequeathed to them by JEFFERSON and the founders of the republic. This meeting was a significant expression of the feeling that has been aroused throughout our county by the wanton attempt that was made in the streets of this city a few weeks ago, by a party of intolerant and persecuting Abolitionists, to excite mob violence against a few hundred unoffending country-men, who came to town, ill-advisedly, it may be, but peaceably, in strict conformity to the right which the Constitution declares shall never be taken away from them by Congress or any other power, and with no intention, either by word or act, to disturb the peace, or to interfere with the due process of the law against their neighbors who had been placed under arrest. The lesson that the meeting teaches is, that the people of Berks county, who have always been distinguished for their patient submission to all their *duties* as citizens, also know their *rights*, and have determined to maintain them.

The resolutions that were adopted are plain, outspoken, and to the point. They are bold, but not defiant—decided but not intemperate, in their tone and language. They counsel obedience to all the duties which the citizen owes to the Constitution and laws, and to the authority of those who administer them; but at the same time they firmly declare that the rights which are guaranteed under the same Constitution and laws, shall be jealously maintained against all attempts, whether of Executive power or military force, to usurp them.

It was to be regretted that any thing occurred to render this meeting necessary; but for that, the Democracy of Berks are not responsible; and, the necessity having arisen, they have met it in a manly way and as becomes freemen.

DAUPHIN AND LYCOMING SPEAK!

The Democratic Convention of Dauphin county met at Harrisburg on Tuesday last, and elected Dr. C. SEILER and JOHN RAYMOND Delegates to the next Democratic State Convention, and unanimously instructed them to support Hon. HIESTER CLYMER for Governor. The following are the resolutions of instruction, which were adopted by the unanimous vote of the Convention:

Resolved, That the sound Democratic principles, the brilliant talents and the unblemished honor which distinguish the character of the Honorable HIESTER CLYMER, are fully appreciated by the Democracy of Dauphin county; and that, therefore, our delegates to the State Democratic Convention are hereby instructed to use every honorable means to secure his nomination for the office of Governor of this Commonwealth. "An honest man is the noblest work of God."

Resolved, That our Senatorial conferees be instructed to use their best endeavors to ensure the election of a Senatorial delegate favorable to the nomination of the Hon. HIESTER CLYMER.

Resolved, That Fred. Lauman, John Wise and A. W. Loomis be the Democratic Senatorial conferees from the county of Dauphin.

The Democratic Convention of Lycoming county also met on Tuesday, and, as we learn by a dispatch from Williamsport, "instructed unanimously for HIESTER CLYMER."

The Democracy of Berks feel highly complimented and encouraged at these additional evidences of the popularity of the candidate they have presented for the Gubernatorial nomination; and anticipate with confidence that the State Convention will make him its choice.

☞ HARPER'S MAGAZINE for May, is out, and completes the 26th volume. In the ability and variety of its contents, and the excellence of its pictorial illustrations, it is a superior number. The best articles are "Hull's Campaign in the War of 1812," and "A Trip to the Caucasus." In lighter literature, it gives us a number of entertaining articles. "Rosemary," a new Story, of which Part I is printed, promises to be very good. In entering upon a new volume, the publishers pledge themselves that every department of the magazine will continue to be conducted upon the same general principles as heretofore, with such additions and improvements as may be suggested by a constantly increasing experience. Harvey Birch & Brother have the May number of *Harper* for sale.

☞ THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY for May, is published. The following is a list of its contents: Charles Lamb's Uncollected Writings; Dark Ways, by Harriet E. Prescott; After "Taps," a war poem, by Col. H. B. Sargent; The Human Wheel, its Spokes and Felloes, by Oliver Wendell Holmes; Paul Blecker, by the author of "Margaret Howth," "Life in the Iron Mills," etc.; Up the Thames, by Nathaniel Hawthorne; The Fern Forests of the Carboniferous Period, by Prof. Louis Agassiz; The Countess, a poem, by John G. Whittier; Gala Days, by Gail Hamilton; Give, a battle lyric; Only an Irish Girl; Shall we Compromise? by D. A. Wasson. The number is of unusual variety and merit. Boston: Ticknor & Fields, publishers. $3 a year.

