HOME MATTERS.

River News.—The stage of water last night was 6 feet and falling. Weather cold, with an inclination to snow.

The receipts of freight were to a fair extent; but unless we have such weather, soon, as will ensure a continuance of a good river, the tide of freight will be checked.

The Cincinnati packet for to-day is the superb Allegheny, Capt. M'Lane. Her hour of departure is 2 o'clock, P. M.

The regular Wheeling packet for to-day is the Forest City, Capt. Moore. She leaves at 10, A. M.

The *Dan Convers* leaves for Zanesville this afternoon. Captain Ayers, and Clerks Harry and George Price are gentlemanly and accommodating officers, and the *Dan* is a good Boat.

F. E. Volz, Esq., *Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh*—Sir:—You are respectfully requested to call a public meeting of citizens at such time and place as you may consider most advisable, for the purpose of devising means to contribute to the relief of those inhabitants of Birmingham who have been driven from their houses and are otherwise sufferers from the late severe conflagration in that borough.

Bakewell, Pears & Co., Ogden & Snowden,
Coleman, Hallman & Co., A. L. Mowbray,
Kelly, Brown & Co., Jos. Woodwell & Co.,
J. A. Hutchison & Co., Joshua Rhodes, & Co.,
Thomas Simpson, Hampton, Wilson & Co.,
E. Aber, Gordon, Curling, Robertson & Co.,
Nimick & Co., James R. Irvin,
Wm. M'Candless & Co., Kramer & Rahm,
J. Schoonmaker & Co., Palmer, Hanna & Co.

To the Citizens of Pittsburgh and vicinity—In compliance with the foregoing request, notice is hereby given that a public meeting will be held this (Tuesday) evening, at 7 o'clock, in Council Chamber, for the purpose expressed in the above call.

Fred. E. Volz, Mayor.

Pittsburgh, March 28th, 1854.

Extensive Fire—$200,000 or Property Destroyed.—A very destructive fire broke out about half-past two o'clock, on Sunday afternoon, in Birmingham, resulting in the total ruin of about sixty dwellings, and a great deal of furniture,—amounting probably to nearly $200,000.

The conflagration had its origin in the carelessness of some boys, who were playing cards in the packing room of C. Ihmsen's Glasshouse, on the verge of the borough. A lighted segar stump was thrown among the straw with which the room was filled, and in a moment the building was in flames.

The alarm was given and the Pittsburgh engines were soon upon the ground,—but their usefulness was much impaired by the great difficulty in procuring water, there being no water works in the borough. A high wind prevailed during the entire afternoon.

The glass house in which the fire originated is situated on the corner of Carson and M'Kee sts. The main building immediately on the corner was saved. The packing room was entirely destroyed, as was a fine back building used as a vial factory, situated behind, on M'Kee street.

From the latter building the flames communicate to a brick building on the corner of M'Kee and Bradford street, owned and occupied by Mrs. Moul. The majority of the buildings on this square were frame, as the whole square is bounded by M'Kee, Bradford, Grosvenor, and Frederick streets was entirely destroyed with the exception of two or three bricks on the corner of Bradford and Grosvenor streets. The church on the corner of M'Kee and Frederick street was fortunately saved. The building adjoining on the upper part of Frederick street, until a short distance above Grosvenor street, were also destroyed.

In the meantime frame houses, supposed to be on the route of the devouring element, were torn down to stop its progress.

The square, bounded by Denman, Frederick, Grosvenor and Bradford streets was also entirely destroyed. The buildings on this street, were mostly fine valuable brick tenements.—Nothing but the walls are left standing.

We are requested to notice the bravery and determination of the Duquesne and Neptune Fire companies. The former was stationed on the corner of Denman and Frederick streets, and were supplied with water by the latter, which forced it from a pond in the neighborhood. To their exertions is indebted the safety of a valuable brick row. They were the last to leave the ground, and were indefatigable in their exertions though every man was wet to the skin, and the day was extremely cold.

