The Pittsburgh Gazette

THURSDAY, JAN. 30, 1868.

The decision of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, in the Connellsville Railroad case, was unanimous. As the law stands, if a bare majority only of the Judges had concurred, the legal effect would have been the same; but the moral effect would have been quite different. The case was too plain to admit of a difference of opinion among eminent jurists. A flagrant injustice—an inexcusable wrong—had been perpetrated by one Legislature, and sanctioned by a number of others in succession—and unquestionable through corrupt motives. Every member of these successive Legislatures who has concurred in this wrong, has publicly certified, by that concurrence, to his want of intellectual capacity to distinguish in plain case, or to his supineness or cowardice in resisting corruption. This is putting the case strongly, but not a particle stronger than the facts warrant.

But this is not the point we had specially in mind. It is possible for the members of the Supreme Court all to unite in a judgment. Is it an offence, in important cases, or in cases of inferior magnitude, to ask such unanimity? Especially, since the Supreme Court of the United States is now disposed to assume authority in political cases which it formerly repudiated as not conferred upon it by the Constitution or laws, is it unreasonable to require that the seven Judges shall unite in an opinion designed to set aside the judgment of one or both the other departments of the government? Surely there is no radical bar in this requirement; but, on the contrary, an element of conservatism so palpable as not to be mistaken or denied.

CITY TIME.

In the "Life of Sam Slick," it is told how that Yankee pedler, when he found it impossible by ordinary means, to induce a farmer to buy one of his Connecticut clocks, would ask permission to leave it until his return on his "circuit." This device, it appears, seldom failed to secure a customer; for the family which had once given it a place on the kitchen mantle, finding it grown a necessity of life, paid the clock maker his own price, rather than see the Connecticut treasure depart on the returning wagon.

Our "City Time" seems to be one of those conveniences, which we did not know was needed, till we tried it, and whose value would only be felt, if we were exposed to the chance of its loss. A year or two ago we used to look in at the watchmaker's occasionally to make sure our time was right (or wrong) within a few minutes; but to-morrow, when a single stroke on the Court House bell sends the hour to every one, our citizens will give Mr. REED an unconscious testimony to their dependence on his accuracy, by the simultaneous comparison of several hundred time keepers with his, whose verdict every one takes as final.

We are thus accustomed to refer through the telegraph to our standard clock, by which we set our watches. But what is the clock set by? The answer to this question can show nothing new to the scientific reader, but may interest some who would reply "by the sun," as a matter of course; and, in fact, the idea that the sun keeps time of unimpeachable uniformity, seems common enough even among people of good general education, to excuse us for assuring any one who so supposes that if he have a watch of ordinary excellence he may be sure that it keeps more regular time than the sun does.

It is true enough that we can deduce the time by computation, when we know the sun's error, but this method does not give the most accurate results, and the reader who cares to know the process of finding the time, from which, at second hand, we daily set our watches and regulate our appointments, should endeavor to obtain almanacs (not usually an easy matter) to some of the larger observatories of the country, where the original data are obtained on which is formed the Nautical Almanac by which the local time is calculated in all the principal cities.

We shall find such observatories, furnished with means to obtain the time to a small fraction of a second, in or near every large city of the Northern and Middle States, except Pittsburgh; and an hour's walk will probably give the visitor some new ideas of the remoteness of the causes which may affect his personal comfort, and of the conditions of a struggle carried on by man against the imperfection of his own senses.

Who would suppose that the practical wants of life would create a demand for an accuracy in the knowledge of the time, which would treat a single second of error as all inappreciably great mistake? Yet an error of a considerable part of a mile in a vessel's reckoning is in some cases caused by such *second* that the chronometer is wrong, and consequently that the shipping of the country depends on this little instrument and its companion, the Nautical Almanac, the reader may be less surprised to hear that to obtain the time so that resulting predictions shall not be one-tenth of a second in error, is an object important enough to cause this Government to support a large observatory and a corps of Astronomers at the public cost.

If we suppose ourselves visiting such an observatory this evening, to see how the time is found; we shall pass by many other instruments to view the "transit," here, a powerful telescope, mounted between two tall and very massive piers, each formed of a single block of granite. The instrument is in all its parts an example of the extremest accuracy which mechanical skill can reach. Were one of the steel axles on which it turns, for instance, one ten thousandth of an inch larger than the other, a perceptible error would exist in each observation. Now, "one ten-thousandth of an inch" is here to be understood, not as a figure of speech, but quite literally; and accordingly, we shall be told, that these axles have been turned with a diamond, since the imperceptible waste of the finest ordinary lathe-tool, would interfere with the result.