THE ECLECTIC MAGAZINE.—We are indebted to Messrs. Strickland & Brother for the May number of this truly valuable repertory of Foreign Literature. It is embellished with handsome medallion portraits of the Prince and Princess of Wales, and contains eighteen selections of the best articles from late Foreign Magazines, among which "The Jewish Church and its History," "The Japanese Martyrs," and "The Antiquity of Man," will be found particularly interesting. The *Eclectic* is published monthly at $5 a year. Single Nos. 42 cents.

DEMOCRATIC TRIUMPH IN CHICAGO.—The election in Chicago on Tuesday for city officers, was closely contested, and the vote was large. The total vote cast was 20,300, and the result is a complete Democratic triumph. SHERMAN, Dem., is elected Mayor by 188 majority. The balance of the Democratic ticket was also elected. The Council stands 20 Democrats, and 12 Abolitionists.

HORSE EXHIBITION.—A grand trial of the speed of horses will take place on Wednesday next, April 29th, on the grounds of the East Pennsylvania Agricultural Society, at Norristown. Several horses from Berks county, we understand, are entered for competition. The entrance fee is $1.

☞ A FRENCHY TRAGEDY occurred in New York last week. A deserter from the U. S. Army poisoned himself and his sweetheart. The poison worked violently upon him, but had less effect upon the girl. He tried to strangle her, but his death struggles weakened him, and he died, while she recovered.

DEMOCRATIC COUNTY MEETING.

Pursuant to a call issued by the Chairman of the Democratic Standing Committee at the request of over one thousand citizens, the Democrats of Berks county assembled in Mass Meeting on Tuesday, April 21st, 1863, at 1 o'clock, P. M., in the Court House at Reading. Every portion of the county was numerously represented, and the attendance was the largest of any similar meeting ever held in this county.

The meeting was called to order by WM. B. ALBRIGHT, Esq., Chairman of the Standing Committee; and, on motion of JESSE G. HAWLEY, Esq., the Hon. S. E. ANCONA was unanimously chosen President. The President, on taking the chair, made a short address in explanation of the object of the meeting, as stated in the call, which was read; whereupon the further organization was made, and completed, as follows:

President:

Hon. S. E. ANCONA, of Reading.

Vice Presidents:

Albany, Benjamin Levan; Alsace, Benjamin Folk; Amity, Ezekiel Rhoads; Bern, Jonathan S. Herbein; Bern Upper, William Schaetzel; Bernville, Franklin Harbach; Bethel, Andrew Kurr; Brecknock, William Knauer; Centre, H. M. Philips; Colebrookdale, A. K. Gilbert; Carnarvon, Robert A. Gilmor; Cumru, Elias Fritz; District, David Frederick; Douglass, Ephraim Fritz; Earl, Daniel Francis; Exeter, Solomon Daukle; Greenwich, John Dressler; Jefferson, William N. Potteiger; Hamburg, William Stewart; Heidelberg, Kelly L. Fisher; Heidelberg North, John Dankelberger; Heidelberg Lower, David L. Wenrich; Hereford, Michael Gery; Kutztown, David Fister; Longswamp, John Baner; Maidencreek, Henry Reiter; Marion, Michael S. Thirwechter; Maxatawny, Lewis K. Hottenstein; Muhlenberg, Daniel Shell; Olay, William Knabb; Ontelaunee, Jonathan Rickenbach; Penn, John R. Reber; Perry, Michael Hoffman, sen.; Pike, John S. Dotterer; Richmond, Benjamin Merkel; Robeson, Samuel Wicklein; Rockland, John Baer; Ruscombmanor, William Frey; Spring, Geo. Lash; Tulpehocken, Jacob Kurz; Tulpehocken Upper, Daniel Wertz; Union, Herman Umstead; Washington, William Heins; Windsor, William Miller; Womelsdorf, Henry H. Mauderbach; *Reading*, J. Y. Gilmer, 1st Ward; W. F. Brown, 2d Ward; John L. Rightmyer, 3rd Ward; Joseph S. Hoyer, 4th Ward; William Rhoads, jr., 5th Ward.

Montgomery county—Daniel Gilbert, George Van Buskirk, Rufus P. Longenecker.

