HOME MATTERS.

"HENRY THE FOURTH!"—REV. JOHN LORD'S LECTURE.—Not so large an audience as we had hoped for, was assembled on Monday evening to hear Mr. Lord's lecture on Henry Quatre and the Huguenotic Contest. We can only say to those who were absent that they missed the ablest lecture of the season. Mr. Lord's style unites a poetic finish with the terser and more palpable qualities of profound logic and deep thought. He handles history with the ease of a Master. He looks at the scenes and actors of the Past through the telescope of a far-seeing genius, and, albeit his delivery borders somewhat on the eccentric, his enunciations are at times vivid and eloquent.

The Huguenotic contest formed a most interesting era in the history of France and of Protestantism. It was the greatest war ever waged between the two opposing churches, and Henry the IV. occupied a most prominent position—first as a leader of the Protestants and afterwards as the princely apostate. The condition of South France during the reign of Henry I.—the first of the Bourbons—and while Henry IV. was still in his boyhood, was finely depicted by the lecturer. The Protestant church flourished. Nobles and generals embraced it. It was the revolutionary school of the 16th century. He referred to the efforts of the Court of France, controlled by "that infamous woman," Catherine de Medicis, aided by the schemes of Guise, to crush the infant germ of reform. The Jesuits were at work, and a brutal, blinded population urged them on to a war of persecution and extermination. He detailed the horrors of that forty years' war, in which, now one and now the other party were for the moment victorious.

The lecturer's description of the massacre of St. Bartholemew was brilliant and startling, approaching even to dramatic power. He noted the general confederacy of the Huguenots which was the consequence of that butchery. Henry of Navarre was their leader. Their first resistance to the Catholic forces was at La Rochelle, and 40,000 men perished at that siege. "The successful defence of that place," said the lecturer, "is one of the most glorious achievements in the annals of war." Charles IX. soon after died—died, cursed with insanity, but cursed far more when in lucid intervals he heard his victims of St. Bartholemew calling on him and resigning his name to infamy. Henry III. succeeded to the crown. After his assassination, Henry of Navarre became King of France, abjuring the faith he had fought for. Mr. Lord traced more minutely than we have space for, the subsequent events of Henry's life. On the whole, he depicted his character in favorable terms. Historically, he considered his subject a lesson for all time. Mr. Lord was peculiarly forcible in his references to the Jesuits. Come up to Dr. Johnson's standard of a "good hater." His portrayal of the character of Catharine de Medicis was also peculiarly note-worthy.

Our readers will bear in mind that Mr. Lord lectures again on Friday evening next.

THE SOUP SOCIETIES.—MORE OFFERS.—It gives us much pleasure to learn that many benevolent persons of our city are willing and anxious to contribute to such a charity as we mentioned the other day. There are many good, kind hearts throbbing in this, our smoky city, and no project that appeals to the nobler attributes of man's nature will ever be found lacking friends. The chief difficulty seems to be in the want of a leader—somebody must make the first move—some good-hearted man or woman must "set the ball rolling." Who shall it be?

We are authorized to state that a gentleman of this city will furnish a room, free of charge, where the soup may be distributed, provided that it only be entrusted to proper persons. We have received the following letter from two highly respectable ladies of our city. Their proposition does them honor. We saw upon the cold, bleak streets yesterday several walking arguments for a Soup House, and it would have been gratifying, indeed, had we been enabled to direct them to the spot where they might find two "ministering angels" ready to extend to them the kindly hand of charity and help them brave the unaccustomed rigors of this winter. The letter is as follows:

JANUARY 22d, 1855.—*Mr. Editor—Sir*—We observe from a notice in this morning's *Gazette* that a gentleman is ready to supply materials for making soup for one house, provided any other persons will provide a room and an agent to dispense the soup to the needy."

Some weeks since we made an offer of our services in this way to a member of the Howard Association, but met with no response. We are ready and willing to engage in the good work, and now offer to make and distribute 60 gallons of nourishing soup weekly to such poor as may be sent to our door by persons who can prevent imposition, say the Visiting Committees of the Female Benevolent Societies of Pittsburgh.

We would prefer having two distributing days—say Tuesday and Thursday.

A friend has just said, "Can any one be found who would leave with us for distribution, with the soup, any bread or flour?" Will you please "put the question?"

COURT OF QUARTER SESSIONS.—Before Judges McClure, Boggs and Adams.

Commonwealth vs. James Boyd: indictment selling liquor to a person of intemperate habits, on oath of John Rogers. The parties reside in Allegheny city, and prosecutor alleged that the defendant had sold intoxicating drink to his wife, a person of known intemperate habits. The Jury rendered a verdict of "not guilty."