We notice with regret that many of the firemen became much intoxicated by the free use of liquors, which was handed around among them.

The most of the property belonged to the poorer classes, whom the fire leaves utterly destitute.

Most of the furniture was burned, lost, stolen, or broken. What was saved from the flames was piled up in the land pirates, who always haunt the scene of a fire. No punishment or odium can be too severe for them.

While revisiting the scene yesterday, we were informed of many heart-rending circumstances, tales of the greatest distress. Many utterly destitute, without friends or relations to give them shelter, spent Sunday night on Coal Hill. Many sick, exposed to the point of death, were removed from their burning houses just in time, and taken several squares, through the severe cold.

The majority, however, of those turned out, were kindly cared for by their sympathizing neighbors. The scene yesterday reminded us of the great fire in 1845, next to which it is the largest that has ever occurred in this neighborhood, as extent.

Besides the 8 squares, a number of detached buildings on side streets were destroyed. The wind changing about six o'clock from southeast to south, the fire was got under.

Houses squares distant were a number of times on fire, having caught from the flying sparks. By the constant watchfulness of their owners, however, the buildings were saved.

We are indebted to Mr. Mills, of the Post, for the following list of those burned out, and the losses, as near as could be ascertand, to owning which he devoted nearly the entire day.

Packing room, bottle house, and pot house, belonged to C. Ihmsen, destroyed. Loss about $12,000 worth, we understand, insurance for $7,000.

Frame building, formerly used as a white lead factory, and three frame dwelling houses, belonging to Isaac Gregg.

One frame house, belonging to the Lyons estate. The above were on the west side of M'Kee street.

One large frame dwelling house on Washington street, belonging to John Myers.

One two-story brick dwelling house on the same street, the property of Ludwick Irenberg.

One frame house, belonging to Mrs. Jones, also on Washington street.

The fire passed over two brick houses on this street.

On the east side of McKee street, one frame house belonging to James Moul, was destroyed.

One frame belonging to August Heilder, occupied as a grocery store.

A carpenter shop and stable, belonging to a man named Benz. This house was on the corner of Bradford street. The flames spread east to Grosvenor street, on Bradford, and destroyed the following houses:

One frame dwelling belonging to John Cornell.

Two frame dwellings belonging to J. Traughtman and Jacob Holstein.

A frame house owned by Mrs. Powel, and occupied by a man named Kline.

A frame dwelling house belonging to a Mr. Evans.

On the corner of Bradford and Grosvenor, Carter Harris, a negro, owned and occupied a fine two story brick house, which was destroyed.

A frame dwelling house belonging to a Mr. Hampton on the Bench.

Carlton S. Toman vs. George F. Dihm and John Weigley. No. 573, November term, 1852. Burke for plaintiff; Selden for defence. Action for trespass. It appears that the defendant sent out an execution upon property of James Toman, for debt, and placed it in the hands of Weigley, to be served. It is alleged the latter seized upon property belonging to the plaintiff in this case instead of James Toman. On trial.

Bayard Taylor.—Our readers will see by the advertisement in another column, that Bayard Taylor will deliver his first lecture this evening, at Masonic Hall. We predict a more successful course than any previously in Pittsburgh. His recent extensive tour furnishes him with material for lecture of the most entertaining and instructive nature. Joined to his great ability, he has a wide reputation for eloquence. Tickets can be procured at the usual places.

The subject of his lecture this evening will be "The Arabs."

Fire.—Another fire occurred last night in Birmingham, which was undoubtedly the work of an incendiary. It originated in a stable belonging to Dr. Wolfe, on M'Kee street, nearly opposite to the place where the fire started on Sunday. The stable was entirely consumed. The flames spread to a frame tenement occupied by a widow lady named Glenn, and owned by Mr. Federick. The house was torn down in order to keep the flames from spreading further.