Secretaries:

Jesse G. Hawley,	William Rosenthal,
James B. Bechtel,	Charles W. Esser,
Mahlon A. Sellers,	Solomon L. Custer,
Franklin S. Ludwig,	Mahlon F. Wolf.

Upon the statement that a delegation from Montgomery county was present, Messrs. Daniel Gilbert, George Van Buskirk, and Rufus P. Longenecker, of that county, were nominated as honorary Vice Presidents.

On motion of Mr. P. Dœring, Esq., of Hamburg, a committee of one from each township, borough and ward, was chosen, to prepare and report resolutions expressive of the sentiments of the meeting. This committee was constituted as follows:

Committee on Resolutions:

Albany, Solomon Fister; Amity, A. H. Vandersilice; Alsace, John Missimer; Bern, Philip Berger; Bern Upper, Joseph S. Hix; Bernville, John L. Yeager; Bethel, Frederick Harner; Brecknock, Isaac Fitterling; Centre, Daniel Zerbey; Colebrookdale, Henry B. Rhoads; Carnarvon, Eli Becker; Cumru, William Bertolet; District, Jonas Miner; Douglass, D. B. Mauger; Earl, Samuel Baus, sen.; Exeter, Solomon Close; Greenwich, Charles A. Kline; Jefferson, Jacob Miller; Hamburg, Benneville Derr; Heidelberg, John L. Brown; Heidelberg North, Adam Stunich; Heidelberg Lower, D. B. Bucks; Hereford, John Dotts; Kutztown, J. Lewis Wanner; Longswamp, Levi H. Liess; Maidencreek, John D. Stitzel; Marion, Jacob Tice; Maxatawny, Dewalt S. Kutz; Muhlenberg, J. Z. Bechtel; Oley, John R. Edelman; Ontelaunee, Jeremiah Mangel; Penn, Samuel M. Klee; Perry, Reuben Schiffert; Pike, Reuben F. Brumbelier; Richmond, Solomon Leibelsperger; Robeson, Jacob Kurtz; Rockland, David Drey; Ruscombmanor, Charles Levan; Spring, Michael Goodman; Tulpehocton, Valentine Brobst; Tulpehocton Upper, Reuben Potteiger; Union, John McGowan; Washington, George Schall; Windsor, Daniel Bansher; Womelsdorf, Franklin Zerbe; *Reading*, Edward H. Sheaver, 1st Ward; Jesse G. Hawley, 2d Ward; Sebastian Lieber, 3rd Ward; Francis Roland, 4th Ward; Ephraim Armstrong, 5th Ward.

At this stage of the proceedings, it was found that only a small portion of the people present could be crowded into the court-room; and a motion was therefore made, and carried, that the meeting adjourn to the Court House yard. On re-assembling, all the available space in the yard, on the walls, and upon the roofs adjoining, was filled with an attentive assembly of several thousand persons.

The meeting was again called to order by the President, and, during the absence of the Committee, ably addressed by WM. ROSENTHAL, Esq., in German, and by the Hon. J. GLANCY JONES, in English.

The Committee, having returned, reported the following Resolutions, through JESSE G. HAWLEY, Esq., to wit:

WHEREAS, it is among the inalienable rights of a free people to assemble, either in public or in private, openly or secretly, as they may choose, subject only to the Constitution and Laws of the land; and whereas, an attempt has recently been made by the present authorities of the United States, in violation of those rights, by arresting peaceable citizens of the County of Berks, carrying them beyond the jurisdiction of their own Courts, on charges and pretences founded on mere rumor and without the slightest foundation in fact; therefore,

Resolved, By the Democracy of Berks County in mass meeting assembled, that while we will obey the Constitution and Laws of our country, and make no forcible resistance to the execution of any process administered by the government within the limits of its legitimate functions, we will not submit to nor tolerate the slightest encroachments upon our rights and privileges; such attempts will meet with our resistance at all hazards, and regardless of consequences.

Resolved, That secret societies, political or otherwise, are not in themselves in violation of the Constitution and Laws, and that whenever a free people see proper to organize themselves, in secret or in public, they have a right to protection; and if the government, for political purposes, fails to render that protection, we pledge ourselves to furnish it to the extent of our power.

