THE DAILY PITTSBURGH GAZETTE.

ESTABLISHED IN 1786. PITTSBURGH, MONDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 8, 1858. VOLUME LXXI----NUMBER 281.

Druggists.

MACKEOWN & FINLEY, Wholesale Druggists, Jobbers in Oil Manufacturers and Agents for Painters' Materials, Nos. 59 and 61 Liberty street, Pittsburgh, Pa. jy5-1yd

B. L. FAHNESTOCK & Co., late of the firm of Fahnestock & Co., and successors to Fleming Bros., Wholesale Druggists, No. 60, corner Wood and Fourth sts., Pittsburgh, Pa. mch7

B. A. FAHNESTOCK & CO., WHOLESALE Dealers in Drugs, Oils and Manufacturers of White Lead, Lead and Litharge, corner Wood and Front streets, Pittsburgh. mch7

J. SCHOONMAKER, MANUFACTURER of White Lead, Red Lead, Zinc, Paint, Litharge, Patent Dryers, and Wholesale Dealer in Paints, Oils, Varnishes, Turpentine, &c., No. 84, Wood st., Pittsburgh, Pa. oct5-1yd

JOHN HAFT, Jr. (SUCCESSOR TO JAS. Haft), Wholesale and Retail Druggist and Dealer in Patent Medicines, &c., corner Wood and Sixth streets, Pittsburgh.

☞ Regular Agent for Dr. Swift's Medicines. apl1

JOHN P. SCOTT, WHOLESALE DEALER in Drugs, Paints, Oils, Varnishes and Dyestuffs, No. 108 Liberty street, Pittsburgh.

All orders will receive prompt attention.

☞ Agent for Sehenck's Pulmonic Syrup. mar24-1yd

BRAUN & REITER, WHOLESALE AND Retail Druggists, corner of Liberty and St. Clair sts., Pittsburgh. GEORGE REITER.

JOSEPH FLEMING, (SUCCESSOR TO L. Wilson & Co.) corner Market street and Diamond, keeps constantly on hand a full and complete assortment of Drugs, Medicines, Medicine Chests, Perfumery, and all articles pertaining to his business.

☞ Orders and prescriptions carefully compounded at all hours. jy6-ly

DR. GEO. H. KEYSER, DRUGGIST, 139 Wood street, corner of Wood street and Virgin Alley, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Produce Dealers.

LEECH & HUTCHINSON, Commission and Forwarding Merchants, dealers in Western Reserve Cheese, Flour, Fish, Bacon, Butter, Linseed Oil, Pot and Pearl Ashes, Seeds, Grain, Dried Fruit, and Produce generally. Most brands Family Flour always on hand. Agents for the sale of Madison City celebrated Patented Wood and Metal Seat, Pittsburgh, Pa. G. S. LEECH. sp21yd

CHEESE WAREHOUSE.—HENRY H. COLLINS, Forwarding and Commission Merchant, and Dealer in Cheese, Butter, Lake Fish and Produce generally, 28 Wood st., above Fifth, Pittsburgh. my21

DAVID C. HERBST, FLOUR, PRODUCE, Provision and Commission Merchant, No. 207 Liberty street, corner of Hand, Pittsburgh, gives his attention to the sale of Flour, Bacon, Lard, Cheese, Butter, Dried Fruits, Seeds, &c., &c.

☞ Purchases on commission respectfully solicited. my8-1y

ALEX. FORSYTH, (SUCCESSOR TO Forsyth & Bissell), Forwarding and Commission Merchant, Dealer in Wool, Hides, Furs, Bacon, Lard and Lard Oil and Produce generally, No. 75 Water st., Pittsburgh, Pa.

EAGLE WAREHOUSE. JAS. GARD, Wholesale Dealer in Flour, Provisions and Seed, No. 6 Seventh street, between Liberty and Penn streets. sp15

RIDDLE, WIRTS & CO., General Commission Merchants and Dealers in Groceries and Provisions, No. 116 Liberty street, Pittsburgh, Pa.

☞ Consignments solicited and satisfactory returns guaranteed. de14-1yd&w2

Insurance Agents.

R. FINNEY, Agent Eureka Insurance Co., No. 9 Water street.

A. A. CARRIER, SECRETARY Jones' Building, Fourth street. Pennsylvania Insurance Company of Pittsburgh,

SAMUEL L. MARSHALL, Secretary Citizens' Insurance Company, 94 Water street.