The piers are carefully wrapped in "jackets" to prevent sudden change of temperature, and yet under the delicate tests furnished by the observations themselves, are found to alter in height, from day to day, and to sway forward and back, by quantities utterly inassignable to our unaided senses.

We shall see little of this, at an evening visit. The room is dark; there is probably no conversation, and certainly no fire, although the temperature is far below freezing, and the observer, who is lying on his back upon a sort of hand-car, with nothing between him and the sky, must have a cold time of it. There is a continuous opening in front and above him, through which the January winds enter freely; whatever around is not stone and brick is brass and iron, and there is not even the ticking of a clock to break the silence.

In a few moments we hear a series of raps which seem to come from the observer, who now rolls himself and his car back on a little railway which runs under the telescope, and we may, if we please, examine it. Noticing that it points exactly South, so that the star will be seen just as it crosses the meridian, we look in.

We shall see nothing but a glare of yellow light, across which stretch five vertical wires, the middle one representing the meridian, while to the left glitters the star, which has just crossed and which is flickering as though about to go out, and seems retreating toward the East with startling rapidity.

The raps were made by the observer as it crossed the wires, and leaving him to resume his monotonous labor, we pass to a distant room, well lighted and warmed, where electricity is carrying the result of his watchings.

Here ticks, with slow distinctness, the Sidereal clock, the ultimate effort of the horologist's art. It has little peculiar in its exterior except a dial divided into twenty four hours and a flash of light, which springs from the end of the pendulum at every swing.

Near by, with lively clicking, a brass cylinder turns, by separate mechanism, once a minute. It is covered with paper, on which a pen traces an endless line as the cylinder turns beneath, while at every flash from the pendulum the pen is twitched aside, as if by an invisible hand, and instantly recovers itself, leaving the line thus broken at regular intervals, each of which corresponds to a second of the clock.

While we look, the observer at the other end of the building has seen a star approaching the wires, and now, though we cannot hear his distant raps on the telegraph key, we see their effect on the paper before us, on which the pen makes a mark as the key is struck, and then another, and another, till five are recorded. These signal the time when the star passed the five wires in the transit, the middle one marking the moment of its passage across the meridian; and if we stop the mechanism, and remove the paper, we shall find recorded there the hour, the minute, the second, and the fraction of a second, when the star crossed.

Certain allowances made, the interval between the star's passages from day to day is invariable, and if the clock records too early a time for its transit, the clock is slow, always supposing that the telescope is pointed truly. After all the multiplication of delicate mechanism, however, it must be plain that if the telescope points in the least to the East or West of South, the time recorded will not be that of the star's crossing the true meridian, and consequently will not be right, so that any imperfection in the instrument or adjustments will affect the result.

The peculiar accuracy attained is due less to the beautiful mechanism than to the forecast of the astronomer himself. The striking peculiarity of the whole process now comes into view.

The astronomer knows that *some* error lies in each part of the best instrument, and in its most careful adjustment, which will vitiate the result, he seeks, if it be not allowed for. He will not assume then, for example, that those diamond turned axles are equal *absolutely* equal; he knows they are not; but he will know by how many hundred thousandths of an inch they differ, and calculate by how much that minute difference has diverted his telescope from its true plane.

Thus, that imperfection which we all agree theoretically to exist in the most perfect human work, here appears as a sensible fact, is hunted down, and its effect allowed for by mathematical computations which adapt themselves to every varying forms of error until a final result is reached correct to a few hundredths of a second of time.

We cannot without difficulty, conceive of any accuracy so great that the sum of ten separate mistakes should make a total of error, less than the time which elapses between the ticks of a clock and each separate error, be a measurable quantity; yet this result is exceeded.

It is not easy to realize, either that such a struggle against the limitation which nature seems to set our senses, should be called for by the common wants of life; yet it is so, and we might point out many very important results dependant upon it.

To confine ourselves to one: it is the cause of a difference in the market price of every imported article that navigation is incomparably safer since science has given the seaman the means of knowing at all times his position on the ocean, and this knowledge is due to such labor as we have described. The Nautical Almanac of England and America, calculated from these observatories, have lowered the rates of marine insurance throughout the maritime world, and directly reduced the cost of every English pile used in our workshops, and every French silk worn by our ladies; and every pound of spice sold by our grocers. While last, yet scarcely least, without them we should no longer be able to reply on our "City Time."

POWERS OF THE SUPREME COURT.

Speech of Hon. Thomas Williams,

OF PENNSYLVANIA,

[In the Senate of Representatives, January 15, 1868, on the Bill Declaring When Shall Constitute a Quorum of the Supreme Court, and to Regulate the Jurisdiction Thereof.

(CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY.)

If it has been found, however, that the liberties of Englishmen could not be safely trusted to their courts, how much less likely is it that ours as a people, can be confided securely to the same hands here. It may be truly said of the judiciary of the mother-land, that since the era of the great Revolution, for a period now of near two hundred years, there have been no tribunals among men that have been more exempt from the frailties of humanity, and have more nearly approximated to the idea of unerring wisdom and perfect justice; and it is to the fact that the highest honors of the profession are only accessible to the highest excellence, that there are no lottier rewards to tempt ambition, even the most restless and insatiable, and that there is a homogeneity among the people which frees it from the adulteration of foreign and inferior ethnic elements, that it is indebted for these exalted qualities. No favritism rules in the selection of its judges. The leader in the forum steps by an admitted right of succession into the first vacancy on the bench. It is scarcely within the power of the Crown itself to disregard this rule in its appointments. To pass by the trained athletes, and single out over the greatest of the parliamentary leaders for such a place, would shock the moral sense of the whole realm. Not so, unfortunately, with us.

There is, perhaps, scarce a Congressman or Cabinet officer, who has been long enough in public life to unlearn all of law that he ever knew, whose modesty won'd prevent him from seeking or accepting the mantle that has fallen from the shoulders of a Marshall or a Story. It is not to the leaders of the bar in this country that the honors of the profession are awarded, as their undisputed right; and, they are, perhaps, not sought by them, for the reason that the rewards are not commensurate with the earnings of the higher class of professional men. And therefore it is that the bar is in most cases superior to the bench, and cannot be where the usage prevails of selecting the judges from the ablest of its members; and therefore it is, too, that the spectacle of a divided court is, of late years especially, so common a thing, that unanimity is the exception rather than the rule, and lawyers themselves are startled at the idea of prescribing a condition that to them seems impossible. I take leave to say that it is no more impossible than the harmonious agreement of a jury. It is questions of facts alone that are the most fruitful sources of difference among men. In matters of pure science, as the law is sometimes claimed to be, there is no great room for controversy. High culture and thorough disciplina will go far to secure accordance in opinion. The best lawyers will be seldom found to differ where they are agreed upon the facts. It is only the pretenders, the mere sciolists, that convert what ought to be the temple of concord into an arena of perpetual strife, on the bench as well as at the bar. In the long term of thirty-two years, during which Lord Mansfield presided over the Court of King's Bench, there were, if my recollection serves me right, but two cases of division among the judges at that court—one the case of Millar vs. Taylor, upon the great question of literary property, and the other that of Perrin vs. Blake, upon the application of the rule in Shelley's case—and no reversals in the Exchequer Chamber or in the House of Lords, except in those two cases, wherein the dissenting judge was Yates, who was decided to be right in both. Author Yates might save the Constitution here against even the errors of another Mansfield by the adoption of the proposed amendment. And what is there, in view of this striking chapter of judicial history, which is only singled out by way of illustration of the general harmony that prevails in England, to prevent the achievement of the same result with us; and who is there that will consent, until it is accomplished, to trust his welfare and the very existence of this nation to such an arbitrament?

But it is not the want of professional training only, that makes the difficulty and the danger here. The judge, with us, is not so much a lawyer as a politician. The chances are that his politics, and not his knowledge of the law, have made him what he is; and the place he has sought and won is, perhaps, but the stepping-stone to a higher one—which he covets more—whenever he shall have recommended himself sufficiently by his conduct there, either to the President or to the party to which he owes his exaltation. Without any of the *esprit du corps*, the devotion to his proper calling, the high professional pride that always results from high professional training, he sinks the lawyer in the politician, and carries into the temple of Themis, where no divided worship is admissible, all the prejudice of party, and all the spirit of the local and sectional demagogue. It idle to talk of our courts of justice as merely judicial institutions. Disclaiming ostensibly all jurisdiction over political questions, they are as thoroughly political in their texture and spirit as the two Houses of Congress themselves, over whose atmosphere of mists and storms they are supposed to float, like disembodied spirits, in the celestial light of an unclouded and unbiased reason. Turn to the history of our jurisprudence, State and national, and what do you see but the reflection of the opinions of the party which happens for the time being to have the ascendant in the courts? Fortunately, perhaps, for the welfare of this nation, before it was well hardened into the consistency of an organized State, the plastic hand of the party that invoked the covenant of Union was invoked to put its impress on the work and launch it on its high career. If the old Federalists, however, carried to the bench one set of opinions, the old Republican brought with him another. With the growth of slavery the State rights Democrat, drawing his inspiration mainly from that unhallowed institution, took possession of the State and Federal courts, stealing away, even in the free Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the chartered rights of the black man, under the miserable joggle that the word "freeman" did not mean a free man, but a white man, and maintaining its power here and in the States until that power culminated and carried the country down into rebellion and ruin, in the monstrous paradox that slavery and the freedom was the law of this Republic, and that four millions of its native inhabitants were but aliens and outlaws, with no rights that a white man was bound to respect.

