PITTSBURGH GAZETTE.

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PITTSBURGH.

THURSDAY MORNING, FEB. 27, 1851.

To the Whigs of Pennsylvania.

☞ A STATE CONVENTION will be held in the City of Lancaster, on TUESDAY, the 24th, inst, for the purpose of selecting candidates for the offices of Governor and Canal Commissioner, and also for Judges of the Supreme Court.

HENRY M. FULLER, Chairman.

Joseph R. Flanegin.	Samuel McKinney.
J. Knox Morton.	C. Thomson Jones.
Wm. H. Slingluff.	Samuel B. Thomas.
Samuel Bell.	John S. Brown.
Nathaniel Ellmaker.	T. Taylor Worth.
Wm. J. Robinson.	Alexander E. Brown.
Worden E. Preston.	Wm. Baker.
Thomas E. Cochran.	Wm. M. Watts.
Henry Johnson.	James Clark.
Charles H. Bordman.	Sherman D. Phelps.
George Owen.	Edwin C. Wilson.
B. A. Finney.	John Allison.
C. v. Loomis.	Daniel McCurdy.
John Bausman.	George Sexsmith.
Wm. Krauts.	Alex'r M. McClure.
John C. Neville.	Francis Jordan.

R. RUNDLE SMITH, Secretary.

ANOTHER PLANK ROAD.—In another column will be found an advertisement for subscriptions of stock to the Birmingham and Brownsville Plank Road Company. By the route of this road the steep ascent of Coal Hill is avoided. The proposed road starts from East Birmingham, and is to pass up the Ravine to Mount Oliver, and from thence to Finleyville, following as near as practicable route of the old Brownsville road. The grade from East Birmingham to Mount Oliver will not exceed two and one half degrees, and it is astonishing that a road should ever have been located on any other route than up the ravine from East Birmingham.

The country through which this road is to pass is densely populated, and the farmers in that section have suffered much from the want of good roads; as the Old Brownsville Road is considered to be one of the very worst leading to the city.

The people of Birmingham are largely interested in this road, and we doubt not they will take a lively interest in bringing about its speedy completion. Independent of the fact that plank roads have paid most liberal dividends, the real estate through which they pass is always largely increased in value, so that there is every inducement for the construction of the road.

MARKET HOUSE AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS.—Our correspondent, an "Old Citizen," broaches a most stupendous and magnificent project for improving the city, which is worth at least some consideration. We are not sufficiently acquainted with the value of the property, and the difficulties in the way, to say whether it is feasible or not, but it is certainly a very desirable plan.

He proposes to lay out a Central Avenue from Liberty street to Grant, along Diamond Alley, 150 feet wide, using the lots on the north side of the alley for the street, and remunerating the owners by an assessment on the property on either side of this magnificent Avenue, which will be vastly enhanced in value. On this Avenue he proposes to erect a market, in the centre, leaving a fine street on each side. The project is a bold one, and worthy of attention, and we refer our readers to the communication and the particulars.

THE REIMERSBURG CONVENTION.

The Convention at Reimersburg, we understand, was a very fine and encouraging affair.—There were about five hundred delegates present, and the number would have been increased to six hundred if the boats could have got under the Freeport Aqueduct.

The following letter from a gentleman present, as a member of the Pittsburgh Delegation, gives the substance of the proceedings, and shows that a spirit is aroused which must result in some improvement of great importance to this city and to the whole Allegheny valley:

KITTANNING, Feby 24th, 1851

Dear Sir:—I am sorry that the high water prevented the Pittsburgh Delegation from attending the Reimersburg Convention.

Mr. Guthrie brought the proceedings of your meeting to our Convention before we adjourned. The proceedings were read, and ordered to be printed with the proceedings of the Convention.

One of the resolutions passed at your meeting, recommended an adjourned meeting to be held at Harrisburg before the adjournment of the Legislature and to give Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York notice of that meeting, &c.; and in pursuance of that resolution our Convention appointed Messrs. Mayers, Laughlin, McKee, and Riley, members of the Legislature, to attend that Convention, also, Judge McClay, who is in Harrisburg, from Clarion county.

No day was fixed on for that Convention to meet in Harrisburg—that matter was left for the Pittsburgh Delegation to fix on whatever day they thought would be most suitable, as well as to give the requisite notice to Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York to send delegates if they thought proper, as expressed in your resolution on that subject.

The proceedings of our Convention will be published in the Clarion papers, but it will be some days before the papers reach your place, and as you may not have otherwise heard, I thought I would drop you a line of the most important part of the meeting of the Convention at Harrisburg—that no day was mentioned, so that you could attend to have the day fixed on and published, and notice given as contemplated in your resolution, all in due time.

At our Convention here were two Committees appointed; one on the subject of a Plank Road, and reported in favor of a Plank Road from the town of Clarion to the Allegheny river at one of three points—mouth of Redbank, Phillipsburgh, or Catfish, the point to be fixed on by the Company that will make the road, &c.