F. M. GORDON, Secretary Western Insurance Company, 92 Water street.

J. GARDINER COFFIN, Agent for Franklin Fire Insurance Company, North-east corner Wood and Third streets.

P. A. MADEIRA, Agent for Delaware Mutual Insurance Co., 43 Water street.

THOS. J. HUNTER, Agent Farmers' and Mechanics' Insurance Co., 90 Water street.

JOSHUA ROBINSON, Agent Continental Insurance Co., 34 Fifth street.

R. W. POINDEXTER, Agent Great Western Fire and Marine Insurance Co., 97 Front street.

Carpets.

ROBINSON & CO., Dealer in Carpets, &c., 57 Fifth street.

WILLIAM McCLINTOCK, Dealer in Carpets, &c., 112 Market street. se2

W. D. & H. McCALLUM, DEALER IN CARPETS, OIL CLOTHS, MATTINGS, &c. No. 67 Fourth street near Wood.

Attorneys.

IRISH & MACKENZIE, Attorneys at Law, No. 57 Fifth street, Pittsburgh, Pa. Notary Public and Conveyancer.

ROBERT M'KNIGHT, ATTORNEY AT Law, and Solicitor of the Bank of Pittsburgh, No. 110 Fourth street, Pittsburgh. de18

JOSEPH S. & A. P. MORRISON, AT Attorneys at Law. Office No. 98 Fourth st., near Wood, Pittsburgh, Pa. my24

Dry Goods.

L. H. BURCHFIELD. GEO. R. MERRELL. W. R. MURRAY.

BURCHFIELD & CO., (successors to Murphy & Burchfield,) Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Staple and Fancy Dry Goods, North-east corner Fourth and Market sts., Pittsburgh. ap1

C. H. LOVE, Dealer in Staple and Fancy Dry Goods, Sign of the original Red Store, No. 74 Market street, Pittsburgh. mr19

R. H. PALMER, No. 105 Market Street, Dealer in Bonnets, Hats, Straw Trimmings, and Straw Goods generally. 23

Carriages.

CARRIAGES! BUGGIES! ROCKAWAYS! PHAETONS, BAROUCHES, &ies, AND everything in the line, purchased from the most reliable

EASTERN MANUFACTURERS,

Together with a full assortment of elegant Eastern Harness

In every variety suitable for single or double teams. Also, Axles, Springs, Axle-trees and Hubs, too numerous to mention, constantly on hand and for sale by JOHN S. SHAFFER.

Diamond street, near Liberty, Pittsburgh, Pa.

☞ Carriage bought and sold on commission. Repairing neatly and promptly done. ap17-1y

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M. L. STEPHENS, Agent, No. 122 Third Street,

WOULD respectfully inform the public that he has now located as above, and has resumed the business of Carriage making in all its various branches, and is now prepared to execute orders for Wagons of all descriptions, including all work for Iron Merchants' use.

Soliciting a continuance of the patronage so liberally bestowed upon him while at the old stand of "Stephens & Co.," he would assure his friends that the same care and attention will be given to all his orders as heretofore, having secured the services of the best workmen, and having ample accommodations where here for the finishing of fine work.

Has a good assortment of two and four horse work now on hand, suitable for Spring use. All work warranted for 12 months.

☞ Particular attention given to repairs. ja14-1yd

Coach and Carriage Factory.

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WOULD RESPECTFULLY INform their friends, and the public generally, that they are manufacturing Carriages, Barouches, Rockaways, Buggies, Sleighs and Cheriots, in all their various styles of finish and proportions.

All orders will be executed with strict regard to durability and beauty of finish. Repairs will also be attended to on the most reasonable terms. Those in all their work the best Eastern Shafts, Poles and Wheel Stock, they feel confident that all who favor them with their patronage will be satisfied on trial of their work.

Purchasers are requested to give them a call before purchasing elsewhere. oct-1yd

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DR. O'BRIEN CAN BE CONSULTED MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS and SATURDAYS, from 10 to 12 and 1 to 3 o'clock.