When the echo of these opinions came back in the form of the war drums, and the thunders of artillery that shook this Capitol, the Supreme Court of the United States, startled, as it no doubt was, by the unexpected results of its own work, with one defection only, maintained its faith to the Union by adhering to the Government, affirming its powers of self-conservation, and recognizing the belligerent relations created by the war. It could not well have been otherwise. Its dignity, its power, its very existence, were involved in the preservation of that Union, whose integrity was menaced by the revolt. Not so, however, with the party judges of the States. While it was no longer safe to question the power to coerce, wherever a democratic judge was found, he was almost sure to cast his vote into the southern scale by a denial of the means, while the Republican judges of the loyal States were ever ready up on one the legislation of the governments, both Federal and State, in aid of the war. Thus in Pennsylvania, when it was proposed to arm the soldier with suffrage in the field, in order to enable him to protect himself from "the in their rear," the constitutionality of the law enacted for that purpose was denied by a democratic court. If the right of the General Government to compel the military service of its citizens in its darkest hour was sustained even upon the anomalous and extraordinary proceeding of a bill in equity to enjoin the draft, hurried to an argument against all rule before a full bench, in midsummer and out of term, while the rebel armies were thundering at our very gates, and pressing in serried columns upon the fatal field of Gettysburg, by the Supreme Court of the same State, it was only through a popular election which deposed one Democratic judge, and the defection of another who preferred his country to his party. If the legal slender set, which provided in the nation's extremity the sinews of war, and fed and clothed the gallant volunteers, by so freely offered their young lives to the sacred cause of liberty, was saved from judicial condemnation in the same way. And now I may be added, since the danger has apparently passed away, and the judges of the Supreme Court of the United States, lately united and cemented together under a feeling of common danger, have come to feel that the Federal judiciary is saved along with the Union on which it depends, they are found to divide again according to their original political connections and proclivities, upon the validity of the income-tax, the military commissions, and perhaps others of the important measures of self-preservation and defense that emboldened so largely to carry us successfully through the war, while it is not to be denied, that if the authority of Congress is not absolutely menaced at this every moment from the same direction, this body at least, if not the whole country, is affected with the deepest alarm by rumors of a combination between the Executive and the courts for the overthrow of the legislative power.

Allow me to remark, however, that in what I have just said in relation to the decisions of the courts I have not intended to impute to the judges involved were right and who were wrong, because it is not necessary to the argument, and gentlemen on the other side, to whom it is chiefly addressed, might differ with one as to that. The object I have in view just here is only to make good the allegation that the decisions of the courts, on constitutional questions especially, are almost invariably governed by the party affiliations of the members, and therefore not so much the judgments of lawyers as of politicians. If the fact be so, it is, of course, and must forever be, in the mutabilities of party and with the ever changing kaleidoscope of politics, entirely fatal to the idea of uniformity of decision, and nothing is ever to be settled, as nothing apparently has been settled incontrovertibly heretofore. Assuming it to be true, moreover, there is an end of all argument in support of the judgment of a divided court, if there is near an end of all apology for treating even its unanimous decisions on questions of constitutional law as conclusive upon Congress and the people when they are not even conclusive upon themselves.

It was a grave error, therefore, as I honestly think, on the part of the founders of the Republic, when they departed from the example of our British ancestors in giving place to such an anomaly, instead of reserving the ultimate judgment in all such cases to their own Representatives, or at least preserving their control over the judiciary, by the method of address by two-thirds of both Houses, which was provided in the statute of 9 William III., and has been copied by some of the State Constitutions, instead of relying only on the inadequate remedy of impeachment, which corrects no error, however vital, and leaves the defaulting Judge to shelter himself under the plea that he erred from ignorance only, or without corrupt intent. To meet this difficulty, however, I have had the honor to submit a constitutional amendment to the same effect, in order to maintain the just authority of the law-making power, by bringing the Federal judiciary within the reasonable control of Congress, with such qualifications as will guard it sufficiently against abuse, which I propose to bring to the notice of the House at some more favorable opportunity.