The other Committee consisted of 31, appointed on the subject of a Railroad, which Committee to meet at Curlsville, on the 2d Tuesday of March next, and report their proceedings to the Harrisburg Convention.

The time fixed on for the Harrisburg Convention should be a few days after the 2d Tuesday of March, so as to give time for this Committee of 31 to make out their report, and to be forwarded on to the Harrisburg Convention.

I write in haste, having just got in here after a real wade through the mud.

I am, very respectfully, yours, &c.,

ROBERT ORR.

To Mr. WALTER BRYANT.

The Hempfield Railroad project seems to be at present somewhat in the fog. The *Wellsburg Herald*, of the 21st., speaking of information on the subject says:

If any one is in possession of the commodity, we have only to acknowledge him richer than we are. We have waited till the latest moment, have ransacked our exchanges; but cannot find a single item. The Richmond mail due to day, failed entirely; and the Daily Wheeling Times, to which we are wont to look for Richmond news has been for the last four days silent as the grave—from which we infer news unfavorable to Wheeling.

The Parkersburgh Bill, passed the Senate on the 12th, by a vote of 21 to 7; and is now a law. The Cincinnatians are chuckling over it; and the Wheelingites are down, but they have their own infallible wire workers to blame fully as much as any body else. The Hempfield news of last week was correct, inasmuch that the Company are bound to make a branch to the Virginia line, instead of to Wellsburg. The impression is, that the Bill has passed; there is no reliable news.—There is a report that immediately on the passage of the Parkersburg Bill, President Swan of the Balt. and Ohio R. Road, and others in that interest posted off to Richmond; and with their presence there, seems to be connected in some way the fate of the Hempfield in the Senate.

For the Pittsburgh Gazette.

A MARKET HOUSE PROJECT.

MR. EDITOR—Inasmuch as many have undertaken to give their opinion, as to the best place for a Market House, and as some thing must soon be done, as the wants of the entire city, present and future, seem not to have been considered, I venture to propose the following, which I think, on examination, will be found to be a self sustaining plan.

By its action, it produces capital to carry it through. Every individual coming within its range will be benefitted, as all those lot holders on the south side, that could not pay for the improvement opposite, could sell to better advantage, and there would doubtless be more buyers than sellers for such property.

First. As there is not at present any property in the centre of the city, of less value to its owner, than that of Diamond Alley, the City having first obtained authority from the State to purchase the entire range of lots on the north side of Diamond Alley, from Grant to Liberty streets; those lots extend half a square through from Diamond Alley toward Fifth street, 120 ft. Diamond Alley to be called Centre Avenue, with a width of 140 feet. It is believed that a sufficient fund can be raised as follows:

Each lot, say of 30 feet, on the south side of Diamond Alley, would, by this opening, be raised to three times its present value; each holner of such lots would not fail to give as much as would pay the present value for the lot opposite to him, except the corner lots. A fund sufficient for the purchase of those, could be raised as follows:—First. Each corner on the south side would be raised in value, at least $1,000, and each lot on the north corner equally raised. Again, each lot now fronting on Fifth street, running back 120 feet. The back ends of those lots would then front on the best street in the city, and in depth towards Fifth street, 60 feet—being the depth of most of the lots fronting on Wood street; the back end, or what is now the back of each 30 feet lot, would be worth to its owner, at least $6000.—They, I think, would be willing to give, at least $4,000 toward the fund, to pay for the corner.

We will now suppose we have Centre Avenue clear, from Liberty to Grant streets, 140 wide, in the centre of which the city will build a market house from Market street to Wood, and from Wood to Smithfield, thirty feet wide, two stories high, with a ten feet porch, one story high, the eaves supported on cast iron columns; a wide stairway at each end, to the second story. The other part, between Liberty and Market streets, as the wards of the city demand; from Smithfield to Ross, and from Ross to the city limits as needed.

Again, Mr. Editor, we need improvements for city purposes. Mayor's Office, Council Rooms, and various other city offices, and above, then a Town Hall, that would be an honor to the city.—After Centre Avenue is opened as above, there will be several valuable lots on the south side of the Diamond, belonging to the city, to lay out, then the city has 15 or 20 of the best lots for sale.

Now, I ask, what would be the result? Centre Avenue and Fifth street—the most suitable location for a Post Office, as stages could run all round it. If the United States would not purchase the desired lot, one is greatly wanted for a Merchant's Exchange—none could be better for central position, light, air, &c.

This, Mr. Editor, I have sketched out as a general plan for the real wants of the city. I hope a suitable Committee may be appointed by proper authority to enquire into its practicability.

AN OLD CITIZEN

COMPLETION OF THE C C AND C R R—CLEVELAND TWENTY-FOUR YEARS SINCE.