Dr. Wolfe furnished an abundant and substantial supper to the members of the Duquesne Fire Company, after the fire was extinguished.

Election.—The Stockholders of the Saving Funds Institution, in Manchester, held an election on Saturday, with the following result:

President—J. Schoonmaker.

Directors—John Phillips, J. B. Kennedy, A. Hershperger, James Wardrop, J. Phelps, and J. J. Johnston.

Secretary and Treasurer—John B. Kennedy.

Fraud.—A warrant was issued by Alderman Rinehart for the arrest of James T. Shannon, charged with obtaining goods under false pretences, upon oath of William Digby.

Court of Quarter Sessions.—The March term of this Court commenced yesterday.

After the Grand Jury were sworn, Judge McClure read a lengthy and able charge.

Charles Anderson plead guilty to stealing gold watches, money, clothing, &c., &c., from George R. Dodge, of Baltimore, on board the steamer Exchange, last December. He was remanded for sentence.

Inquest.—Coroner Lowry on Saturday evening, held an inquest upon the body of a man found in the Ohio, about eight miles below the city. His name is unknown. His body is supposed to have been in the water about ten weeks.

Improvements.—Among other improvements in the sign way, in Wood street, we note a splendid new Mortar, at Dr. Keyser's, which has just been put up.

Fire!—An old frame dwelling house and an adjoining stable, situated on Carson street, South Pittsburgh, near the bridge, was destroyed by fire on Sunday morning, about seven o'clock. The loss was trifling. The building belonged to Mrs. Bayley, of South Pittsburgh.

Re-committed.—Mayor Adams yesterday recommitted Alexander Hudson, charged by Sylvester Tyler, with making and passing counterfeit money, for further hearing on Thursday next.

Keeping a Disorderly House.—Ald. Major committed three colored women, named Rosina Kelly, Amelia Ann Harris, and Madeline Bennett, to jail, yesterday, for keeping a disorderly house of ill-fame in the Seventh Ward, upon oath and information of Julia Ann Rutherford.

Contest.—The annual literary contest of the students of Jefferson College, takes place on Wednesday evening, at Cannonsburg.

Assault and Battery.—William Snyder was arrested and taken before Mayor Adams, yesterday charged with assault and battery, upon oath of Laney Showers. The suit was withdrawn upon payment of five dollars and costs by defendant.

Selling Liquor without License.—Mayor Adams held John Morris to bail, yesterday, for selling liquor without license, on oath of Mary Ann Bennett.

Assault and Battery.—*Attempt at Arson.*—Eleanor Sutton, yesterday, made information against her husband Elijah, for a brutal assault and battery upon her, while he was intoxicated. He placed books and other combustibles upon the floor, and ignited them, with the intention of destroying the house. Fortunately, the police arrived in time to prevent such a result. Mayor Adams committed him in default of bail.

Fined.—Mayor Adams yesterday imposed fines upon a number of persons for using hydrant water without paying the usual taxes. We understand the law in this respect will, hereafter be rigidly enforced.

Tippling on Sunday.—Mayor Adams imposed fines upon John Morris, on oath of Eleanor Sutton, Alexander Dannenhoff, upon oath of John Hinrichs, Jacob Blessing, upon oath of Officer Pyle, for selling liquor on Sunday. Their fines were paid, and they discharged.

Curiosities.—The indefatigable Col. Woods will open another exhibition in Wilkins Hall today, consisting of a lady weighing only 764 lbs, one 30 inches high, mother of three children, the Lilliputian king, 16 inches high and eight years old, and the Swiss warbler. Such rare array of wonders will undoubtedly attract great numbers of visitors.

In the meantime the exhibition at Lafayette Hall is in full blast. The Bearded Lady and the Siamese Twins were yesterday visited by a large number of our citizens.

BY TELEGRAPH.

CONGRESSIONAL.

WASHINGTON CITY, March 27.