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HOUSE PAINTERS, GLAZIERS AND GRAINERS, 128 THIRD STREET. Sign Painting executed with neatness and dispatch. Mixed Paints, Oil, Turpentine, Varnish, Japan and English Patent Dryers, Zinc Monotype Zinc, a very superior article Philadelphia and Pittsburgh White Lead always on hand and for sale.

We are prepared to Grind Colors for Painters, Druggists or others at the shortest notice as we have a mill which grinds by steam. Painters will save money by getting their colors ground with us. mr31-1y

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WALTER P. MARSHALL & CO., Importers and Dealers, 87 Wood street, between Fourth street and Diamond Alley, where may be found an extensive assortment of every description of Paper Hangings, for Parlors, Halls, Dining Rooms and Chambers. Also, Window Shades, in great variety at lowest prices to country dealers. se10 WALTER P. MARSHALL & CO.

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EDMUNDSON & CO., Nos. 96 and 98 Third street, near Wood, Manufacturers and Dealers in WALL PAPER, CURTAIN GOODS, ORNAMENTS, FRINGES, TASSELS AND CORDS, COMPLETE SHADES, Of every description.

PATENT SPIRAL SPRING MATTRESSES, &c. Would solicit the attention of purchasers to their large and varied stock. sp25-1yd

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TO SPORTSMEN.—Dupont's Rifle Powder in patent canisters, or smaller quantities; also, Shot, Caps, for sale at FRANCE'S, Family Grocery and Variety Store, Federal street, Allegheny. oct28

FLAVORING EXTRACTS.—20 Gro. Pressley and Merritt's for sale by

T. B. YOUNG & CO., Corner of Wood and First streets.

Commission, &c.

HITCHCOCK, McCREERY & CO., [Successors to Huffman, M'Creery & Co.] Forwarding and Commission Merchants, And Wholesale Dealers in Produce, Flour and Wool, No. 153 Front and 122 Second st., Pittsburgh, Pa. ap1-1yd—my29

McBANE & ANJER, DEALERS IN Flour, Grain and Produce. Commission and Forwarding Merchants, No. 124 Second St., Pittsburgh; Pa. my31-1yd

ROBERT CANNING. JOHN BOND.

CANNING & BOND, COMMISSION MERCHANTS, No. 228 North Second Street, PHILADELPHIA,

For the sale of Produce and purchase of Fish, &c., &c. Any orders entrusted with them will be promptly forwarded. se30-dlm*

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JOS. S. LEECH & CO., Nos. 242 & 244 Liberty st., Pittsburgh, Pa. WHOLESALE GROCERS AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS, DEALERS IN FLOUR AND BACON, Tin Plate and Tinner's Stock, AND PITTSBURGH MANUFACTURES. jy11-1y

SPRINGER HARBAUGH. BENJAMIN F. PETTIT. WM. H. WHITACRE.

SPRINGER HARBAUGH & CO., COMMISSION MERCHANTS, DEALERS IN Wool, Hides, Provisions & Produce Generally, No. 295 Liberty Street, Pittsburgh. ja12

McALPIN & CO., (Late of J. S. Leech, McAlpin & Co., Pittsburgh.) GENERAL COMMISSION AND FORWARDING MERCHANTS' Lines and Washington Avenue, WYANDOTTE CITY, KANSAS TERRITORY, REFERENCES:

Joseph S. Leech & Co., and Pittsburgh Merchants generally. jy11-dlw1y-T

LEWIS. EDGERTON. D. M. EDGERTON.

LEWIS & EDGERTON, (Successors to D. T. Morgan & Co.) Wholesale Grocers and Commission Merchants, 107 Wood street, Pittsburgh. mr2

HENRY S. KING, (LATE OF THE firm of King & Moorhead,) Commission Merchant, and Dealer in Pig Metal and Blooms, No. 76 Water street, below Market, Pittsburgh, Pa. sp15

A. HARDY, (SUCCESSOR TO HARdy, Jones & Co.) Commission and Forwarding Merchant, Agent of the Madison and Indianapolis Railroad, corner First and Ferry sts., Pittsburgh, Pa. ja29-1yd

EDWARD T. MEGRAW, GENERAL Commission Merchant, and Wholesale Dealer in Manufactured Tobacco, Imported and Domestic Cigars, Snuff, &c., No. 241 Liberty street, opposite the head of Wood, Pittsburgh, Pa. mh12-1y

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WILLIAM BAGALEY, WHOLESALE GROCER, Nos. 18 and 20 Wood Street, PITTSBURGH.