Yesterday the last rail upon the Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati Railroad was laid, and for the first time passengers came through from Columbus to Cleveland by a continuous line of Railroad. This is the beginning of the second era in the history of Cleveland.

On the first of December, 1826, the Cleveland Herald estimated the value of merchandize landed at the village," at between "seven and eight hundred thousand dollars;" and complained that "during the latter part of the summer, or early in the fall, the mouth of the river is usually obstructed by a bar of sand, which sometimes amounts to a total non-intercourse between the lake and the river—at other times boats or lighters of ten or fifteen tons can enter. The spring floods remove the bar, and the lake craft can then enter the river and come along side the wharves. When this is nor the case, vessels are compelled to lie at anchor in the lake, and discharge and receive their cargoes by means of lighters."

On the same day at a meeting of which Samuel Cowles, Esquire, was President, and John W. Allen, Esq., Secretary, it was resolved to memorialize Congress for the "building of a harbor and the erection of a light house."

Such was the "village" of Cleveland a little more than twenty four years ago, and such with but little advancement, it would have been, today, but for those internal improvements which have developed the resouses of the Reserve, and provided means of entrance for its imports and of exit for its production. The soil of the Reserve is no richer now than it was then, nor is it tilled by more industrious or enterprising men, but the increased facilities of communication, and of making the Union, instead of a petty village, a market for the products of labor, has increased the business, wealth and social advantages of Northern Ohio an hundred fold.

Then, the citizens of Cleveland, after a lapse of twelve or fourteen days, might learn from Columbus the acts of their representatives—now Columbus papers, yet wet from the press, inform Clevelanders of doings at the State Capitol but three hours before. A little more than twenty-six years have elapsed since the completion of the Ohio Canal, but owing to the tribute the whole State has poured through it into the lap of Cleveland, the "village" has become a city, its trade has increased from $800,000 a year to nearly sixteen millions, and New York itself can boast little of comfort, refinement, or luxury, which is not found within the limits of the town which so lately begged the co-operation of Buffalo, Black Rock, and Detroit, in securing such improvements as would at all times allow "lighters of ten or fifteen tons" to enter its harbor!—Looking to such a past, from such a present, the citizens of Cleveland may well indulge the hope that the completion of the first great railroad communication between Cleveland and the Ohio river may be the commencement of twenty-three years as rapid of progress and prosperity, as that which has blessed their city in those that have passed.

It is a strange coincidence that though the credit of carrying through the canal and Railroad is due in part to many, yet to one man more particularly is Cleveland indebted for the beneficial results the one has, and the other must, produce. When each of these great improvements languished for the want of proper superintendence and care, the indomitable energy and clearness of calculation and inflexibility of purpose of Alfred Kelly were enlisted in their aid, and the result was, speedy and successful completion.—*Cleveland Herald*

COMMODORE STOCKTON CHOSEN SENATOR.—Commodore Richard F Stockton was yesterday, elected to the United States Senate from New Jersey, for six years from the 4th of March next. The vote on the final ballot stood—

R. F. Stockton, Opposition,	39
Wm L. Dayton, Whig,	19
Ford, Opp.,	2
Randolph, W.,	2

Necessary to choose 29, and the Commodore had them. So nothing was wasted.

Messrs. Williams and Mahew, chosen as Whigs from Strong Whig Counties, voted for the Commodore. Mr. William Whitehead, elected as a Whig, and Mr. Thomas D. Hoxsey, a Whig, but elected on a split ticket, were *absent!!!!* We should like the privilege of guessing what considerations induced their absence—but never mind.—*N Y Tribune.*

From the Philadelphia Bulletin.

"THE BATTLE OF THE CHURCHES."

The last number of the Westminster Review contains an article on the Roman Catholic excitement in England, in which, while ecclesiastics are dealt at the papal bull, the established church itself is not spared. The article is headed "The Battle of the Churches," and is well worth a review in our columns.

We would premise, however, for such of our readers as are not familiar with the Review in question, that the Westminster is a quarterly of a peculiar kind. It is the organ neither of the Low Church nor of the High, neither of Presbyterians nor of Methodists, neither of Free Trade nor of Protection, neither of Monarchy nor of Republicanism, neither of Whig nor of Conservative. It professes to be liberal beyond all other quarterlies; and, as a proof, allows its contributors to advocate pretty much what they please. Accordingly the most contradictory principles are frequently maintained in its pages. In general, however, it lends its influence against what is called Orthodoxy, and carries this so far, at times, as even to impugn Christianity itself. In this very number there is an article on "Mackay's Progress of the Intellect," which, if written by any other hand, would have been pronounced identical. Nothing worse, indeed, can be found in either Bolingbroke or Hume. However, as each writer in this Review fights, like Harry of the Wynd, "for his own hand," the author of the "Battle of the Churches" cannot fairly be held responsible for the sentiments of the article on Mackay. He is, however, evidently no friend to forms of any kind in religion.

