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THE GAZETTE has been selected by the County Commissioners to do the public printing at their disposal. We appreciate this mark of favor towards our journal, and receive it as fresh evidence of the continued recognition of its superior claims and merits as an advertising medium. Through wise and just discrimination the GAZETTE has been selected as official paper of Allegheny and Pittsburgh, and, in this instance, of Allegheny county. We feel that these marks of favor and partiality have been warranted by our wide and extended circulation, but at the same time cannot help feeling under renewed obligations to friends who have thus far encouraged and sustained us in our efforts to furnish a journal equal in size and general excellence to any published in the Commonwealth.

THE WESTERN PENITENTIARY.

The report of this institution lies before us, and in its array of facts and figures suggests a good deal for reflection. Here is an extensive institution within whose walls during the past year have been gathered and maintained at a large expense ($20,000) 640 persons in the prime of life. Of this large number 223 have been admitted during the year, and 154 discharged, showing that there have entered 68 more than have come out. If it were a church, or a school, or even a workshop, this large increase and number would be a hopeful sign, but of this number 10 were guilty of arson, 28 had committed burglary, 28 had stolen horses, 23 had been convicted of murder, 10 were counterfeiters, and 17 guilty of rape. Most of them are in the prime of life, and many of them had left useful occupations for a home in the Penitentiary. Of the 486 at present there, 9 were butchers, 6 bakers, 11 blacksmiths, 18 carpenters, 15 engineers, 12 machinists, 23 shoemakers, 8 tailors, 5 physicians. Out of the 486 we find 225 temperate men, and 419 that can either read or write, or do both.

Now it certainly is a very interesting inquiry what shall be done with so large a number of men, who by age and education might be useful, but who are and have been worse than useless. Can anything be done for them while in prison? The remarkable fact in the physician's report that out of the one hundred and fifty-two persons discharged only five went out in no better health than that with which they had entered. Two of these were consumptives, 2 suffered from enlargement of the heart, and one from epilepsy—the other 147 went out improved. This striking fact shows that penitentiary life may be turned to account in improving the *bodily health* of the convict. More than one-half, two hundred and fifty out of less than five hundred have been taught to read and write, and that too under the greatest disadvantages, for none of them are children. This fact shows that life in a penitentiary may be turned to some account in improving the intellectual condition of its victims. And if we look at the labor account, we see that a prison may be made profitable, even in a pecuniary point of view. But the great question is—can a prison be made a reformatory? Ought it to aim at this object? Is a convict simply to be shut up—so that he cannot harm society? Has he no rights at all? If not, then why not execute him? Why make him a burden to the community whom he has wronged? What claim has he to food, clothing, and an expensive house? The fact that he is not shot implies that society regards him as still having some rights—the right to live. Or shall we say that he is put in prison to be punished, as well as to keep him from harming society. But if punishment is the object then—punish him, torment him, torture him, lengthen out his confinement to the greatest extent consistent with the greatest punishment. In other words, make society as safe as possible, and the prisoner as miserable as possible. But that such is not the aim of punishment is evident from the fact that most of these 486 men are to be returned to society, after a longer or shorter period, and if so, it is clearly the object and should be held to be the duty of society so to manage prison life that the discharged convict shall be worth more to himself and to society, *out of jail than in it*. Any other system converts crime into capital and so far forth speculates in iniquities. But one man reformed out of one hundred is worth more to the community than ten thousand dollars gain per annum with no reformation. It is not *money* but *men* that we ought to turn out of our penitentiaries.

Now, whatever tends towards reformation is to be fostered. The recovery of health, the acquisition of knowledge and of habits of industry, the opportunity of ameliorating or shortening their sentence by good conduct *and never by pardon*, except where the conviction has been through mistake, are some of the things which tend that way. Now we ask is solitary confinement the best way to secure these things? Is education as easily carried on in the solitary as in the congregated system. Is not education, whether by books or teachers, an infringment on that system? Trade learning is impossible alone, and in the company of a teacher or fellow learners is no longer a solitary system. Even when the prisoners are remanded to their cells solitariness is an impossibility. Gaspipes, waterpipes, windows and floors, all in course of time become means of communication, with this special demoralizing result, that it is against law, contrary to the system, and therefore a constant influence for evil. The convict is in a state of chronic disobedience and deception, with the stimulating feeling that he is outwitting his enemies.