ROBERT DICKEY, Wholesale Grocer, Produce and Commission Merchant, No. 134 Front street, near Wood, Pittsburgh, Pa. ap8-1yd

BAGALEY, COSGRAVE & CO., Wholesale Grocers, Nos. 18 and 20 Wood street, Pittsburgh.

ALEXANDER KING, WHOLESALE Grocer and Importer of Soda Ash, No. 273 Liberty street, Pittsburgh, Pa. ap13-1yd

JONES & COOLEY, WHOLESALE GROCERS and Heat Furnishers, Dealers in Produce and Pittsburgh Manufactures, No. 141 Water street, near Liberty Alley, Pittsburgh, Pa. my26

SAM'L P. SHRIVER. JOHN S. DILWORTH.

SHRIVER & DILWORTH, WHOLESALE Grocers, No. 130 and 132 Second street, (between Wood and Smithfield), Pittsburgh.

JOHN FLOYD. WILLIAM FLOYD.

JOHN FLOYD & CO., WHOLESALE Grocers and Commission Merchants, No. 113 Wood street, Pittsburgh. jy16

JOHN WATT. JOHN WILSON.

WATT & WILSON, WHOLESALE GROCERS, Commission Merchants and Dealers in Produce and Pittsburgh Manufactures, No. 224 Liberty street, Pittsburgh. jy22

ISAIAH DICKEY & CO., WHOLESALE Grocers, Commission Merchants, and Dealers in Produce, No. 30 Water street, and 29 Front street, Pittsburgh.

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ROBISON & CO., WHOLESALE Grocers, Commission Merchants, and Dealers in all kinds of Provisions, Produce and Pittsburgh Manufactures, No. 254 Liberty street, Pittsburgh. jy5-1yd

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Those wishing to invest their money to good advantage, can always find first and second class paper at my office, for sale.

All communications and interviews strictly confidential. Office GRANT STREET, opposite St. Paul's Cathedral. jy14-1y

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Furniture, Furniture, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

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☞ Bills of Twenty-Five Dollars Retailed at Wholesale Prices at the Bowery store.

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SPRING, CURLED HAIR, MOSS AND WHALEBONE MATTRESSES, Also, Feather Beds and Bedding, Patent Premium Sofa Bedsteads, and Patent Self-Rocking Cradles.

Dealers will find at the above stores, the largest and best assortment of any establishment in New York, and can buy either at wholesale or retail, cheaper than at any other house in the city. au23dnd v

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FURNITURE AND CHAIRS. WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, Embracing every style of FURNITURE, ROSEWOOD, MAHOGANY AND WALNUT, Suitable for PARLORS, CHAMBERS AND DINING ROOMS, Equal to any in NEW YORK AND PHILADELPHIA, AND AT LOWER PRICES.

☞ Every article made by hand and Warranted. ☜

CABINET MAKERS Supplied with any quantity of FURNITURE and CHAIRS, on reasonable terms.

HOTELS AND STEAMBOATS Furnished at the shortest notice.

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W. R. YOUNG & CO., MANUFACTURERS OF FURNITURE AND CHAIRS Of Every Description.

FACTORY—Second st., between Wylie and Penna. Avenues WAREHOUSE—Nos. 38 & 40 Smithfield St.,

STEAMBOAT CABIN FURNITURE.—We are constantly manufacturing STEAMBOAT CABIN FURNITURE and CHAIRS, and invite the attention of Steamboat Captains to our stock.

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POTATOES.—500 bus prime French Creek Mammoth Peachblow Potatoes for sale by RIDDLE, WIRTS & CO.

Manufacturers.

HENRY GERWIG, No. 439, corner Penn and Walnut Streets, Pittsburgh, Pa., MANUFACTURER OF HEMP AND MANILLA BED CORDS, HEMP AND TARRED ROPES from ¼ in. to 12 inch. Fine and Common Packing Yarn, Tarred and Spun Yarn, Sash and Bell Cord, Wick Twine, Drum, Tying and Sewing Twine, Flax and Cotton Seine Twine, &c.