The writer in the Westminster opens his article with a handsome compliment to the Roman Catholic dogma, which he pronounces wonderfully adapted to the wants of the human heart, and full of logical coherence. It is not among the ignorant and vulgar, he thinks, that the most converts to Catholicism are apt to be made; but among the intellectual and speculative, who find in the Roman theology a superiority over Protestantism in philosophy and antiquify alike.—The class of weak, dependant characters, who can not stand alone in the struggle of life, he considers are also especially liable to go over to the Roman Catholic Church, because there they find a faith which takes all the burden of self-investigation from them. But, while thus pointing out the reasons why Roman Catholicism is likely to increase in England, the writer, in the Westminster explicitly declares that he laments, rather than rejoices over the fact. He adds, however, that, as the question is generally argued, Cardinal Wiseman has the better of antagonists in the No-Popery agitation. Even if Catholicism could be proved a superstition, says the writer, that would be no excuse for interfering with it by law. Whether its solutions of questions in divinity be wiser than those of the Protestant Churches, or not, is no business of the State. If Mormonism, says the reviewer, is tolerated, if Atheism even is left unassailed by the laws, with what propriety can the free exercise of the Roman Catholic religion be interfered with by the English parliament.

On the religious ground, therefore, there can be, this writer maintains, no excuse for the present excitement in Great Britain. Yet the agitation, even in his opinion, is not without a justifiable reason. Roman Catholicism, he declares, differs from all Protestant sects, in being, *not a religion, only, but a polity*; and in this peculiarity consists, he asserts, the danger of the late proceeding. Christianity, according to the Church of Rome, is not merely a doctrine, productive of institutions, but an institution, which is the perpetual source of doctrine. Revelation, it holds, is not a transitory visit of heaven to earth, begun and completed in the mortal life of the Savior, but continuous Real Presence of the Infinite in certain selected persons and consecrated objects. The word of inspiration, the deed of miracle, the authority to condemn and forgive, have descended, it says, by priestly ordination, in the Church, and remain as effectively as when Christ taught in the temple, walked on the sea, denounced the Pharisees, and accepted the penitent. The officers of the Church of Rome, according to his dogma, are the sole legitimate dispensers on earth of divine grace or pardon, whose decision, whether they open or shut the gates of mercy, is registered in heaven, and is without appeal. It is this sacerdotal character, this assumption of divine powers, which alarms the writer in the Westminster, and distinguishes the late action of the Pope, at least in his opinion, from the appointment of bishops by the Methodists.

This claim to exclusive sacerdotal privilege, on the part of the Church of Rome, is regarded by the reviewer as an organized and vigorous attempt to establish a theocracy. Where a nation sincerely believes in the divine prerogatives of this church, the State, according to the Westminster, must practically be the tool of the priesthood, and that whatever the form of government it cannot fail, he supposed, this writer says, that a clergy, which believes itself, by apostolic succession, to wield the sceptre of the Most High, will pay much heed to the baton of the constable. All history proves, he contends, that the evil power has ever been regarded as subordinate by the church of Rome. "Where the theocratic pretension prevails," to use his own words, "it is idle to suppose that another supreme jurisdiction, resting on a merely human basis, can peacefully co-exist with it." He repudiates the idea, so frequently advanced, that theocratic claims are harmless, because they refer only to spiritual matters, and contends that all sects, which have made theocratic claims, from Calvin and the Puritans down, have trespassed on civil rights. The Protestant churches, he adds, have long since abandoned the idea of theocratic claims, except the Established Church of England, which still clings, in theory at least, to the dogma of a sacerdotal ministry, in like manner as does the Church of Rome.

This doctrine of a priesthood, using that term as distinct from a ministry, as implying hieratic powers, as denoting a class claiming to be the indispensable medium of communication between God and man, the Westminster holds to be a permanent evil, not of place in an age of progressive civilization. He opens his batteries accordingly on the High Church party, for maintaining this doctrine, and accuses them of being the real, though remote cause of the late aggression. The present quarrel, he adds, is between them and Cardinal Wiseman: here were rival ecclesiastics, assuming to be both heaven-appointed, and not between the British nation and the Roman Catholic body. He declares that for seventeen years, what was called the "Anglican" movement went on, unopposed by the Bishops, every year, showing how far Protestants by name might become in doctrine Roman Catholic; and that the moment the Pope insists on introducing his polity, the instant a rival hierarchy springs up, lo! those who had sympathized the most intensely with the Roman Catholics, became immediately their most bitter foes. "The anger of the clergy," we employ his own words, "arises from their holding the very same doctrine with their opponents, viz: that on the same spot there cannot be more than one bishop; that if two appear, one or the other must be a pretender.

The writer in the Westminster concludes, by calling on the English clergy to abandon their arbitrary pretensions, and on the State to refuse recognizing the Church hereafter as a supernatural corporation. The alternative, he contends, would materially nationalize the Church.