Resolved, That whenever such societies are organized upon principles at variance with the Constitution and Laws, in their letter or spirit; or wherever the tendency of such organization infringes upon the constitutional rights of any citizen, on account of the place of his birth,—his religion or any other guaranteed right,—we regard such societies as illegal, subversive of law and order, and deserving the condemnation of all good citizens.

Resolved, That while the Democracy of Berks recognizes and sustains the *rights* of our people, under such restrictions, to so organize as a mere question of right appertaining to freemen, and deems it of the highest importance that eternal vigilance at all times should be exercised to guard against the slightest encroachments upon any rights, we do not deem secret political organization either desirable or expedient, so long as open organization can be maintained without danger from armed intervention or of bodily harm. Unless such danger exists, the tendency will almost invariably be dangerous to the rights of others; by falling into the hands of bad men public liberty as well as private right may be undermined before the public is aware of the danger; these evils, under the control of good and true men, may be avoided, but secret societies of a political character are favorites with all that class of men who dread the light for fear of exposure.

Resolved, That if secret political societies have been recently organized among us, it is to be presumed they are for no other purpose than the protection of their rights against unlawful arrests, or the execution of unconstitutional laws, until the contrary is proved; the character of our people warrants this belief; but, as such objects can better be secured by the open organization of our whole people in strict accordance with law, and without furnishing pretexts for armed intervention by a military power, we earnestly recommend all such to abandon the *secret* features and join us in open organization in every Ward, Township and Borough of our county. Such a movement will give us strength and power at home; inspire confidence, and wield moral influence abroad.

Resolved, That we are equally hostile to Abolitionists north, and Secessionists south. We regard both alike, as tending to the same results; one is the openly avowed advocate of a separate Confederacy; the other the advocate of principles which must inevitably end there.

Resolved, That we regard the Emancipation Proclamation, the Conscription law, and the Confiscation acts, as clearly unconstitutional; but while we pledge our united efforts to test them in all legal modes within our reach, we will not infringe upon, or violate any law, whatever may be our present opinions, until it is pronounced by the proper Judicial Authorities to be null and void. It is better to bear many grievances of a temporary character, than to plunge our country into anarchy, ending in military despotism, and destroying all our hopes for the future.

Resolved, That resistance by force to an invasion of our personal freedom is a virtue; and if the insane threat of a distinguished military chieftain, (distinguished more for the position he holds, than for achievements in arms) to put his heel upon the necks of Northern men, be attempted to be carried out, we promise him a warm reception. In order to allay any undue excitement, however, that might be occasioned by this threat, we deem it proper to add, that as this same authority has informed us, that we are not to be molested, until the rebels are first subdued; we are of opinion, judging by past progress, that the present generation at the North can hardly feel themselves interested in the question.

Resolved, That we recommend open organizations in every Ward, Township and Borough of our County, in order to sustain the Constitution, the Union and the Laws, and at the same time to resist every encroachment upon our personal rights and freedom, guaranteed by that instrument, and those laws.

Resolved, That we are inflexibly and unalterably devoted to the Constitution and the Union, with such additional guaranties as may protect the rights of minorities from all future aggression. We do not approve of this war as at present conducted. We never did approve of it in itself, but accepted it in preference to disunion, anarchy and despotism, under pledges that it should be conducted solely with a view to the restoration of the Union. These pledges have been broken, the War is converted into an abolition crusade, and we are free from any obligations, except those of obedience to law.

Resolved, That we will patiently wait the progress of events. Until power passes from the hands of the present Administration under the forms of law, we will continue to urge upon Congress, and upon the States the repeal of all unconstitutional acts, and the calling of a National Convention to amend the Constitution. If these fail, our hopes centre in the sovereign rights of the State of Pennsylvania, and in order that she may be prepared to exercise those rights, we urge upon our fellow citizens the necessity of organization, the selection, and election of our ablest and best men for Governor, and Legislators; and in the meantime we have no terms of peace to offer to any quarter, except upon the basis of re-union.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the Democratic papers of the county, in the *Age* and *Evening Journal*, Philadelphia; the *Norristown Register*; Harrisburg *Patriot and Union*; and *Pittsburgh Post*.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted, with loud acclamations; after which the meeting was further addressed by the Hon. HIESTER CLYMER and JAMES B. BECHTEL, Esq. All the speeches were eloquent expressions of the spirit of the resolutions, and were greeted with hearty applause. At 4 o'clock, P. M., the meeting adjourned.