Assuming, however, that the power of review is properly lodged with the Supreme Court, the question is whether the limitation proposed would be a proper one. That it is so is, I think, demonstrable from well settled principles, and as a logical result of the decisions of the court itself.

It is admitted on all hands that questions of this sort are of great delicacy, and ought not to be even heard, except in the presence of a full bench. This is the rule in Pennsylvania, and perhaps everywhere else, and the practice of the Supreme Court of the United States is shown by the Reports to be in strict accordance with it. (6 Wheaton.) There can be no possible objection, therefore, to so much of the bill as merely imparts the sanction of law to what is already recognized as a rule of the court.

But the rulings of the courts do not stop short with the concession of the principle, that cases of this nature ought not to be heard except before a full bench. It is still further admitted, as well by the Supreme Court of the United States as by the judicial tribunals of all the States, so far as I am acquainted with them, that no act of the law making power ought to be declared invalid on the ground of conflict with the Constitution, except in a very clear case. (Fletcher vs. Peck, 6 Cranch, 128; Resp. vs. Duquet, 3 Yates, 492; Eakin vs. Robb, 12 S. & R.) In the first named case Judge Marshall says, in delivering the opinion of the court:

"The question whether a law be void for its repugnancy to the Constitution is at all times a question of much delicacy, which ought seldom, if ever, to be decided in the affirmative in a doubtful case. It is not on slight implication or vague conjecture that the Legislature is to be presumed to have transcended its powers and its acts to be considered void. The opposition between the Constitution and the law should be such that the judge feels a clear and strong conviction of their incompatibility with each other."

And this is reason. When we look to the fact that every law enacted by the Congress of the United States must pass the ordeal of a bench of judges in the Judiciary Committee of each House; undergo public discussion and scrutiny on the floors of both; be affirmed by the votes of at least one hundred and twenty men, comprising among them a large number of lawyers of great experience and ability, and many of them at least the peers of the judges of the Supreme Court themselves; and then, either approved by the President, or reviewed and affirmed upon objections made by a two-third vote, it would have been surprising, indeed, if some one should not have held any other language in regard to it. When they say, however, that the case must be clear they only affirm by an inevitable logic the principle of my amendment. No case can be said to be a clear one where even one out of eight judges dissents, and that dissent is regarded as an unimpeachable authority, even in an ordinary case, where there has been a division on the bench; and none a *fortiori* ought to be considered in a case of that sort as of any weight or value whatever. It may be that the dissenting judge is, as in the case of Yates, the ablest lawyer of the number, and therefore it is no unusual thing so find, as in that of Curtis in the Dred Scott case, that the dissenting opinion is the more thoroughly considered and satisfactory of the two. It is not more true in matters of fact than prevail in the forum of reason, or in other words, of law, which is supposed to be the perfection of it. The vulgar idea of a majority in numbers, which is only properly admissible on grounds of convenience if not necessary, because in the case of conflicting wills it is impossible that both can prevail. (1 Tucker's Black Commentaries, Appendix 168-172; 9 Dan Abridg. 37-42; Story's Commentaries, section 330) has no proper place in the comparison of opinions, which are not to be tested, as Tacitus, I think, expresses it in regard to the great councils of the Germanic tribes, by numeration, but by weight. It follows, however, from the theory of the constitution, that the law which is but the voice of the people speaking through their Representatives, is entitled to the benefit of every doubt, and ought not to be pronounced unconstitutional where there is any dissent whatever, and so they must decide if they would be consistent with themselves. The effect of this amendment therefore is only to hold them to the logical consequences of a doctrine which has been affirmed emphatically, and repeatedly enunciated by themselves.

We are so much accustomed in this country to the idea of a majority, as the fundamental one on which all republican government must practically rest, that we are apt to suppose that it is its own foundation in the very nature of things, and that every departure from it must be violence to the letter of our institutions. Allow me to say that this is a great mistake. The idea is exclusively a social and political one. There is no such thing in nature as the right of superior numbers to govern the inferior. Mr. Burke, whose richly furnished, comprehensive and philosophic mind was brought by his calling and his tastes to the exploration and analysis of the great principles that lie at the foundation of all government, holds this language in his "appeal from the new to the old Whigs":

"We are so little affected by things which are habitual that we continually take for a majority as if it were a law of our original nature; but mere numbers, taken in gross, are in a state only, is one of the most violent fictions of politics. Numbers are to have their due weight in every transaction, and a great weight they are, and ought to be, in all wise and just institutions. But they are not the sole ingredient in the balance. Wherever they are, even when arranged according to the ancient usage in his "appeal from the new to the old Whigs":