EXECUTION OF JOHN THOMAS.—At twenty-one minutes past one o'clock, P. M., yesterday, John Thomas, convicted of murder, was hung on Duncan's Island. Surrounded by a numerous concourse of citizens, he left the jail, accompanied by Father Paris, his spiritual adviser, at half past twelve. Despite the inclemency of the weather all the wretched condition of the streets, very crowds were assembled on and about the Island long before the convict had arrived. Six minutes after one a cart was turned about at the gallows, and the prisoner, in company of Rev Fathers Paris and Hennessy, mounted the fatal form. Some fifteen minutes was devoted to meditation and prayer, when Marshal Mc Allister tough read the death warrant and informed the convict that if he had any statement to make he could address the people now

By this time the crowd on the island and in vicinity numbered, we believe, fully ten thousand persons, of whom about two thousand were women and children. On being addressed by the Marshal, Thomas advanced to the edge of the platform with a firm step, and in a distinct and clear tone, spoke as follows: "Gentlemen and Fellow citizens: I bid you all adieu. I give my self up to the will of the law and to the Lord's mercy." Afterwards turning to the Marshal he said in an under tone, at I had told them more they would not have believed me. Those words were nearest the wretched criminal during the preparations for his execution, state that he was, with rare intervals, cool and composed throughout. The Marshal adjusted a white linen cap over his head and face, and at twenty-one minutes past one the trigger was sprung. Owing to some improper arrangement of the rope, the fall failed to break his neck. The sufferer hung several and a half minutes before giving the last death convulsion. His death was produced by suffocation. He was allowed to hang thirty minutes, and the body at the end of that time was lowered into a coffin, furnished by Father Paris. It was immediately conveyed from the ground, to be interred in a cemetery.

John Thomas, we may state, is a name that was assumed only within the past year or two by the wretched man, whose life has been paid a forfeit to the laws. He acknowledged to the jailer, and several others, that his name was not his own. He was brought up in New Jersey, and is supposed to have been a native of that State.—*St. Louis Rep.*

SELECTIONS FROM FRENCH PAPERS.

A GENUINE BANDIT.

In a report lately addressed by the Chief of the Engineering Department in Corsica, some curious facts are detailed relative to the state of society in that part of the French Republic. About three leagues to the north east of Calvi and on the sea coast, is the fortified town called Le Rousse, with a population of about 1,000 inhabitants. The district for about 30 miles round is marshy, or covered in part with jungle, and difficult of access.

For the last 18 months this district has been ruled despotically by a bandit, named Mazzoni, and whose sway is submitted to by the natives. The vindictive character of the Corsicans, and their transmitting from father to son, for many generations, the memory of past wrongs and hatreds—the *vendetta*—of families are well known.

Driven to the career of an outlaw by some act of savage vengeance, Mazzoni set up his flag in the corner of the district; and even in the town of Ile Rousse no one dreams of disobeying or eluding his decrees. He is at the head of a band of 25 devoted followers, all outlaws like himself. He has organized a regular government, and levies a sort of black mail on the surrounding districts, which no one refuses, and the regular payment of which enables him to live in much state, and gives him the means of protecting the lives and properties of his subjects from the encroachments of rival brigands. So actively has Mazoni exercised his authority that he is now at his 27th murder. None of the inhabitants will dare to accept employment from the Government agents without his written permission, and any one who does so is sure to suffer the penalty of his disobedience.

The last murder was committed with his own hand, though he was alone and his victim was accompanied by five or six persons. In his communications with the agents of the Government he affects a style of perfect equality; his despatches are drawn up in due form, in regular diplomatic style, and he always signs "Mazzoni, Bandit."

One of his latest communications to the principal engineer has been transmitted to the Government with his usual signature. This dispatch gives some information concerning a person in employment of the engineers who had entered on his engagement without his license. He informs the Authorities that the person in question is a man of bad character, who had attempted to dishonor a family under his protection, and he advises his instant dismissal and removal from the district, "to spare him," he adds, "the inconvenience of punishing him with his own hand."

As Mazzoni appears to be extending the circuit of his domination, a detachment of troops has been ordered from the town to hunt him from his retreat, and so well are the measures taken to destroy the nuisance that we may, probably, soon hear of his capture. The details given in the dispatch just received by the Government are very curious.

RELIGIOUS PERVERSION

A very curious case, lately came before the Court of Assizes. It was the trial of fourteen men and women, who are accused of "holding illegal meetings, not of a political character." The facts is, the persons in questions are members of a new sect or religion, which has existed for some years in France under the name of *Bigguns*, and who were in the habit of holding periodical meetings in the Rue d'Odillon, in Paris, till some months ago, when these meetings were brought under the notice of the police as being both illegal and excessively immoral. The accused were almost all natives of the village of St. Jean, Bonnefonds, in the department of the Loire, where the sect seems to have had its origin, and most of them declared that they had been Bigguns since their birth. For a long time the Bigguns had had the reputation of being inoffensive people, both as respects morality and general conduct; but there appears to have been some sad backsliding ever since they placed themselves under the direction of their present chief, a person of the name of Digonnet, for whom they have a variety of appellations, which, according to them, can be addressed to him indifferently. They call him "*Le bon Dieu*," the good friend; "Elie," "John the Baptist," and "the Holy Ghost."