City Affairs.

☞ THE REV. J. F. MEREDITH, late Chaplain of the 50th Regiment Penna. Volunteers, now Pastor of St. Peter's Methodist Episcopal Church, in South Fifth Street, will preach a sermon at said Church to-morrow (Saturday) evening, to the working-men of Reading, who are especially invited. *All the seats are free.* Services commence at half-past 7 o'clock.

☞ THE UNION PRAYER MEETING will be held to-morrow (Sunday) afternoon, in the Baptist Church, Chestnut street, above Fourth, at 3 o'clock. The public are respectfully invited to attend.

N. B.—A business meeting of the friends of the Union Prayer Meeting will be held this (Saturday) evening at 7½ o'clock, in the Evangelical Mission Church, Chestnut street, between 5th and 6th, for the purpose of making arrangements for its future direction and prosperity. A full attendance is requested.

☞ NATIONAL FAST DAY.—Thursday next, April 30th, will be President Lincoln's Fast Day. It will be observed in this city, we presume, as such days heretofore have been, by a general cessation of business. The Banks will close, so that persons who have pay ments falling due on the 30th, must attend to them the day preceding.

☞ DEMOCRATIC CITY CLUB.—The regular monthly meeting of the Club will be held *this evening*, at 8 o'clock, in the Club-room, Eben's Hall. The first of a series of lectures on political topics, will be delivered by JESSE G. HAWLEY, Esq. A general attendance of the members is requested.

Subject of the Lecture:—*Is not the Republican Party in favor of Disunion, rather than Reunion with Slavery?*

☞ CONVENTION OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS.—The triennial Convention of School Directors of Berks county, to elect a County Superintendent for the next three years, will be held in the Court House, in this city, on Monday, the 4th of May, at 1 o'clock, P. M. The candidates for the office, so far as we have heard them named, are—J. S. Ermentrout, the present Superintendent; John Ralston, Esq., of Reading; Herman Smith, of the Philomathean Institute, Birdsboro; and J. B. Hankey, of the Mount Pleasant Seminary, Boyerstown.

☞ MASTER WILLIAN'S CONCERT.—Master James Willian, of Philadelphia, the most remarkable musical genius of the day, whose performances on the Piano Forte have won the admiration of our most distinguished musicians, will, by special invitation, give a Concert in this city on Thursday evening next, in Odd Fellows' Hall, assisted by Miss Annie Wells, a favorite Vocalist, Mr. Shilling, and the Reading Instrumental Quartette Club. Master Willian plays the compositions of the best Masters, with perfect precision, with a grace and expression that would be remarkable in an older performer, but are truly surprising in one so young. With the remembrance of Gottschalk's wonderful skill and almost magical execution on the Piano, it will be a matter of curious interest to the lovers of music to see how the same pieces can be played by a boy 15 years of age—in other words, how far inborn genius can supply the place of years of study and practice. We hope Master Willian will be well patronized.

☞ THE "LOYAL LEAGUERS" had a meeting in the Court House on Tuesday night, as a set-off to the monster Democratic gathering of the same afternoon. By advertising it, in flaring handbills, as a sort of "free Concert," with vocal music to please the ladies and children, and the attraction of speakers from abroad to please the men, and by sending the drum and fife around the streets for an hour before, to wake up the folks, they contrived to fill the Court-room. Of the music, we shall have nothing to say. The first speaker was Mr. James H. Campbell, of Pottsville, a defeated Abolition candidate for Congress, who disgusted many of his own party with the violence and abusiveness of his remarks. "Copperheads," "traitors," "hang them!" and such-like slang, made up his speech. He was followed, in much better style and temper, by Morton McMichael, Esq., of Philadelphia; who, although an uncompromising partisan, never forgets that he is a gentleman. His speech, on this occasion, was within the limits of courtesy, at least. W. W. Ketcham, of Luzerne county, late a State Senator, and now a prospective candidate for Governor, wound up the entertainment. What the resolutions were, if any, we do not know.