But we have said enough. The efficient officers of the Institution have thrown out suggestions in their report which deserve the careful consideration of all those who are interested in our criminal population.

SENATOR SHUMAKER, of Luzerne county, has brought forward a project for a Registry Law, which meets with favor from most, if not all, Republican members of the Legislature. It should be borne in mind, however, that even under Registry Laws gigantic frauds have been perpetrated upon the elective franchise, and that no stringency of statutory provisions will make bad men honest. The danger, therefore, is on the side of inexactness. What is wanted is a Registry that will let all rightful voters in, and without unnecessary perplexity, and keep out the largest number of fraudulent votes, by making illegal voting as difficult as possible. But, by all means enact the law. If experience shall prove it to be defective, it will, also, indicate what amendments will render it effectual.

BOOMING OF THE ALLEGHENY.

For many years a famous boom has spanned the Susquehanna river at Williamsport. The object of this devise is to catch and detain saw logs, cast into the stream, higher up, and marked with the names or brands of the respective owners thereof. It is a matter of dispute whether this contrivance has promoted the common welfare of the men who are engaged in lumbering on the upper waters of the stream. There is no question but it has proved a source of large profits to the owners of the boom. It has, moreover, contributed to swell the population and business importance of the town at which it is located by giving it a practical monopoly of the manufacture of lumber for the tributary country.

The owners of this boom are abundantly satisfied with its bearings upon their personal interests. Indeed, they are so pleased therewith that they wish to duplicate their advantages. To this end they have visited Harrisburg and instituted explorations, to see if they can get a bill through the two Houses and the Executive Chamber, authorizing them to construct a boom across the Allegheny river, at or near Freeport.

Within a few months past we have made several statements relative to the masses of valuable timber existing in the upper portions of the Allegheny Valley; of the introduction of tanneries, affording a local and important demand for hemlock bark; and of the immediate expansion of the lumbering interest consequent thereon. Of course, lumber dealers understand that timber cut while the sap is up, so as to facilitate bark peeling will not last more than half as long as timber cut when the sap is down; but the enhanced value of the bark will cause speedy and wide slashing in the hemlock forests. It may reasonably be conjectured, furthermore, that the general destruction of timber, which goes on steadily, without forethought as to the condition of on-coming generations, will, on the whole, enable the owners of deteriorated lumber to obtain as much for it as under other circumstances they would realize for stock of the soundest and most enduring description.

But this is not to the present purpose. These Williamsport boom men want to monopolize the lumber traffic of the Allegheny, or, at least, to levy toll upon it, which the erection of a boom would certainly enable them to do. It is of importance, therefore, to consider what the effect of their contemplated enterprise would be on the saw-mill interests above and on the course of navigation, ascending and descending, for ordinary commercial purposes.

As to the mill owners above, it is presumed they will give this subject prompt consideration, and then act as efficiently as shall seem to them for the best. They are not only hardy, but intelligent, and may safely be left to take care of their own case, in their own way. Connected with them, more or less directly, are the lumber dealers here and down the Ohio. Their welfare is not so directly involved, but they will, doubtless, feel impelled to give attention to the proposition now brought forward.

So far as relates to general commercial transactions, it is of moment to note the natural differences between the Susquehanna and the Allegheny. The former is a broad and shallow stream, with a bed abounding in protruding rocks. It has a descending navigation, at particular seasons, when copious rains or dissolving snows swell the volume of its waters. But it has no ascending navigation. Going up from Port Deposit to the Forks, at Northumberland, there are only here and there pools of sufficient depth to float a light-draft steamboat. From Northumberland upwards, whether by the North Branch to Otsego Lake, or the West Branch up to the fastnesses of the Allegheny Mountains, the same phenomenon constantly recurs. It may well be questioned whether another river of equal length exists which is so useless in the way of accommodating water-craft.

The Allegheny is navigable, from its confluence with the Monongahela up to Oil city; not, indeed, at all seasons of the year, but, whenever the stream is swollen, which ordinarily happens for many weeks annually. This ascending navigation is of much value to this city. Since the completion of the Allegheny Valley Railroad this value is less than it was before; but it is still of too much consequence to be sacrificed or imperiled.