This man is a beggar by profession, who, besides having undergone seven years' confinement in the *bagne* is at the present moment a prisoner in the gaol of Aurillac on a charge of mendicancy and swindling. The vices of the "God Digonnet, as he is called, and the credulity and troth of his blinded followers, are quite inexplicable. Though now sixty seven years of age, he lives on terms of the strictest intimacy with all the females of his sect, flattering each that she was to become the mother of the Messiah.

It appears from the evidence produced in the case, that the tribes of Digonnet to the faith of which the Bigguns were. First, that they expected a prophet. Secondly, that they recognized this prophet in the person of Digonnet, and by the accomplishment of the double prediction made by him of the disease among the potatoes, and the advent of the Republic. These are the only proofs of his divine mission, or rather of his divinity; for the Sectarians declare that they believe in his divinity from the bottom of their hearts.

Yet notorious acts of the greatest infamy are alleged against this God of the Bigguns. It appears certain (though the legal proof failed in bringing home the criminal portion of the charge to the accused) that he has introduced new practices into the form of the religion, in conformity to his own character and conduct. It was alleged on the trial, and not denied, that, in the nightly meetings of the sect, on a given signal, the lights were distinguished, and that all erred with a loud voice, "Down with the light!" Down with modesty! (*à bas la lumiere—a bas la pudeur*)

One of the doctrines of the sect is abstinence from marriage; but by the side of this precept as placed, it is said, the most unbridled disgusting licentiousness, which is, in fact, the charge which was brought against the Templars. It is also said that they were in the habit of going into the woods at night, and marching in procession in a state of complete nudity, a practice which has been brought home to a vast number of sects of the same kind.

The evidence produced before the Jury was very defective, and failed in proving the main part of the case; but enough was proved to show that with some trouble, the whole of the charges might have been made good against the prisoners. Digonnet himself was not put on trial, being already in prison on a more serious charge, and not being present at the meeting where his fourteen disciples were seized.

The case was brought to light by one of the women belonging to the sect, who had been deprived of her two children (girls) by her co-religionists, for the purpose of being initiated in the mysteries of the initiated in the mysteries of their faith. This woman having refused to be abandoned practices of the other females of the sect, became alarmed for the fate of her children. She endeavored to recover them, but failed; and finding no other means of doing so, she denounced the sect to the authorities, and gave such information as led to their arrest and trial.

It was proved on the trial that recently one woman having assumed herself to be in the family way by the God Digonnet, the whole sect congregated in the expectation of the advent of the Messiah but, to the wofful disappointment of all, and to the no small confusion of the god himself, the expected Messiah turned out to be a girl. Owing to defective evidence the only thing that could be proved against the Bigguns was that of having held illegal and unauthorized meetings, and having been found guilty of the mitigated offence, they were condemned to a mulct of 50 sols.

FOREIGN MISCELLANIES.

The Commissioners of the Exposition, which, it is said will open without fail on the 1st of May have under his session the propriety of negotiating with the Governments of France and Germany, for the sal of some of the defective jewels, these countries during the exhibition

The Rev. Dr. Schiller Szinessy has been installed as Minister of the old Hebrew congregation of Manchester, England. He took an active part in the late Hungarian war, and received several wounds.

The Commissioners of the Exposition have excluded from exhibition, all malt liquors, wines, &c., cheese and butter, and all explosive materials.

The Rev Mr McEwan, minister of the Levern, Church, in the parish of Paisley, was convicted of poaching, with a snare, on the domain of the Earl of Glasgow, and fined £20

A new ship of 850 tons, designed for the Liverpool and Charleston, S C, trade, was launched at Ardrossan

We have recently received a lock of lady's hair. Gentle reader do not smile too soon.—Formerly it was raven black; it is now snow white. Bleached by one hundred and nineteen winters, Mary Benton, from whose tresses it was shorn, was born at Keverston, near Raby's castle, in the county of Durham, on the 12th of February 1731, and on the 3d of December 1849 she sent her old friend, Mr John Hinchcliffe, the respected parish clerk of Cockfield, where she was christened, a lock of her lilly hair, in tender acknowledgement of her continued remembrance and regard