☞ ROBBED IN A PASSENGER CAR.—Levi H. Lless, Esq., of Meritztown, Longswamp township, had his pocket picked of $342 on Tuesday evening of last week, as he was about entering a passenger railway car at the corner of Thirteenth and Callowhill streets, Philadelphia, with a carpet-bag in his hand, after leaving the Reading train, in the Depot. He had also some gold and silver coin about his person at the same time, but it was not taken.

The professional thieves and pick-pockets of Philadelphia appear to have free access to the street railway cars. Almost every day we read accounts of robberies committed in those conveyances. The victims are generally strangers to the city, on their way from the Railroad Depots to the Hotels. We would caution our country friends who may have occasion to carry large sums of money about them when going to Philadelphia, to avoid the street rail-cars. If the distance from the Depot to the places they intend to stop at, is too great to walk, they will find it much safer to take a carriage.

☞ NEW LANDLORDS.—Mr. Samuel Fasig, formerly of the Berks County House, and late landlord of "Shilling's Tavern," in Cumru Township, has taken the Packerack Hotel, at the Lancaster Bridge, where all who call will find him "at home," prepared to accommodate them with the best the market affords.

Mr. Joshua Keely, an old landlord, has become the lessee of Housum's Hotel, corner of Fourth and Penn streets, and will conduct the same in the best style. This is one of the largest public houses in the city, and none is better suited to the comfortable accommodation of travellers and permanent boarders.

☞ BUY THEM.—The New-York Illustrated Papers for May 2 are out, and for sale by Harvey Birch & Brother. They contain an unusually attractive variety of engravings, illustrative of the progress of the war, &c. The same firm are also agents for all the New-York and Philadelphia Dailies, the Monthly Magazines, &c.

☞ DEATH OF AN AGED MATRON.—Mrs. Mary Jackson, relict of the late John Jackson, a former resident of Reading, died on the 2d of April, 1863, at the residence of her daughter, Abigail Parker, in Chester county, at the age of 87 years. She was born in 1776, shortly after the Declaration of Independence, in Birmingham township, Delaware county, in the vicinity of the ground on which the Battle of Brandywine was fought. She was 1 year old at that time, and was familiar, in after years, with many of the participants in the battle. She was married on the 15th of 5th month, 1799, to John Jackson, of Reading, whose family was among our earliest settlers. She, with her husband, continued to reside in Reading until about 1830, when they removed to their farm near Parkesburg, Chester county, leaving their son, the late Samuel S. Jackson, at the homestead in this city. John Jackson died in 1851, and his aged partner had ever since been living alternately with her two daughters, Mary S. Lawrie and Abigail N. Parker. She was very feeble for many years; but, the past winter, which she spent with Mrs. Parker, her health was remarkably good, and she was able to walk out several times, when the weather was good. On the evening of the 29th of March, she complained of illness, and gradually grew worse, when she was seized with paralysis, and on the afternoon of the 2d inst., she quietly breathed her last. She was interred on the afternoon of the 5th, at the Parkersville burying-ground, by the side of her husband, and son Samuel. The deceased was an exemplary member of the Society of Friends, and an estimable woman in all the domestic relations, as many of the older residents of Reading, who enjoyed her friendship, will remember.

☞ NEW CHIEF OF POLICE.—It will be seen, by the following communications, that Mr. MAST has resigned the office of Chief of Police, and that the Mayor has appointed Mr. REUBEN GOODHART, formerly one of our City Constables, in his stead:

READING, April 18, 1863.

To the Honorable Joseph S. Hoyer, Mayor of the City of Reading—

DEAR SIR:—When I accepted at your hands the appointment of Chief of Police of the City of Reading, I did so with the expectation and prospect of relinquishing the business I was at the time and am now engaged in; but circumstances over which I have no control compel me to continue the same, and as the office of Chief of Police and my present business might and in all probability would conflict, I feel compelled to resign the office of "Chief of Police."