Of course, it will be averred that a boom can be maintained, at a suitable eddy, without impairing navigation; but this remains to be demonstrated. A boom is certain to be swept away by the pressure of the current and of logs, unless an eddy exists to such an extent as to produce still-water, or something akin thereto. This eddy must be large and certain, or it will not serve as a reservoir for huge masses of timber.

Consider a few other facts. The lumbermen above do not ask for this boom. The dealers in lumber, here and below, do not ask for it. Men, in various callings, interested in the navigation of the river, do not ask for it. A few men who are making money by the ownership of a boom on the Susquehanna, see a chance to double their gains by erecting a boom on the Allegheny. Is this a case in which the Legislature ought to interpose its authority in order to help a few to make fortunes, not by promoting the general welfare, and clearly at the expense of the many? Such a use of legislative power would be a flagrant abuse of the Commonwealth's right of pre-eminent domain; and would subject all who might be concerned in it, from the Governor downwards, to serious animadversion. The enterprise is simply a "big job," concocted to put money in a few pockets by inflicting damage on general and permanent interests.

A WASHINGTON special to the New York *World*, states that the President is determined to make the British government pay the Alabama claims, and at the presentation of the new Minister from that power, to-morrow, will so signify. It adds:

"Although the addresses that are to be exchanged between the President and Minister Thorn may be guarded and serene, the fact yet remains that a speedy and satisfactory response must be made by the British Government to the ultimatum of the Executive of the United States, or else a declaration of war against Great Britain must eventually ensue."

An "ultimatum of the Executive of the United States"—a refusal on the part of Great Britain—and a declaration of war—when? Don't be frightened! The declaration is only promised, "ultimately." This is very much like Daniel Webster's threat to take possession of the Canadas "*some* fourth of July."

MR. JEFFERSON DAVIS, under date of January 8, 1868, wrote from Louisiana to a friend:

"Your sufferings and losses have been to me ever present through all the trials to which you so feelingly refer. The desolation which everywhere presents itself in that once prosperous country fills every heart with sorrow; but I hope and trust a better time will soon come to us. The patient fortitude, the cheerful energy, and manly virtue, which our people display in the depth of their misfortune, cannot fail to bring the due reward."

It is evident he begins to comprehend from what a surpassing degree of prosperity into what a depth of wretchedness he and his associates plunged the Southern States. It is most unfortunate that his remorse comes too late to be beneficial.

WE SAID, a day or two ago, that the democratic organs did not know what to make of the Republican victory, at the special election in the Eighth Congressional District of Ohio. We were a little too fast. One of them, the Dayton *Ledger*, Mr. Vallandigham's organ, has found out what it meant. It says:

"This is the first gun of the Presidential campaign of 1868, and indicates a Republican majority next fall, in Ohio, of from twelve to twenty thousand."

More of the democratic journals will ascertain "what is the matter" in due season.

ST. PAUL, January 25th, 1868.

EDITORS GAZETTE:—What is the matter with your mailing clerk? What have I done, that I, your "constant reader" and payer in advance, should receive occasionally, as I have received to-day, a weekly issue, just one week older than it should be? Only think of it! in these days of submarine telegraphs, me, your correspondent, carrying home on the 25th of January a copy of the GAZETTE dated January 15th. Personally, Messrs. Editors, you do not know me. Were it otherwise, I am quite sure you would "pity the sorrows of a poor old man." I am on the shady side of fifty. I am striving with all my might to imitate, that Saint of old, Job, in exercising patience under all difficulties, and in my own imperfect way succeed now and again, but I will leave it for you to say whether, under the present circumstances, I was not fully warranted in recollecting Harper's famous anecdote of that famous stream, and tempted to exclaim, Yuba Damm. Now, the GAZETTE has its thousands of readers everywhere, and would it be much trouble for you to whisper in the ear of your clerk to select some other subscriber (say in our lately acquired Russian possessions) upon whom to play any further practical jokes he may have in store, and as the boys have it, "lemme 'lone!"