☞ A full supply of the above articles constantly on hand or made to order at the lowest cash prices. ja27-1yd

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Terms—6 months, or 5 per cent. discount for cash. se28-1yd&w7

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MOORHEAD & CO., MANUFACTURERS OF American, Plain and Corrugated, GALVANIZED SHEET IRON, For Roofing, Guttering, Spouting, &c. Agents for Wood's Patent Imitation Russia Sheet Iron.

☞ Warehouse—No. 156 First Street, Pittsburgh. mr23-1yd

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HAMMERS of the following sizes &c., made to order:

No. 1, Lift 7 in. fall blow,	3,000 lbs.	Price	$ 350.
" 2, " 9 " "	5624 "	"	450.
" 3, " 12 " "	11600 "	"	650.
" 4, " 15 " "	20385 "	"	900.
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ja21-3ly WILLIAM BARNHILL. JARED M. BRUSH. WILLIAM BARNHILL & CO., 61 Penn st., below Marbury, Pittsburgh, Pa., STEAM BOILER MAKERS AND SHEET Iron Workers, Manufacturers of Barnhill's Patent Boiler, Locomotive, Flued and Upright Boilers, Chimneys, Breeches, Fire Bed, Steam Pipes, Condensers, Salt Pans, Sugar Pans, Iron Vessels, Tile Rocks, etc. Also, Blacksmiths' Work, Bridge and Viaduct Irons, done at the shortest notice. All orders from a distance promptly attended to. ja28

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☞ Every description of Fittings for Water, Gas and Steam. mch11-1y

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Musical.

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PENNSYLVANIA STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY at their exhibition held at Pittsburgh, 1858. A DIPLOMA AND $15 SILVER MEDAL.

Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society at their exhibition held at Philadelphia, 1857. A SILVER MEDAL.

Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society at their exhibition held at Pittsburgh, 1855. A GOLD MEDAL.

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Mass. Charitable Mechanic Association, 1850.....Gold Medal
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Mass. Charitable Mechanic Association, 1847.....Gold Medal
Mass. Charitable Mechanic Association, 1848.....Gold Medal
Mass. Charitable Mechanic Association, 1850.....Gold Medal
Albany County Fair, New York, 1854.....Gold Medal
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American Institute, New York, 1854.....Gold Medal
American Institute, New York, 1856.....Gold Medal
Mass. Charitable Mechanic Association, 1838.....Silver Medal
Mass. Charitable Mechanic Association, 1844.....Silver Medal
Mass. Charitable Mechanic Association, 1846.....Silver Medal
Mass. Charitable Mechanic Association, 1847.....Silver Medal
Worcester Co. Mechanic Association.....1848.....Silver Medal
Worcester Co. Mechanic Association.....1849.....Silver Medal
Mass. Charitable Mechanic Association, 1850.....Silver Medal
Worcester Co. Mechanic Association.....1850.....Silver Medal
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Ohio State Board of Agriculture.....1852.....Silver Medal
Ohio State Board of Agriculture.....1853.....Silver Medal
Sewickely Mechanics' Institute.....1853.....Silver Medal
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Mass. Charitable Mechanic Association.....1856.....Silver Medal
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Mass. Charitable Mechanic Association.....1856.....Bronze Medal
World's Fair, London.....1851.....Bronze Medal
Mass. Charitable Mechanic Association.....1851.....Bronze Medal
Mass. Charitable Mechanic Association.....1856.....Bronze Medal
Mass. Charitable Mechanic Association.....1856.....Bronze Medal

A full supply of CHICKERING'S PIANO FORTES, Of every description, manufactured by them, consisting of their GRAND PIANOS, PARLOR GRAND PIANOS, SQUARE PIANOS, AND THEIR NEW COTTAGE OR UPRIGHT PIANOS.

THEIR NEW ENLARGED SCALE PIANOS.

☞ For sale by JOHN H. MELLOR, Sole Agent for Chickering & Sons' Manufactory, No. 81 Wood street, between Diamond alley and Fourth street.

FALL STOCK OF PIANOS.

JUST received invoice of our third Fall supply of Pianos, by the best makers in the country, viz: STEINWAY & SONS, NUNNS & CLARK, DUNHAM & CO. Aert & Needham, New York, the original Melodeons of Carhart & Needham, New York, the original Melodeons and largest manufacturers of this country. Notice will be given of their arrival. For sale by H. KLEBER & BRO. oc8

THE LARGEST AND BEST assortment of PIANO FORTES in the city, from the celebrated factories of WM. KNABE & CO., Baltimore; HALLET, DAVIS & CO., Boston; HAINES BROS., New York; BAUMGARDTEN & HEINS, Hamburg, and other celebrated makers. PRINCE'S IMPROVED MELODEONS.