I hereby thus most respectfully tender to your Honor my resignation of said office, returning to you my most grateful thanks for the mark of favor and confidence shown to me, and hope you will be able to select some person to succeed me who will discharge the duties of said office faithfully.

With the best wishes for your continued health and prosperity, I am with high respect,

Your obedient servant, J. B. MAST.

READING, April 20, 1863.

I have accepted the above resignation, and have appointed as Chief of Police, REUBEN GOODHART.

The Night Police and extra Policemen are the following: *1st Ward*—Peter Zimmerman; *2d Ward*—John Doebler; *3d Ward*—William Levan; *4th Ward*—John Zeschman; *5th Ward*—Jos. Goodhart; and additional, Wm. S. Young, Clerk of Markets, and Peter Orth, Janitor at Lock-up.

This is all my Police force at present, and no one besides is authorized by me to act as Policemen.

JOS. S. HOYER, Mayor.

☞ MILITARY ITEMS.—Capt. E. P. Pearson, jr., of the 17th U. S. Infantry, has been placed upon the Staff of Major General Howard, Commander of the 11th Army Corps of the Army of the Potomac.

Lieut. George B. Rhoads, of Company B, 88th Penna. Volunteers, has been promoted to the Captaincy of Company F, of the same Regiment. The new Captain is an original "Ringgold Artillerist," a brave young officer, and has stuck to his post with a fidelity that proves him (although he does not measure as many inches as some of his comrades-in-arms) "*every inch* a soldier." His Captain's commission dates from the Battle of Fredericksburg.

Capt. E. A. Mass, of Company B, 88th Penna. Volunteers, has been ordered to close his recruiting office in this city, and report to the Superintendent of the Recruiting Service, at Harrisburg. He has enlisted 35 men since he has been here.

Capt. Frank. B. Shalters, jr., of Company H, 88th Penna. Volunteers, having tendered his resignation, has been honorably discharged from the service of the United States.

☞ MONEY FROM THE 128TH REGIMENT.—The following amounts of money have been sent home by the members of the Companies named, belonging to the 128th Regiment:

Company A,	Captain Schmucker,	$3,637
" B,	" McNail,	3,833
" E,	" Richards,	3,343
" H,	" Kennedy,	1,608
" I,	" Jones,	2,900
" K,	" Newkirk,	2,290
Total,		$17,611

The money of members of Company A, has been sent to Mr. Jacob Schmucker, North Sixth street; Company B, to N. M. Eisenhower, South Fifth street; Company E, to W. G. Von Nieda, Sixth street, above Penn; Company H, to H. F. Felix, N. W. corner Fifth and Penn; Company I, to J. S. Schroeder, at office of J. Hagenman, Esq.; and Company K, to Newkirk's Hotel, South Sixth street.

The members of Company E, 48th Penna. Regiment, have sent money home for their families to the late Captain Cornelius Wise, in Eighth street, below Franklin.

☞ POST OFFICE AFFAIRS.—AFTERNOON MAIL TO HARRISBURG.—A through mail between Reading and Harrisburg, is now carried by the afternoon Passenger Trains on the Lebanon Valley Railroad—opening at the Reading Post office at 5 P. M., and closing at 5.20 P. M. No mail is carried to any *Way* Post Offices by the afternoon trains. Letters, &c., for points between Reading and Harrisburg must be sent by the morning mail only, as heretofore.

The mail route between Reading and Phœnixville, has been curtailed by the discontinuance of the lower portion, and now extends only to Brower's P. O., in Berks county. It leaves Reading every Tuesday and Saturday, at 7 A. M., and supplies Birdsboro, Umstead's, Robeson and Brower's Post Offices.

☞ THE WASHINGTON HOSE COMPANY'S HOP.—Our readers who are accustomed to "trip the light fantastic toe," must not forget the "Hop" on Wednesday evening next, on the occasion of formally inaugurating "Aulenbach's New Hall." The Hall is now entirely finished, and presents a beautiful appearance. Determined efforts have been made by the members of the "Washington" and their lady friends, to make this *the* Party of the Season, and from the character of those engaged, we know it will be accomplished. The music will be by Wittich's full Orchestra of seven musicians.