House.—The House passed the Appropriation Bill after non-concurrence in the amendment made in committee appropriating $100,000 for the payment of the expenses of holding a Council with two Indian tribes on the eastern boundary of Washington Territory, making presents of goods, provisions, &c.

On motion of Mr. Cobb the House suspended the rules in order to enable him to introduce a resolution making the Bill establishing a Railroad and Telegraphic communication between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and for other purposes the special order for the third Tuesday in May. The resolution passed yea 129, nays 40.

On motion of Mr. Bocock, the House suspended and passed a Resolution making the Bill for the construction of six first class steam frigates, the special order of the day to-morrow, and from day to day till disposed of; yeas 145, nays 35.

The House went into Committee and took up the Civil and Diplomatic Appropriation Bill.

Senate.—The Senate took up the Deficiency Bill, and concurred in all the amendments reported by the Finance Committee, except one providing for a Custom House at San Francisco.

FROM HAVANA.

NEW ORLEANS, March 24.—The Empire City arrived from Havana. She reports that the authorities have given up the Black Warrior upon condition of payment of a fine of $6,000. Capt. Bullock accepted and would take possession of the vessel on the 22d, and immediately sail for New York.

The U. S. sloop Albany, and the steamers Fulton and Corwin are at Havana.

The Pampero from San Juan, has arrived with 200 passengers.

The Isabel arrived at Charleston, confirms the report that the Captain of the Black Warrior is making a strong protest against delay, and is claiming damages for injury of the machinery caused by neglect of those in charge.

NEW ORLEANS, March 25,—Dates from the City of Mexico to the 16th state that Santa Anna left the Capitol on the 12th to take the field, in person against Alvarez. The latter it is represented is surrounded in a mountain retreat, nearly destitute of money and provisions and nearly deserted by his adherents.

The steamer Charles Morgan arrived from New York.

The Empire City sails to-morrow.

HARTFORD, Cr. March 27.—Bishop Brownell on Saturday in descending a stairway fell, breaking his leg near the ankle in three places.

PHILADELPHIA, March 27.—Cotton unchanged. Flour firmer, sales 1100 bbls mixed and straight brands at $7,12, part on Saturday evening, this rate now generally refused; sales 500 bbls deliverable in April at $7,02, and 1,000 bbls select brands at $7,75. Rye Flour unchanged. Corn Meal in better demand, prices advanced 25 cts; sales 200 bbls at $3,50. Wheat wanted; small sales red at $1,70, white $1,80. Rye in demand at 90@91. Corn, held at 80, afloat; a limited amount offering. Whiskey, demand limited, sales at 26 in bbls.

CINCINNATI, March 27.—The river is fallen nine inches since Saturday. Weather cold and cloudy. Flour $6,25. Whiskey 20, closing with an upward tendency. Sales 1000 bbls mess Pork at $11,87@12; for City packed. Sales 300 bbls Prime Lard at 8¼. Groceries, a fair business at steady prices.

LOUISVILLE, March 27.—The steamer Federal Arch was sunk thirty miles below St. Louis, on Friday last. She had a heavy cargo for Cincinnati and Pittsburgh.

NEW YORK, March 27.—Cotton, sales of the week were 9,500 bales, dull; Upland middling 9¾ @10¼; Upland fair 11½; Orleans middling 10½; Orleans fair 12¼. Coffee, sales 250 bags Rio at 12. Flour, sales 8500 bbls advanced 12c; active speculative demand at $7,62@8, sales 1500 bbls Southern, advanced 12@10c—$7,87@8,12—Wheat dull, buyers holding back for lower prices. Corn market firm; sales 25,000 bush at 85. Sugar, sales 550 hhds Orleans and Muscovado at $4,50 Molasses, sales 200 bbls Orleans at 26, dull. Money easier; stock unchanged. Provisions, sales 250 bbls pork, prices a trifle lower—$12,75@15,25. Beef, market firm, sales 300 bbls at $14, Hams scarce at 15@17. Lard, firm, sales 700 bbls at 9¾@15. Cut meats, 6@8.