"We are so little affected by things which are habitual that we continually take for a majority as if it were a law of our original nature; but mere numbers, taken in gross, are in a state only, is one of the most violent fictions of politics. Numbers are to have their due weight in every transaction, and a great weight they are, and ought to be, in all wise and just institutions. But they are not the sole ingredient in the balance. Wherever they are, even when arranged according to the ancient usage in this country, they are to be weighed and not counted. Place them among your subordinate relations, you have made them your masters. Instead of a healthy circulation, you have made the whole mass to stagnate. Instead of a healthy and vigorous government, you have made it a disease, and a mortal disease for the subject. Such is the operation of what is called a majority in all cases where it is not kept in its proper place, and is not made to yield to the other elements of which the commonwealth is composed. Such is the effect of what I call the tyranny of a majority."

"This mode of decision where wills may be so nearly equal, where according to circumstances the smaller number may be the stronger force, and the superior wisdom may be all on one side, and on the other little less than impotent appetite, all that must be the result of a very special convention, confirmed afterwards by the habit of obedience, by a sort of discipline in society, which has accustomed them to a stationary, permanent power to enforce this rule as the fundamental will. Thus, then, when it is that shall declare the corporate mind so much a matter of positive agreement that several hundred votes of the validity of several of their acts, have required a proportion of votes much greater than those of a mere majority. Those proportions are so entirely governed by the circumstances of some cases the minority decides. The law, in many cases, decides, or requires more than a mere majority; less than an equal number decides. In our jury trials we require unanimity either to condemn or absolve. In some inquisitions one man speaks for the whole; in others a few. Until the order of the Roman Senate of Polans unanimity was required to give validity to any act of their; from that time a majority of two was sufficient. Our approaches much more nearly to rude nature than the institutions of any other people. Such, indeed, every commonwealth must be without a positive law to recognize in a certain number the will of the entire body."

(CONCLUSION TO-MORROW.)

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

WM. BINGHAM, Jr., Adams Express Office, 84 Fifth Street, is an authorized Agent to receive Advertisements for the GAZETTE, and all other papers throughout the United States and the Canadas.

OFFICE OF NATIONAL REFINING AND MINING CO.,
Pittsburgh, January 16, 1868.
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS of the National Refining and Mining Company have this day declared a Dividend of TEN PER CENT. on the Capital Stock, payable to Stockholders on and after 20th prox.
JNO. MERIDIT, Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL REFINING AND MINING CO.,
Pittsburgh, January 17, 1868.
THE REGULAR ANNUAL MEETING of the Stockholders of the National Refining and Mining Co., of Pittsburgh, Pa., will be held at the Board of Trade Rooms, No. 140 Wood street, above the Third Na tional Bank, on MONDAY NEXT, February 3d, at 10 o'clock A. M., to elect officers for the ensuing year.
JNO. MERIDIT, Secretary.

MERCANTILE LIBRARY LECTURES.

THEODORE TILTON
WILL LECTURE AT
ACADEMY OF MUSIC,
Thursday Evening, Jan. 30th,
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ADMISSION ..... 50 CENTS.
Doors open at 7. Lecture at 7½ o'clock. To avoid confusion at the door, tickets can be purchased on the Library Rooms any time during the day or evening.

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Where they will be pleased to see their old friends and the public generally.
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LEDGERS, JOURNALS, DOCKETS, RECEIPTS, CASES, DAY, MINUTE, INVOICE, TIME, CHECK, RECEIPT, STEAMBOAT, DRAY, BILLS LADING, AND MEMORANDUM BOOKS.
BANKRUPT BLANKS, DEEDS, MORTGAGES, BONDS, LEASES.
Attorney's & Aldermen's BLANKS,
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The Choicest Groceries,
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And the best CANNED FRUITS, PICKLES, &c., at the most reasonable prices, go to
FRANCE'S TEA MART,
16 Diamond, Pittsburgh.

J. SCHOONMAKER & SON,
PITTSBURGH,
White Lead and Color Works,
Manufacturers of
WHITE AND RED LEAD, ZINC, PATENT SILVER LEAD, ROLLED WHITE LEAD, GREEN, VENETIAN GREEN, And all colors dry or in oil.
Office, No. 67 FOURTH STREET.
Factory, Nos. 250, 252, 254, 256 and 258 Du Bois Street, bet. 43d and 44th streets, Allegheny.