It is cold weather here, gentlemen—thirty and forty degrees below zero. Some two and a half feet of level snow, and a wind now and again, which means almost daily, cold enough to congeal the the warmest sympathies of the greatest philanthropist that ever existed, is no joke, and when you take into consideration the price of cord wood ($8 per cord) besides the sawing of the same, you will perhaps agree with me that the neighborhood of a Pennsylvania coal bed would be a desideratum. Nevertheless, our streets are thronged with sleds and sleighs, and all, high or low, poor or rich, from the urchin coasting down hill to the millionaire banker with blood horses, bells, furs and driver, every one "goes in" for the excitement.

Such glorious blocks of ice as we manufacture here!—blocks of any length and width wanted, by three to four feet in thickness, and as clear as the limpid waters of the Mississippi, of which it is made.

Our Legislature is now in session. Of course it is Republican in majority, but here and there can be found among its members men who, in times past as now, throw all the influence at their command in behalf of whipped traitors, and who, to-day, if in their power so to do, would undo all the glorious deeds achieved by the Boys in Blue. It was a bitter pill to the Cops, the resolution endorsing Congress for the reinstatement of Stanton. This week they prayed that the bitter cup might pass from their lips untouched, but it wouldn't do. They drank, dregs and all. *Gloria in excelsis!*

The congregation of the late Dr. Riddle stand impeached, to-day, in this city of robbery. How say you, gentlemen, Trustees of the Third Presbyterian N. S. Church, guilty or not? Your accusers are the congregation of the House of Hope, of this city. Have you forgotten that part of the decalogue which forbids the coveting of your neighbors' goods? his man servant? Under the circumstances, we can only console ourselves with the stereotyped phrase used on all occasions, by all public bodies:—"We trust that our loss will be the gain of Rev. F. A. Noble, as well as that of yours."

A man named Van Solen lately stood trial for his life on the charge of wilfully murdering a Dr. Hartcourt, an Englishman by birth. The trial lasted near or quite three weeks, and resulted in the disagreement of the jury. The culprit is to be tried again. The *Pioneer*, of this city, suggested with some force the discharge of the prisoner, adducing as a reason that if a conviction could not be had *now*, when all the circumstances and testimony were fresh, it was idle to suppose one could be had at a future time, advocating as a cogent reason for the discharge of the culprit that it *would save expense*. Of course, your readers will not be astonished when they learn that that delectable sheet is of the Democratic persuasion. Au revoir,

MINNESOTIAN.

Remarks.—We concur in the estimate our correspondent puts upon the GAZETTE, just as a mother appropriates all the compliments bestowed upon her child; but he is wrong in grumbling at our "mailing clerk," who is as faithful a man as lives. But he does better than some of our friends in getting his paper, even after considerable delay. There are post offices here in Pennsylvania, at some distance from this city, which hail of the GAZETTES directed thereto fail to reach. They are stolen from the bags, to our great annoyance, by postal officials. We have tried time and again, to stop this rascality, but have signally failed. The stealing goes on in spite of all we can do.

IN FRANCE conservatism has recently received a new shock. From time immemorial there it has been customary to educate girls of the middle and higher classes in convents. Not long ago certain parents became dissatisfied with the quality of instruction their daughters got, and began to send them to attend lectures delivered by able men employed for the purpose by private enterprise. Soon the Government interposed, not to stop the innovation, but to establish a connection between these teachers and girls and the University of Paris. A regular course of instruction has been adopted, embracing a wide range. Crowds of girls, including two nieces of the Empress, attend the courses. Bishop DUPANLOUP could not, however, restrain his veneration for antiquity. In a vigorous pamphlet he exclaims: "Our girls have hitherto been educated on the knees of the Church; we are now going to pass them into the arms of the University." He is farther scandalized that the movement has extended into the provincial towns, where the lectures are to be given in the Mairie, so that the girls will have to pass to and from their studies under the eyes of policemen and other profane persons. All this lamentation is of no avail. The movement is a success.

In these modern days conservatism really has a hard time of it. Turn which way it will, and whatever matter may come up, it is sure to get shocked. If it had died a century ago, and been decently buried, as reason demanded, it would have escaped inflictions which constantly increase in number and severity as the sun of civilization mounts towards the zenith.