Mr Hinchcliffe, on presenting a portion of the keepsake to a friend, raised himself up to his fullest height and said "She is as fresh as I am (his own age is seventy-two)—walks right on end—feeds her hens and chickens—wears no spectacles—can hear well—and was helping at hay making in 1848." He might have added, and gleaning in the autumn of the following year. What follows, we derive from the information of a lady who lately visited Mary Benton, and found her engaged in washing her own clothes. Her father's name was Ralph Lodge who lived to the venerable age of 105, and her mother died an old woman

Mary began life as a shepardess, tending her father's flock. She afterwards became the maid of the inn kept by her grandmother at Piersbridge, where she well remembers soldiers being quartered in the rebellion of '45. She afterward lived in service at various places, among the rest Raby Castle, to which the noble owner, the Duke of Cleaveland, invited her—an honor she prudently declined. The Duke of Northumberland has also been to see her. When young she had lovers plenty, and took the worst at last—as said she to our informant, 'sometimes happens.' On being asked if she enjoyed unvarying health, she replied, 'I never had a doctor but once, and I was so frightened that I swooned away when he came into the room.'

Amusing enough, to hear of the nerves that had stood the rebels giving way before the doctor! In the course of last year, Mr Bewick painted a striking likeness of the venerable matriarch—if we may use such a word—who at present resides with her grandson at Elton. Should she live to be included in the approaching census, and be entered as 120 years of age, she will doubtless be the oldest person in that record, if she be not, as we have supposed, the oldest woman in the world.—*Gateshead Observer*

IRON LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT.—We have been favored by Mr. John Walker, of Gracechurch street, with a view of a corrugated iron lighthouse, which he is at present constructing for the American Government. It is, we believe, to be fixed on one of the keys off the coast of Florida. He has only contracted for the iron part of it, and the lantern is to be furnished by the Americans, who are to erect it. It is now being put together at the Shepherd and Shepherdess fields, New North road, Hoxton. The foundation is to consist of 16 solid wrought iron screw piles, which will be beded in the solid rock, and are to rise 15 feet above it; 12 of these pillars will be disposed to form a square 45 feet each way. The remaining four will make a smaller interior square, and will be the foundation for the tower. On these iron girders are to be placed, and above them a thick flooring of oak plank forming a platform, from which the lighthouse will spring. We now come to the part which is to be seen erected at Hoxton. It may be divided into two parts—the house of the keeper of the light, and the lantern tower. The house is 38 feet square and 11 feet in height, and is made of a double casing of corrugated iron three eighths of an inch in thickness, and placed 5 inches apart.

It is divided into nine rooms by partitions of singular construction; the doors, windows, corners of the house, places where the partitions join the sides, and top and bottom of the sides, and all cased with angle iron. In a wooden house the angle iron is represented by the timbers, and the corrugated plates by the boarding. It is surmounted by a curved roof, which is of single iron plates, inside of which will be placed a timber roof, without this the heat would be intolerable. The whole of the house is bolted together in pieces two feet six inches in width.—The tower is raised through the roof and from the centre of the platform. It is also made of a double casing of iron, in cylindrical, and seven feet inside in diameter. It is divided into rings six feet in height bolted together, and each ring is lifted to its place in two pieces. The height from the platform to the commencement of the lantern is 76 feet.

The tower derives much strength from a spiral cast iron stair case which ascends to the lantern floor, and is supported by a solid iron newel. Each step, as it is bolted to the side, and also to the newel, forms a stay in itself. To secure additional stiffness, pieces of gaspipe are to be placed between the castings every 11 inches, and to be bolted through. In addition, from the pile 12 stays of cast iron pipe, 11 inches in diameter, will rise and be inclined to meet the tower at the top, just beneath the lantern, and also four stays from the inner piling. This again will all be stiffened with vertical, horizontal, and diagonal bracing, so that when erected it will have the appearance of a pyramid of iron work, surmounted by a lantern, and enclosing a house and monster chimney.

The double castings spoken of will not only be a great advantage with regard to strength, but also for the purpose of ventilation. Openings are made at the bottom of the building in the partitions and the tower, so that a free current of air will pass every where. The form of corrugated iron, which may be described as a succession of waves in and out, of curves of contrary flexure, gives great strength in itself. What with the bracing, and the way in which both house and tower are tied together, it is supposed that it will completely resist a hurricane. The building will shortly be completed and shipped to its destination.—*London Shipping Gazette*

Attention!

☞ PILE OINTMENT is most respectfully invited to the perusal, unprejudiced statement of John Watt, who was cured of an *Old Single* by the use of this ointment.

This may certify that I have been cured of an old Chronic Cough, by the use of Four Bottles of Petrolum. The cough attacked me a year and a half ago, and I had lost all hopes of getting well, as I had tried the advice of several physicians without any benefit. I was benefitted almost instantly by the Petroleum. *I coughed up, during two weeks for Petroleum, a very unusual case requiring some explanation.* I make this statement in order that others who are in suffering may be benefited. You are at liberty to publish this certificate. I am an old citizen of Pittsburgh and have resided here thirty three years. My residence, at this time is on Second street.