Commonwealth vs. John Smith; indictment assault and battery on oath of Catharine Witter.—She testified that defendant boarded at her house on Prospect street; that he came home drunk and struck her with his fist, severely injuring her. Defendant was sentenced to pay a fine of $5, and undergo imprisonment in the county jail for two months.

Commonwealth vs. Michael Racker and Catherine Racker; indictment, assault and battery on oath of Albert Lintheimer.—The Jury rendered a verdict of guilty without leaving the box. Catherine Racker was sentenced to pay a fine of $5, and stand committed until sentence is complied with. Michael Racker was sentenced to pay a fine of $5, and undergo imprisonment in the county jail for five months.

Commonwealth vs. John Mendinor; indictment, grand larceny, on oath of George Ledlie. The accused is charged with stealing from Mr. Ledlie's lumber yard at the Point, five hundred feet of oak scantling, one thousand feet of pine lumber, and a lot of lumber worth $50. The Jury returned a verdict of guilty of petit larceny.

Commonwealth vs. Thomas McCoy; indictment, false pretences, on oath of John Crawford, M. D. Crawford testified that the defendant called on him for medical advice. He required advance payment. McCoy was unable to "pay down," but stated that he had $600 or $700 in the Exchange Bank, and had $800 due him on real estate. He accordingly received the Dr.'s professional services, and a bill was rendered of $56, which he did not pay. The indictment charged that McCoy's representations were false.

A WASHINGTON COUNTY WOOL CASE.—Officer Hague on Saturday last arrested William Duncan, on a charge of obtaining by false and fraudulent representations the signature of Robert G. Smith to a bill of exchange dated "Washington (Pa.) October 14, 1854." The bill of exchange is for $1000 at sixty days payable to the order of William M. Duncan; drawn by Jacob Morgan; endorsed by W. M. Duncan, D. J. Rogers and Robert G. Smith, and accepted on the face by R. Watson. The defendant is charged with thereby cheating and defrauding complainant, Robert G. Smith, out of $600. Duncan had a hearing yesterday before Alderman Steel and was bound over in $3000 bail to appear on Wednesday at 2 o'clock.

The parties in this case are from Washington county, and the case itself has its origin in the recent failures of wool dealers in that county.

Wm. M. Duncan and D. J. Rogers were arrested yesterday on a charge similar to the above on oath of the same complainant. Another $1000 note is, we understand, involved in this latter case. The parties will have a hearing this morning before Alderman Steel.

A "COLD SNAP."—The weather is as inconstant as a lover's sighs. On Sunday night it went on the principle of the poet, "from gay to grave—from lively to severe"—from showery, drizzling, sloppy April, to brisk, biting, bitter-cold December. At midnight, just as the Sabbath was passing to that bourne whence no Sabbath returns; a deputation of frost spirits arrived from the boreal regions, and, wonderful metamorphose! the rain was changed to snow, and the torrents that rushed musically along the gutters and poured, cascade-like, into the [illegible] sewers, were hushed in an icy silence. By morning, the mercury in our thermometer raised not its white crest so proudly as it had. It was humbled. It sought to hide its diminished head. During yesterday it was as low as 20 degrees above zero and what with the intense cold, the severe gale and the slippery pave, pedestrianism was by no means agreeable.

DISTRICT COURT.—Before Judge Williams.

William Mayer, W. C. Bovard, Hugh Marshall, John A. M'Kee, and John Haslett, trustees of the Reformed Presbyterian congregation, vs. Joseph Wright *et al.* On trial. This case is an action of ejectment brought by the trustees of the Reformed Presbyterian congregation on the corner of Cherry and Plum alleys, to secure possession of the church edifice from the party whom they allege now hold it illegally. The counsel in the case were occupied most of yesterday in preparing evidence to decide which of the parties in the suit are the real representatives of the denomination; in other words, which are the genuine Covenanters. This evidence, occupying ten pages of foolscap, was presented to Judge Williams, who will render his decision on that point this morning. The trial will then proceed.

CHANGED QUARTERS.—Augustus Myers and Isaac Williams were removed from the jail to the penitentiary yesterday morning.

THE FIRE IN DUQUESNE BOROUGH.—The fire in Duquesne Borough on Saturday night, which we noticed in yesterday's *Gazette*, was one of the most disastrous which has occurred in this neighborhood for some time. The tannery of Mr. Robenstein was entirely consumed—his loss amounting to somewhere in the neighborhood of $3000. He had no insurance.