COMMERCIAL.

PITTSBURGH MARKETS.

OFFICE PITTSBURGH GAZETTE, }
Tuesday Morning, March 28, 1854. }

FLOUR—none offering on the wharf; a lot of 450 barrels Cincinnati flour, in warehouse, superfine and extra, sold at $6 75; from store, 100 bbls at $7, and 40 do at $6 87.

OATS—in steady demand, notwithstanding the full supply; sales 450 bus at depot at 40, and 100 bus on wharf at same.

BUTTER—prime is saleable and inquired for; sales 9 bbls prime roll at 14@15.

EGGS—continue in request; sales 15 bbls and 1100 dozen, on arrival, at 10, and 8 bbls from store at 11.

POTATOES—a sale from first hands of 50 bus. White Nes shannocks at 45.

SODA ASH—sales of 15 casks imported at 3½, and 20 do., domestic, at 3¼.

SALTPETRE—a sale of 20 bags at 8¼.

CRANBERRIES—sales of 70 bbls—prime at $8 ₱ barrel, and inferior at $5@6.

HULK MEAT—sales 15,000 lbs. city trimmed, at 5, 6, and 7c, and 75,000 lbs. do on private terms.

BACON—in steady demand from the retail trade; sales of 8,000, 4,000, 3,000, 1,500 and 2,000 lbs Shoulders, Sides and Hams, at 6, 7 and 9; sugar-cured Hams, sales 225 pieces loose at 10¾, and 5 tierces packed at 11.

DRIED BEEF—in regular demand and firm; sales of 5 and 4 tierces at 10.

CLOVER SEED—dull—sales of 15 bus from first hands at $4 75.

MOLASSES—there was a little more movement than usual, yesterday; sales of 100 bbls. oak, at 28, and 40 and 31 do, at same; 30 bbls sugar-house on private terms.

SUGAR—sales of 6 hhds ordinary to fair at 4¼@4¾.

PEARLS—a sale of 8 tons for manufacturing purposes at 5¾, at which figure the market is firm.

DRIED PEACHES—sales from store of 30 bus halves at $1 70.

HAY—sales at scales of 13 loads at $12@15 ₱ ton.

LARD OIL—is without change; sales of 10 bbls. Cincinnati No. 1 at 75.

WHISKEY—in regular demand, to go out of market, at 26@27.

MONETARY AND COMMERCIAL.

TOBACCO.—Sales Thursday of 65 hhds, including reviews, at 3 50, 3 60, 3 70, 3 80, 4 00, 4 05, 4 50, 3 80, 4 00, 4 80, 4 00, 4 75, 5 00, 5 40, 6 00, 6 10, 6 25, 6 40, 3 80, 4 00, 4 25, 4 50, 4 60, 4 75, 5 00, 5 20, 4 00, 5 65, 6 00, 6 25, 6 00, 6 30, 4 50, 4 85, 3 85, 6 70, 4 90, 5 00, 5 10, 5 40, 5 60, 6 00, 6 25, 6 40, 6 50, 4 00, 4 10, 4 20, 4 50, 4 10, 4 95, 5 00, 7 10, 7 10, 8 50, 5 05, 3 60, 5 00, 5 60, 6 80, 5 30, 5 20, 5 00, 5 70, 5 80, 6 00, 6 10, 6 20, 6 40, 6 50, 6 60, 6 70, 6 80, 7 00, 7 10, 7 20, 7 30, 7 40, 7 50, 7 60, 7 70, 7 80, 7 90, 8 00, 8 10, 8 20, 8 30, 8 40, 8 50, 8 60, 8 70, 8 80, 8 90, 9 00, 9 10, 9 20, 9 30, 9 40, 9 50, 9 60, 9 70, 9 80, 9 90,