JOHN WATT

Pittsburgh, February 24 1851.

For sale by Kerr & McDowell, 116 Wood street; R. P. Hare, 84 Second street; J. Lakeman, 4 Market street; Wood and Front streets, D. M Curry; D. A. Elliott, Jones's Landing; and H. Schwartz Allegheny also by the proprietor

feb24 dlw Canal Basin Second st. Pittsburgh

European Agency.

The subscriber intends visiting the principal cities of Great Britain, France, and Germany during the months of April, May, and June next, leaving Pittsburgh on March 15th and will be pleased to attend to any agencies of a business character which may be confided to his care.

JOHN D. DAVIS.

☞ It is not what it WASTES—Say all who ever used it, but what it SAVES! Read the following letter from an agent:

SARTARIA, Clermont Co O 17th Feb 20, 51.

J. Kidd & Co—Dear Sir—Your agent was here & had just opened, and he left us a few dozen of Al Lane's Vermifuge and I find it is going off very fast, and thus far it has given good satisfaction, and has proved to be just what the public want, and we have got it agoing, and I do not wish it get out. I have but one dozen left. When your agent was here I think he told me some place to send if I should want more, but if he did, I have forgotten. Will you have the goodness to order for me six dozen more on the receipt of this.

PETER FRYER.

For sale by J KIDD & CO.

feb24 4w No. 60 Wood st

Foreign and American Hardware.

LOGAN, WILSON & CO.,

No. 129 Wood Street,

HAVE NOW IN STORE

A full and complete stock of *FOREIGN AND AMERICAN*

HARDWARE,

Suitable for the spring trade, and which they are prepared to offer to purchasers at rates that will compare favorably with any of the eastern cities.

Citizen's Insurance Company of Pittsburgh.

ENCOURAGE HOME INSTITUTIONS.

Office No 41 Water street, in the warehouse of C. H. Lee.

A. W. HUSSEY, President.....A. W. MAGEE, Secty

This Company is now prepared to insure all merchandize in store, and in transitu, rivers, &c.

An ample security for the ability and integrity of the Institution, is afforded in the character of the Directors, who are all citizens of Pittsburgh, well and favorably known to the community for their prudence, intelligence, and integrity.

DIRECTORS—A. W. Hussey, Wm. Bagley, Wm. Larimer, Jr., Walter Bryant, Hugh D. King, Edward Heazelton, John Haworth, S. Harbaugh, S. M. Kier.

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Forty-six hours to Philadelphia.

Forty-four hours to Baltimore.

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The Cars on this route are new, and of the most superior construction for comfort and safety.

Packets leave every morning precisely at Eight o'clock and every evening at the same hour.

Passengers for Baltimore, on arrival of Cars at Harrisburg, take the York and Cumberland Railroad, (one hundred miles shorter than any other route.) Time, FOUR hours.

No charge for handling baggage on this route. The increased Speed makes this the most comfortable, safe and desirable route now to the Eastern Cities.

For passage or information, apply to

J. P. HOLMES, Agent,

Monongahela House

Or to D. LEECH & CO.

Canal Basin, Penn street

N. B. On the 1st of July, the Pennsylvania Railroad will be finished to Lockport, which will shorten the time through 8½ hours.

Pittsburgh, February 19, '51.

EXCHANGE AND BANKING HOUSE

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Corner of Third and Market sts., Pittsb'gh

Domestic and Foreign Exchange, Bank Notes, Gold & Silver, Bought, Sold & Exchanged

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EXCHANGE AND BANKING HOUSE

OF

WM. A. HILL & CO,

No. 64 Wood Street, Pittsburgh.

☞ INTEREST ALLOWED ON TIME DEPOSITS. jan16-d

DIED,

On Tuesday, the 25th inst, at the residence of his brother, D. S. Williams in Lawrenceville, JAMES WILLIAMS, in the 45th year of his age.

The friends of the family are invited to attend his funeral, on (this) Thursday, the 27th inst., at 3 o'clock.

Yesterday, at 3 o'clock, P. M., SAMUEL R. MCCLINTOCK—His funeral will take place this morning, at 10 o'clock, A. M., from his late residence, No. 2 Dunlop's Court, Second street, between Wood and Market sts. The friends of the family are invited to attend.

QUADRILLE PARTY.

A. BONNAFFON'S FOURTH PARTY will take place *THIS EVENING*. The gentlemen scholars and subscribers are requested to procure tickets of A. B. for this evening, as none will be admitted without. No children, as usual, will be admitted except scholars. Parents are respectfully invited. feb27-1t

S. C. HAMS—Evans & Swifts, and Trowbridge & Beatty's celebrated Cincinnati Sugar Cured Hams, for sale by WM. A. McCLURG & CO.,

feb27 Grocers and Tea Dealers.

FOR RENT—Two Rooms in