Messrs. R. & A. Taggart's loss is between $10,000 and $15,000, with an insurance of $1000 in the Lycoming (N. Y.) Mutual Insurance Co. and $3000 in the North American Safety Co.—A large quantity of leather, ready for shipment east, was consumed. It is supposed the fire was the work of an incendiary as the engine fire had all been extinguished and it originated in a part of the tannery where there had been no fire used.

PORTRAIT OF BISHOP SIMPSON.—A newly published lithographic portrait of M. Simpson, D. D., one of the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal church graces our sanctum. It is engraved by Wegner & Braun, Market street, from a daguerrotype by Nelson. The likeness is "to the life," and speaks volumes for the artistic skill of those engaged in getting it up. The Bishop is represented with one hand resting on the Holy Bible. On the margin of the picture is lithographed the following sentence from Bishop Simpson's address to the young men of Pittsburgh on the occasion of their presenting him a copy of the Bible:—"Its lessons were taught to me in infancy—to its mandates I listened in youth—and as years increase I bow with deeper reverence before the beauty, grandeur and profound philosophy of its teachings."

ATTEMPTED BURGLARY.—The Banking House of O'Connor, Bro. & Co. was entered on Sunday night by burglars. They immediately began operations on the safe. The bolts of the outer door were partially cut by a saw, but the inner plates resisted all their efforts, and they were compelled to give it up for a bad job. Had they, however, succeeded in opening this, they would have met a still more difficult obstruction in the second door. The safe may now be considered burglar-proof, and Sunday night's operations are the proof.

ALLEGED LARCENY.—A boy named Rufus Conner was arrested yesterday by officer Moon, charged with stealing a watch from the store of Mr. Craig, on Third street. It was testified that Conner sold the watch to a silversmith, named Berger, on Pennsylvania Avenue for $2.50. It was worth $35. The accused and his aunt, Maria Straton, charged with being an accessory after the fact, were committed for trial by Mayor Volz.

PHILHARMONIC CONCERT.—The Philharmonic Society—an "institution" that does honor to the musical taste of Pittsburgh—gives a concert this evening for the benefit of the Poor. The programme comprises a series of selections from the great masters and consists chiefly of sacred pieces. We earnestly hope THE PEOPLE will give one night to charity and music.

LUCKY HARPER, formerly of the *Post*, was President of the recent Ohio Editorial Convention. We perceive that the convention, resolved, inasmuch as the railroads have deprived them of "dead head" priveleges, hereafter to charge advertising rates for anything and everything which R. R. companies may order to be published. Tit for tat!

ARRESTED.—A colored man named William Steel, was arrested last evening in the cellar of the St. Charles Hotel, where it is supposed that he had secreted himself with a view to plundering the cellar as soon as the servants retired for the night. He was brought to the Mayor's office, and locked up for examination to-day.

CAPIAS ISSUED.—A capias was issued yesterday for the arrest of John A. O'Brien, charged on oath of Algernon Robb, with refusing to give up four gold watches and chains valued at $170 which had been left in O'Brien's hands on the 22d of July last.

TEMPERANCE.—Thomas Steele, Christopher L. Magee, Wm. McDaniel, Wm. Irwin, Rev. A. M. Byram, James Piper, John Wright and J. Larkin have been appointed by the State Temperance Convention a general committee for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

SETTLED.—The case of Thomas Marshall charged with assault and battery on oath of John W. Biddle, (better known as the "Know-Nothing case,") has been settled. How was it settled? A friend at our elbow says, "its no riddle to him—it was settled by marshall law."

PATENTS were issued last week to John C. Kline, Pittsburgh, for an improvement in door latch-locks and to Wm. C. Hoffer, Pittsburgh, for a bench plane.

MADAME DE VRIES' CONCERT.—We are informed that the price of a ticket admitting a lady and gentleman to this concert has been reduced to $1.50.

BY TELEGRAPH.

CONGRESSIONAL.

WASHINGTON CITY, Jan. 22.

SENATE.—Mr. Jones, of Tennessee, made a violent onslaught upon the Postmaster General for his neglect to furnish daily mails along the Mississippi River and tributaries, as required by the acts of 1851 and 1854.

HOUSE.—The House, after some unimportant proceedings, resumed the Pacific Railroad Bill.

Mr. Campbell moved to reconsider the vote ordering the main question. He wanted to recommit.

The motion was agreed to, 195 to 93.

Mr. Campbell moved to recommit the Bill.—Lost, yeas 101, nays 103.

After further proceedings a motion was made to recommit to a select committee. Lost; the vote was 103 on each side; the Speaker voted in the negative.

The Bill then passed finally; yeas 109, nays 97.