☞ ACCIDENT IN A STONE QUARRY.—On Saturday morning last, about 8 o'clock, as Mr. Daniel Hinnershitz, who was engaged in blasting rocks in Leinbach's limestone quarry, at the Western end of the Penn street bridge, was in the act of pouring a charge of powder into a hole that had been drilled for a blast, it suddenly exploded, and burned him terribly in the face and head. It appears that a blast had been made a few moments before in the rock near the newly-drilled hole, from which fire must have communicated, and caused the explosion.

☞ THE DEMOCRATIC WARD CLUBS.—The organization of these Clubs is progressing finely. Adjourned meetings were held last Saturday evening in the several Wards, at which the form of a Constitution was adopted, and the necessary measures taken for placing the Clubs on a permanent footing. Some of the Clubs have already elected their officers, and the others have made nominations to be elected at a future meeting. These Clubs are to be subordinate and auxiliary to the General City Club.

☞ DROWNED.—A young lad, about eight years of age, son of William O'Dear, was drowned last Saturday in the Schuylkill, below Jackson's Lock. He, with a number of other boys, was playing on some canal boats, when he fell into the river. Search was immediately made for his body, but owing to the strength of the current, it was not found until Sunday morning at 10 o'clock.—*Times.*

☞ SANFORD'S OPERA TROUPE will perform in this city on Tuesday and Wednesday evening next, in Odd Fellows' Hall. Sanford is well known to all our citizens as one of the best singers and performers in his line that lives; and we learn that his Company was never composed of better material than at present. He will need no extra exertions to draw crowded houses.

☞ ADMISSION TO THE BAR.—On the 23d inst., in the Court of Common Pleas of Berks county, on motion of the Hon. Hiester Clymer, Messrs. C. A. LEOPOLD and DANIEL SCHREDER, were admitted to practice law in the several Courts of Berks county.

☞ AMOUNT OF COAL transported on the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, during the week ending Thursday, April 23, 1863.

	Tons. Cwt.
From Port Carbon,	27,196 08
" Pottsville,	611 05
" Schuylkill Haven,	18,969 06
" Auburn,	5,156 14
" Port Clinton,	5,052 12
" Harrisburg,	5,160 16
Total for week	63,047 01
Previously this year,	941 993 19
TOTAL,	1,005,041 00
To same time last year,	646,226 09

☞ GOVERNMENT LOANS.—Jay Cooke has opened an agency for the sale of the U. S. 6 per cent. Government bonds, at the Reading Savings Bank, where these highly desirable securities may be obtained, in large or small amounts, free of charge for commissions, &c. These bonds bear 6 per cent. interest, which will be paid at the Bank, semi-annually, *in gold*, or its equivalent in premium.

Correspondence of the Reading Gazette.

SHOOTING AFFRAY IN A CHURCH.

NEW BERLIN, Union Co., Pa., April 18th, 1863.

MR. GETZ—Sir:—To-day our town was in a tremendous state of excitement. The facts are these:—James Hummel, of Snyder county, a deserter from the Army, was here attending the funeral of a deceased sister. After the relatives, with a large assembly of neighbors and friends were quietly seated in Church and the preacher was about opening the services, a sergeant Gebhart, who alleges to have been on detail for several months already, to arrest deserters in Snyder county, walked up to Hummel, pointing a Colt's revolver at his breast, and saying in a mumbling manner, "You are my prisoner." Hummel thereupon started up, and drew a Sharp's four-shooter. Gebhart snapped two caps without effect. After this, they both discharged all their loads at each other. There were in all nine shots fired. This happened right *before the consecrated altar of the Church*, in the midst of hundreds of innocent women and children. Hummel having his wife and one child by his side. As soon as the firing commenced, however, the consternation, shrieks and lamentations were so great and intense, as to be beyond description. Hummel, as it is supposed by his physicians, has a mortal wound through his left lungs. Gebhart had three bullet holes in his coats, but they being both very thickly padded, protected him partly against the balls of an inferior weapon. As good luck would have it, no innocent persons were hit, although there are bullet-marks upon the walls of the Church. There are very many deserters through all these counties in this part of the State, and the question is now, are the arrogant, insolent and indolent provost guards of Lincoln's tyranny to be about for months to await occasions like this, and amid all that should be