THE Conservative and Democratic journals have been puzzling their heads for some days over the brilliant Republican triumph at the special election for Congressman in the Eighth District of Ohio. They profess to understand what the apparent reaction in that State, and in that particular district, last October meant; but this grand advance confounds their calculations. They hoped the Republican party was falling into decay, and this display of lusty life baffles them. Well; they will have many shocks of this sort next fall, when all along the Republican line the advance shall be sounded and made.

AFTER the restoration of Secretary Stanton the President subsided into a condition of quietude, without attempting any of the energetic acts he promised to perform if the Office Tenure bill was enforced in the case of that gentleman. He has, within a day or two, broken out against Mr. Rollins, threatening to disregard the law of Congress in his consuming zeal to maintain what he conceives to be the true interpretation of the Constitution.

IN A recent case in New York, the Court sustained a claim for damages against the Central Railroad Company, in consequence of injuries occasioned by a broken rail. It was held that common carriers of persons were bound to furnish trustworthy vehicles, irrespective of all questions of negligence.

IT IS proposed to build a line of railroad between Zanesville and Cleveland. Such a road would pay largely and greatly enhance the value of property along the route, and contribute much to the prosperity of Cleveland, Wooster, Millsburg, Medina and Zanesville.

—Chicago had another fire on Wednesday night, which burned one woman to death, rendered twelve families homeless, and destroyed upwards of $30,000 worth of property.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

Among the noble projects of the leading denominations is the establishment of Homes for aged and indigent members. In some of the leading cities of the East these institutions have been organized on a grand scale, and have received liberal aid from the members of their respective churches. Almost every church, especially in cities, have the poor in their membership. By the establishment of a Home, the poor will receive more permanent aid, and not relief now and then, as at present, and when the sympathies of their churches are awakened. Recently we chronicled the consummation of the purchase of a fine building and grounds by the Methodists of Philadelphia. Last week this body of Christians in Baltimore held a grand re-union at Maryland Institute Hall, to raise funds for opening a Home for this class of persons in the Methodist churches of that city. Recently a movement has been set on foot to establish a Baptist Home in Philadelphia. The project is in the hands of a number of leading Baptist laymen of that city, who will doubtless prosecute the matter to final success. It is proposed to raise at least twenty-five thousand dollars for this object.

An Independent Methodist Church in Boston has had great success during its existence of nine years, according to *Zion's Herald*, there having been over eight hundred conversions, and of baptisms three hundred and twenty-nine. The church is Congregational in government, Baptist as respects immersion, and Methodist in doctrine and mode of worship.

Rev. A. G. Watkins, a probationer in the Holston M. E. Conference, Tennessee, who was converted since the close of the war, was for several years a Representative from Tennessee in Congress.

The novelty of hearing of Roman Catholic Sunday Schools, is passing away. It seems to be a new arm of service among the Catholics as among the Protestant denominations. The report of the Roman Catholic Sunday School Union of New York City reveals the fact that forty-five thousand children of that Church are regularly receiving religious instruction, or one-third of the total number of children from five to fifteen years of age, according to the last census.

At the installation of a Presbyterian minister, at Passaic, N. J., by the Newark Presbytery, Rev. Mr. Thompson, a colored man of the Oberlin School, and stationed at Newark, assisted in the ordination service, by laying on hands.

Rev. Newman Hall, in acknowledging the testimonial by the members of his church, stated that he had never received a shilling for any one of the lectures delivered, or sermons preached out of the ordinary course. He says at three universities they had made him a doctor, but he is determined not to change his name, and be plain Newman Hall to the end of the chapter.

The Young Men's Christian Association of Brooklyn, furnishes every Sunday morning a breakfast to the poor. The breakfast consists of coffee, and bread and butter.

Father Taylor, the noted sailors' preacher at Boston, has resigned his chaplaincy, and retires after nearly half a century of service with the Seamen's Aid Society.

The *Independent* says eleven new churches were organized last year in connection with the Missions of the American Board. The additions to the union churches by professions were eleven hundred and sixty-seven.

The colporteur work of the American Tract Society has been prosecuted with great vigor in the South, resulting in cheering success. Sixty colporteurs have been in commission there this year; who, in addition to other useful results, have organized or aided nearly thirteen hundred Sabbath Schools, embracing about one hundred thousand scholars, who have been supplied with small libraries.