NOTICE TO BRICKMAKERS.
LAST YARD FOR SALE OR RENT, Acre and a half in extent, IN AND NEAR the City Hospital, in Allegheny City, next to the Cemetery of Allegheny. Possession given on the ensuing April. Apply to Dr. Spottswood, Penn street, Pittsburgh, or on the premises, to
GEORGE T. DIEM, 306 Robinson St., Allegheny City.

WRAPPING PAPER.
2,000 bundles Hay;
1,000 " Straw;
3 Presses Manilla, assorted;
500 bundles Bailing;
50 tons Rosebags;
In store and for sale by
PITTSBURGH PAPER MFG CO.,
62 Third street.

WRAPPING PAPER, of any description, adapted to the wants of manufacturers,
MADE AND CUT TO ORDER,
At the lowest prices, by
PITTSBURGH PAPER MFG CO.,
62 Third street.

A NEW LOT OF
WATCHES AND CLOCKS,
Of Foreign and Domestic manufacture; JEWELRY, SILVER-PLATED WARE, &c., received and for sale at
No. 112 FEDERAL STREET, ALLEGHENY.
JOHN SEYMOUR.

CO-PARTNERSHIP NOTICE.
I have associated with me in the Commission Business, under the firm of ARTHUR O'LEARY, Business will be conducted under the name of JOHN J. O'LEARY & Bro.
JNO. J. O'LEARY.
Pittsburgh, January 1st, 1868.

HEADQUARTERS FOR
Warm Air Registers and Ventilators,
Black or White Enameled, Brass or Bronze, at
BIRMINGHAM & CO.'S,
No. 428 LIBERTY ST.

BARR & MOSER,
ARCHITECTS,
FRUIT ASSOCIATION BUILDING, Nos. 84 & 86 THIRD STREET, PITTSBURGH, PA. Special notice taken of the Association Building of Court House and

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

"J. B. HARRIS'"
Safety Fire Jacket,
FOR SMOKE AND HOT AIR FLUES.
WARRANTED FIRE DETECTOR,
To the people of Pittsburgh, Allegheny, Birmingham, and vicinity of the city. Men of character will find good employment. Apply to
J. B. HARRIS.
Office at the ONE PLUS ULTRA PAINT WORKS, corner of the 4, 7, 11, 8 and Morris street, Ninth ward, Pittsburgh.

CANCERS POSITIVELY CURED,
Without the use of the KNIFE or CAUTICE, and with
Comparatively Little Pain.
Reliable in its effects in ALL CASES. Demonstrated beyond the
POSSIBILITY OF A DOUBT.
Send for Circular, References, &c. Address,
DR. T. J. KISNER,
WHEELING, W. VA.

UNITED STATES BANKRUPT LAW.
LITTLE, BROWN & CO.,
110 Washington Street, Boston,
Will publish on FEBRUARY 1st,
The Bankrupt Act of 1867.
Compared with the Act of 1841, the English Bankrupt Law, and the modified law of Massachusetts; with a Digest of the decisions of the Courts of the United States, the several states, and of England; and with Forms of Proceeding, by EDWARD AVERY and GEORGE T. HORNE, Esq., Law Reps.
In pronouncing judgment upon the advanced sheets of this work, *of American Law Review* says: "As a manual, we could only recommend it to the profession, and to public men, if it is the best work on the bankrupt law of both, we can be sure it is."
AN ORDINANCE providing for the appointment and Regulation of the
POLICE FORCE OF THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH.
SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the City of Pittsburgh, in Select and Common Councils assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same*, That hereafter the Police Force of the City of Pittsburgh shall consist of one hundred men, who shall be known as the Police, one captain, and not more than eight lieutenants, to be appointed by the Mayor, as the first time to time by the Police Commission. There shall be no distinction between Day and Night Police, but the whole force shall be subject to the control of the Mayor, and be detailed to duty as he may direct.
SEC. 2. The Mayor shall, at the first regular meeting of the Police Committee after his inauguration into office, nominate to said Committee such persons as he may desire to appoint police and forward their names to Select and Common Councils, who shall have the power to reject any such nominee, and the Mayor shall appoint no person a member of said force except he be a qualified voter of the City of Pittsburgh.
SEC. 3. The Mayor shall have power, in case of riot, or other emergency, when the Police Commission, to appoint special policemen, to such persons as shall receive from the Mayor, at their meeting, the necessary form and the expenses made on account of such appointments.
SEC. 4. The day may suspend from pay and duty any member of the police force for the period of 1 mo., not exceeding ten days, and any member so suspended shall forfeit pay for the time of dismissal he shall at the next meeting of the Commission, and the Commission, if they shall deem it proper, may, or may not, reinstate the member, who may have refused so to use or refused to obey orders.
SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of the Mayor to prescribe rules and regulations for the government of the police force, and principally their duties, which rules, when approved by the Committee, shall be binding upon all the members of said force.
SEC. 6. The salary of the Chief of Police shall be $1,200 per annum; the salary of the Captain $1,000 per annum; each of the Lieutenants $6.25 per diem; and each of the patrolmen $2 per day. Provided, That none of said officers shall receive pay for any time they may be absent from duty, unless such absence is by direction of the Mayor, or in case of sickness.
SEC. 7. All ordinances, or parts of ordinances, so far as the same are inconsistent herewith, are hereby repealed.
Approved and enacted into a law in Councils, this 27th day of January, A. D. 1868.
JAMES MCALEY,
President of Select Council.
Attest: E. S. MCCARTHY,
Clerk of Select Council.
W. M. ROBINSON,
President of Common Council.
Attest: HUGH MCMASTER,
Clerk of Common Council.
Approved January 29th, 1868.
WM. C. MOUNTJOY, Mayor.