Second hand Pianos.....$50 to $150
Pianos to let.....$7 to $10 per month.
CHARLOTTE BLUME, oc1 118 Wood street, 2nd floor above Fifth street.

PIANOS AND MELODEONS. Just received a new lot of CHICKERING PIANOS and MASON & HAMLIN'S MELODEONS will be open and ready for sale on Saturday morning, Oct. 30th. JOHN H. MELLOR, oc30 No. 81 Wood st.

A SPLENDID BARGAIN. A FULL GRAND PIANO FORTE—SEVEN OCTAVE—Rosewood case, handsomely carved, at about half price. About two years used in very good order and one of the most accomplished ladies in the United States, and until recently in a direct circumstances.

The instrument is warranted by the subscriber to be in perfect order in every particular, and in all respects a very superior Grand Piano Forte. The cost price, at the manufactory of the same class of Piano, is $750. For sale by JOHN H. MELLOR, 81 Wood street.

LEATHER.—In returning thanks to his friends and a generous public for the very liberal and encouraging patronage bestowed upon him, the undersigned would take occasion to invite attention to his stock, to LOCK and OAK SOLE LEATHER, UPPER LEATHER, FRENCH KIPS and CALF SKINS, Ladies and Gentlemens' MOROCCO, SHOE FINDINGS, CURRIERS' TOOLS and TANNERS' OILS.

☞ Orders from the city trade for Sole Leather, Tanners' Oil or anything in his line solicited and filled on the most reasonable terms. oct8 WM. WILKINSON, No. 217 Liberty street.

ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH CABLE.—We have just received from the U. S. Steam Frigate Niagara, a large quantity of ATLANTIC CABLE, which we will cut in small pieces and mount them in either brass, silver or gold, to suit purchasers. Also a fresh lot of those excellent American seals and WATCHES. Call and see the CABLE and the WATCHES.

oct8 REINEMAN & BEYRAN, 42 Fifth street.

BURCHFIELD & CO., (successors to Murphy & Burchfield,) are now receiving daily from New York and Philadelphia, new purchases of Goods of various kinds. Will open to-day Shawls and other goods of various tag our determination to sell every article at lowest possible price. Purchasers will find it to their advantage to look at our goods before making their selections.

oct5-dtw7 BURCHFIELD & CO.

FIRE ARMS of all descriptions, Shot Pouches, Ammunition, Cutlery, Travelling Companions, Surgical Instruments, Pistol CARTWRIGHT & YOUNG'S, At PRICES LOW, oct8 No. 86 Wood street.

Pittsburgh Gazette.

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From the London Times.

THE COMET—WHAT IT HAS SEEN—AND WHAT IS TO BE SAID ABOUT COMETS IN GENERAL.—We are just parting with a visitor who, attracted great attention, and probably excited great alarm, at his last visit, more than two thousand years ago. As that is the ascertained minimum, and on a very elaborate calculation, 2405 years has done since his last appearance here, we know that it occurred during that period of history which is most interesting and best known to most of us. Englishmen know ancient history better than modern, and the affairs of Rome, Greece and the Eastern Empires better than those of any existing State. So we might feel almost at home with the Comet, and welcome it as an old friend. It might, at its last appearance, have terrified the Athenians into accepting the bloody code of Draco. It might have witnessed the destruction of Nineveh, or of Babylon, or the capture of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar. It might have been seen by the expedition which sailed round Africa, in the reign of Pharaoh Necho. It might have given interest to the foundation of the Pythian games. Within the probable range of its last visitation, are comprehended that constitute what we call the history of Greece, her early struggles with Asiatic despots to her subjugation by Rome. In the annals of the latter power, we have the whole period from Ancus Martius and the destruction of Carthage to choose from. Beyond a doubt, however, at some time or other in that period it was familiar and so dear to us, precisely the same sign was seen in the skies. Among its spectators might have been not only, kings and conquerers famous in story, but the so called sages: Greece and even the prophets of Holy Writ. Thales might have attempted to calculate its return, and Jeremiah might have tried to read its warning.