BUFFALO, Jan. 20.—A riot occurred on the Buffalo, Brantford and Goodrich Railroad to-day at Ridgway, 20 miles from the city. The laborers were not paid regularly, and gave notice that they would spike down the switches to-day if they did not receive the wages due them.—The track was accordingly spiked at Ridgway in the afternoon, one or two bridges opened, and the chief officers of the road hired 25 men from the city armed with revolvers, &c., went over to take possession and protect the track. On arriving at the scene they were fired upon by the laborers, armed with rifles. A regular fight ensued, the party from the city faring the worst.

One of their men, Simon Wemple was killed, and two or three others wounded, one dangerously, and two or three of the laborers were wounded. The officer's party, however, succeeded in arresting a dozen of the laborers, and orders were sent to this city for irons, it is supposed for the securement of the rioters.—The whole party from this city were deputised by the Canadian Sheriff and acted under his orders.

The President of the road and a number of Catholic priests and the Sheriff made speeches. The laborers tried to persuade them to desist, but to no purpose. The Sheriff had ordered the track to be opened and cleared, when the meeting took place.

The man who killed Wemple had an examination and has been fully committed.

CHICAGO, Jan. 22.—The fine steamboat Garden City, formerly running in the Illinois river, was burned to the water's edge on Saturday morning near the mouth of Arkansas river. The Garden City left St. Louis on the 10th for New Orleans, with a cargo of flour, corn, and oats. She caught fire below Napoleon. Her passengers and crew all got ashore with their baggage. Her cargo is a total loss.

[We are obliged to the telegraph for information, on the 22d, of an event that happened on the 14th. It reached us by mail several days ago.]

BUFFALO, Jan. 22.—There is nothing further of importance in relation to the Brantford Railroad riot. Thirteen prisoners were under a guard of soldiers on Saturday and Sunday.—Their examination took place to-day. It is understood that the trains are running regularly.

WHEELING, Jan. 22.—At the charter election to-day the American party elected all the general officers without exception.

NEW YORK, Jan. 22.—Letters from Paris say Mr. Mason is still in a critical condition.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 22.—Flour decidedly dull; no export demand; standard brands offered at $8,87½@9. Rye Flour dull at $6,50. Corn Meal unchanged; sales 500 bbls. Brandywine $4,62½. The demand for Wheat is limited; sales 1200 bush. prime Penna. and Southern Red at $2,07 and 700 bush. White at $2,17@2,18.—Corn in fair request; sales 3000 bush. Southern Yellow at 93. Oats unchanged; 2000 bush. Southern sold at 52. Whiskey dull; we quote at 36@3.7

NEW YORK, Jan. 22.—Cotton firm, but the stock is exhausted; sales 500 bales N. O. middling at 8⅞@8¾; uplands middling 8¾. Flour easier but not quotably lower; sales 4500 bbls. good Ohio and 1100 bbls. Southern at former rates. Wheat nominal. Corn unchanged, with sales 88,000 bushels. Pork firm, with upward tendency; sales mess at $19,25@12,31, and prime at $13,12½@18,25 for new. Lard dull with declining tendency; sales 900 bbls. at 9¾@10¾. Whiskey dull at 36¾. Coffee, Rio dull at 9¾. Sugars and Molasses firm. Tobacco, Kentucky firm at 10¾. Stocks lower. Money very easy at 8@10 for short first class papers. Indiana fives 83; Missouri sixes 90¾; Canton 22¾. N. Y. Central 89; Reading 63,74¾; Cumberland 32¾; Erie 46¾; Michigan Southern 84.

COMMERCIAL.

COMMITTEE OF ARBITRATION, FOR *JANUARY*.—W. R. BROWN, V. P.—ALEX. GORDON, DAVID E. PARK, J. McDEVITT, JNO. SCOTT.

PITTSBURGH MARKETS.

OFFICE PITTSBURGH GAZETTE, Tuesday Morning, January 23, 1855.

FLOUR—no sales reported; market quiet, and no movement except in the retail way at former figures.

GRAIN—sales on the wharf of 150 bus. Red Wheat at $1,75; from store, 100 bus. Shelled Corn at 85 and 600 do. at 87½.

BUTTER—a sale of 7 bbls. Common Roll at 15.

PROVISIONS—sales of 300 pcs. Shoulders at 6½, cash; Bulk Meat, 85 pcs. Country Hams, in salt, at 6¾, 145 do. Sides at 5¾, and 140 do. Shoulders at 4¾, sixty days.—Grease, a sale of 15 bbls. at 7¼.