A NEW STEEL ENGRAVING of
CHAS. DICKENS,
SUITABLE FOR FRAMING,
Given Gratis to all Subscribers
TO APPLETON'S New Popular Edition of
CHAS. DICKENS' WORKS,
NOW PUBLISHING.
On receipt of $1.00 we will mail, post paid, to any address, as cast as possible, the Portrait of our Author, DICKENS, in addition to the EDITION OF DICKENS, in several volumes, to select with a original impression of the
STEEL PORTRAIT OF DICKENS,
One of the best yet executed of the distinguished novelist, very valuable for the Library, and suitable for framing. The Portrait of Dickens is a great "American Favorite," and a popular edition with sixty illustrations, "Nicholas Nickleby," Messrs. Ticknor and Fields, Boston, will be sent for 50 cents. A volume is issued every week. The entire series of twenty volumes, cloth, per set, $10, carefully wrapped, will be mailed immediately on receipt of the price, or the Portrait of Dickens, and the Publishers for special terms to Agents.
APPLETON, WM. H. & CO., Publishers,
Jan 29-td 90 & 92 Broadway, New York.

J. B. HARRIS'
SAFETY FIRE JACKET,
For Smoke and Hot Air Flues.
SEVEN YEARS ESTABLISHED,
And now doing a first rate business, having
Ample Cellar and Loft Room
For a large business, located on the
Best Business Street in the City.
The owner desires to sell out that he may concentrate his attention on other business. Street is now run down to below.
TEN AND FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS.
A person thoroughly familiar with the business would find it a good opportunity. If one, with a suitable person, he could advance ten thousand dollars cash.
Address K, this Office.

MECHANICS' SAVINGS BANK,
No. 14 Smithfield Street,
PITTSBURGH, PA.
INTEREST PAID ON DEPOSITS. ANY SUM RECEIVED FROM ONE DOLLAR UPWARD. Deposits received subject to check, without fee.
JAMES BLACKMORE, President.
GEO. D. TINDLE, Sec'y and Treas'r.
JAMES H. HOPKINS, Solicitor.
TRUSTEES:
JAMES BLACKMORE, JAS. H. HOPKINS, ALEX. TINDLE, JAMES ROWE, JOHN MCCLURG, JOHN MCCLURG, THOS. MCKNIGHT, A. G. CUTHBERT, ROBERT WEAY, JOHN EVANS.
ESTABLISHED 1863.
HOUSES FITTED UP WITH
GAS,
Hot and Cold Water, &c.,
By experienced and practical workmen.
JOHN M. TATE,
Plumber and Gas Fitter,
227 Liberty Street, Pittsburgh; and
59 Federal Street, Allegheny.

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.
THE PARTNERSHIP HERETOFORE EXISTING between THOS. G. HOGLE and MATTHEW CHAMBERS, Jr., under the firm of HOGLE & CHAMBERS, is hereby dissolved by mutual consent, this 1st day of January. The business of the late firm will be settled by MATTHEW CHAMBERS, Jr., who is authorized to do so, at the old stand, No. 143 Fifth street.
THOMAS G. HOGLE,
MATTHEW CHAMBERS, Jr.
I TAKE PLEASURE IN RECOMMENDING my former partner, MR. MATTHEW CHAMBERS, Jr., to my friends and the public generally, and respectfully solicit for him a continuance of the patronage bestowed on the late firm.
THOMAS G. HOGLE.
THE UNDERSIGNED having purchased the interest of Mr. THOMAS G. HOGLE, would announce to the public that the Book, Stationery and News Business will be continued at the old st