But how different the significance of the wondering gaze at the two periods! Till modern times the boldest conjecture never placed comets so far as the moon: and the prevailing belief was that they were rather meteoric than celestial bodies. Thus they were described as hanging over a doomedcity, and marking the very site of a Divine visitation. They were naturally compared to a flashing scimetar or the burning brand. The very expression is, that a Comet blazed in the sky. We are not aware that it ever occurred to astronomers till two or three centuries ago that Comets returned, the variety in their appearance produced by the different places of the earth in its orbit being quite enough to baffle any attempt to identify them. No sooner was it found that comets are in fact planetary bodies, revolving round the sun by the same law as ourselves, than speculators ran into the other extreme, and fondly hoped they might be identified in time between this system and some other, or might even wander through the universe, visiting first one star and then another, to all time. Modern science, however, has confined the range of our present visitor, though immensely wide compared with our planetary proportions, is straitened indeed compared with stellar distances. He had his retreat in the attraction of the sun, as we have. He can travel, indeed, three hundred and fifty times further from the sun than we can, and about twelve times further than Neptune, the most distant and last discovered planet of our system; but even this does not carry him one thousandth part of the distance of him the nearest fixed star. Let any one take a half sheet of note paper, and, marking a circle with a sixpence in one corner of it, describe therein our solar system, drawing the orbit of the earth and the inferior planets as small as he can by the aid of a magnifying glass. If the circumference of the sixpence stands for the orbit of Neptune, then an oval filling the page will fairly represent the orbit of our comet; and if the paper be laid on the pavement under the front door of St. Paul's the length of that oval line will nearly adequately represent the distance of the nearest fixed star. That the comet should take more than 2,000 years to travel round the page of note paper we have supposed, is explained by its great diminution of speed as it recedes from the sun. At its perihelion, or as we have seen it here lately, it has traveled 127,000 miles an hour, or more than twice as fast as the earth, whose motion is about a thousand miles a minute. At its aphelion, however, or its greatest distance from the sun, the comet is a very slow body, sailing along, as if doubtful whether to return, at the rate of 480 miles an hour. This is only eight times the speed of a railway express. At this pace, even if the comet could wholly shake off the attraction of the sun—which it certainly could not—and move in a straight line, the lapse of a million years would find it traveling half way between our sun and the nearest fixed star.—Comets, then, can hardly be the imagined visitors from our system to any other or from any other to our own. There is every reason to believe they belong to us, and are only planets of a lighter material, less settled construction, more eccentric orbits and somewhat more devious path than our solid globe.

Comets are the very *crux* of astronomers. Every science has its difficulties; policy its crises; history its mysteries; medicine its incurable disease; surgery its deadly operations; life itself its great trials. But a Comet seems to combine in one all the difficult problems of observation and calculation. Though it cannot but move by the same laws as our own planets, yet the ellipse is so immense and the course homeward towards the Sun so straight, that it is necessary to make the false assumption of a parabolic motion. The true ellipse, however, ascertained, the difficulty does not cease: for the Comet is so disturbed by the attraction of the planets near which it successively passes that the orbit of one day is contradicted by the orbit of the next—curve, velocity, period, distance, all changing from hour to hour. Even when we know, as we do with regard to Halley's Comet, its history for two thousand years, and can tell the period and other elements of its orbit for all that time, still at every fresh return the comet suffers planetary disturbances which affect it forever. But the material, the construction, and the internal history of comets are still more inscrutable. The utmost observation and research have failed to discover any weight in them. The comet now receding from our view passed on Monday within nine million miles of Venus, and if it had any density at all comparable to our own would have effected the orbit of that planet in an appreciable degree. Were that found to be the case, it would be the first fact of the kind in the history of these singular bodies. But even if there were no weight in a comet, it might still be of very opaque matter. It is, however, by no means certain that the very nucleus can intercept the light of a small telescopic star. Yet in this light, transparent substance, is the source of the immense luminous matter, many millions of miles long, which in some comets has been a hundred millions, and in the present instance, not less than forty millions of miles long. It is the seat of the most extraordinary changes and the most violent eruptions, throwing out columns of luminous matter, many millions of miles long, in a few hours, not only in the usual direction away from the sun, but directly towards the sun and otherwise as some chance may direct. This comet has exhib