HAY—sales at depot of 7 tons inferior, baled, at $20.

PIG METAL—a sale of 900 tons Allegheny Metal, "America" furnace, at $35, six mos., deliverable at Kittanning.

MONETARY AND COMMERCIAL.

The Banking House of Kramer & Rahm did not open yesterday morning, and by advertisement in some of yesterday's papers they announce their suspension. They promise an ultimate payment of all their liabilities. This House was very hardly pressed during the recent runs, and having considerable unavailable securities on hand they found it impossible to go on. We learn that the list of depositors is large, and that considerable embarrassment will ensue to many.

There was not much excitement through the city, nor any evidences of a panic, in consequence of this suspension. People are disposed to look at these things more coolly, now, and business affairs will be but little deranged, in general, although the individual cases of suffering are numerous.

The fine rain on Sunday night is certain to bring the Rivers up to a good stage; but the cold weather so suddenly succeeding will deprive it of considerable of its value. A coal boat rise will probably be experienced.

The Cincinnati Commercial of Saturday says that Money is easier, and Public Securities better. The shock experienced by the business community, consequent upon the late failures, has been to a great extent neutralized and the fact that these failures are not likely to prove bad ones, has quite a favorable effect, and a hope is now entertained, apparently on good grounds, that matters will shortly improve.

The Clarksville (Tenn.) Chronicle says that three of the six iron furnaces in that county will not run during the present year.

The Milwaukie Sentinel states that all the Free Banks in Wisconsin have furnished the 10 ⅌ cent. additional security demanded by the Controller, except the Oshkosh Bank.

The New Orleans Mint coined last year $1,274,500 in Gold and $3,246,000 in Silver. The Gold Deposits were $1,189,125 and the Silver Deposits $1,311,703. The Silver coinage was all in halves, quarters, dimes and half dimes.

The New Orleans Bee of the 12th of Sunday, 14th says:

The paper of Fellowes & Co. is now engaged in the Cotton, Tobacco Factorage, Produce and general Commission business, under the firm of Fellowes, Greene & Co. well known Cotton Factors, of Mobile, are retiring, in both instances the supposition was brought about by the impossibility of procuring consignments in advance, based on Cotton and Produce which is kept in the interior for sale, and in the instance of the latter firm, and under such circumstances could only impair their entire stability, as we feel satisfied, from the amount of assets, and the small liabilities of both firms amount to about two millions and a half.

The sums of assets and small liabilities must be very large and entitle a doubt.

There is a continued good request for prime short paper, the Banks taking most of this description offered by their mercantile customers at 7 ⅌ cent. and outside lenders at 9@10 ⅌ cent. Fair names, outside of Bank, go at 12@15 ⅌ cent.; though not freely unless known to be based on current transactions in the regular trade.

The Foreign Bankers are asking 108¾ ⅌ cent. for bills of their own drawing on London. There will not be much done until Monday or Tuesday, owing to the non-receipt of the European mails.

At Boston, Money was still easier at from 10 to 12 ⅌ cent. most of the best grades of paper passing at 10. Rates tend to further decline.—N. Y. Tribune.

The recent low quotations for State Loans have brought forward buyers from the respective States, and the prospect now is that the Six ⅌ Cent. Stock will soon reach par. Virginia Sixes sold to-day at 95, and advanced to 96 at the Second Board. Kentucky Five ⅌ Cents are again at par, and but small amounts of the same offered. Tennessee Sixes brought to-day 88¾, Indiana Fives 89¾@90¾. This has been for some years a Ten ⅌ Cent. Stock, dividends payable at Philadelphia and New York. There is more loyalty for shares in the Banks of the city, and a greater disposition to buy them, than for any other class of Stocks, within the reach of ever-varying fluctuations.

The supply of Money for good paper and collaterals, which we noticed yesterday, is much improved to-day, the shares some being offered on the latter especially, at lower rates than have been accepted for similar money months. This fact does not reached questionable names or securities, but that will not be considered will not long prevail, during the present condition. There is no very large amount of prime paper which were heavy borrowers up to December, having contracting their operations, and by selling, instead of by purchasing, for the rectification of disparities that have found, that the favorable change in the money market will tend to a tolerable standard.—[Philadelphia Sat. Evening Post.

ALTERED NOTES.—Three of the Notes of the Bank of Commerce, of Wheeling, have been altered from "Twenty Dollars," altered from "Five." The alteration was so well executed that few would detect it without close observation. The words "Five Dollars" were entirely erased, and the figures changed to five. The alteration was so completely executed that few would detect it without close observation. The words "Five Dollars" were entirely erased, and the figures changed to five.