Some weeks ago the contributions of the Methodists during the grand Centenary year, (1866) were reported at something over six millions of dollars. Quite a number of Conferences had not then reported the amount of their contributions. We learn by official announcement that fifty-four annual Conferences report an aggregate of $8,241,435.17. Four Conferences are yet to report, and two have reported in part. It is possible the grand total will reach *nine millions of dollars*. At the opening of the Centenary year it was estimated that four or five millions would be the outside limit. The "Sunday School Children's Fund," to be used to assist meritorious scholars of both sexes in securing a more advanced education, is nearly sixty thousand dollars.

Grace Episcopal Church, New York City, took up a missionary collection Sunday before last of five thousand five hundred and sixty dollars.

The first attempt to establish a Universalist Society at Washington City, was made within a week or so. The recent action of Unitarians, in ejecting colored children out of a Sunday School, will help the Universalists, at least it is supposed three-fourths of the audience at the organization of the Universalist Society, were Unitarians.

The *Repository* says the Episcopalians are "devouring" and appropriating to themselves certain dilapidated Universalist societies. It, however prefers that Liberal Christians should do this work, than Episcopalians and other Partialist sects.

The *Liberal Christian*, speaking of the *New Covenant*, of Chicago, argues that while it is well edited and a handsome sheet, its creed may be summed up in three articles: 1. No one who is not a member of the Universalist denomination can possibly be saved. 2. The Unitarians are "the abomination of desolation spoken of by the Prophet Daniel." 3. The *Liberal Christian* is the devil.

At the recent Union Presbyterian Convention at Harrisburg, Pa., action was taken favorable to holding Parochial Conventions, to comprise Presbyterian bodies in a neighborhood, to meet for the purpose of conference and prayer in relation to the Union movement, and to pray for the increased effusion of the Holy Spirit upon all the churches. By this means, it is believed, the spirit of union will be transmitted to the masses of the membership.

Rev. W. M. Ferry, who died at Grand Haven, Michigan, the founder of the city, besides leaving one hundred and fifteen thousand dollars to his wife and children, bequeathed nearly one hundred and fifty thousand dollars to benevolent objects of a religious and educational character. He was a graduate of Union College, and studied theology with Rev. Dr. Gardner Spring, of New York.

The First English Reformed (German) church of Baltimore has been favored with an addition of forty-four persons, of whom forty are heads of families.

The Preachers' Meeting of this city, comprising the resident Methodist Episcopal pastors, have been discussing for several weeks, at their Monday sessions, the best method of preaching in order to reach and save men. At last Monday's meeting, it was resolved to hold union or co-operative meetings—ministers and members of the respective Methodist Episcopal churches, uniting in the services at one church for a week, visiting each church in turn in the two cities. The first of the series is to be held at Liberty street church, Rev. W. H. Locke pastor, commencing next Monday evening, Rev. E. B. Snyder preaching the sermon, to be followed by Revs. J. W. Baker, S. Burt, L. McGuire, and S. M. Hickman. Meetings have been held in this church for two or three weeks past, and considerable revival interest prevails. Quite a number of persons have professed conversion, and have united with the church, among whom are several promising young men. Mr. Locke is laboring in an indefatigable manner to promote the interests of the church, and is succeeding.

The First Christian Church, Allegheny, of which Joseph King is the Pastor, is said to be in a very flourishing condition, the ordinance of christian baptism having been administered nearly every Lord's Day and evening for many weeks past. The number of additions to the church during the year 1867, was *sixty*, and the whole number of communicants at the present time is four hundred and forty-six. A series of meetings began in this church last evening, during the continuance of which the Pastor will be assisted by Dr. W. A. Belding, of Troy, New York.

EPHEMERIS.

—New York is soon to have another big cock fight.

—Diptheria is epidemic among the children of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

—On the 3d of February Horace Greely will be fifty-seven years old.

—The insurance companies of Cincinnati lost over $250,000 in two days last week.

—There are more than twenty-two millions of acres of unimproved land in Texas.

—26,800 passengers were carried by the Pacific Mail Steamship Company last year.

—The people of Burlington, Iowa, have been enjoying fine sleighing on the river lately.

—An English church is to be erected on the battle field of Mentana. At least it is so stated.

—Great mortality has prevailed among the cattle in the southern part of Kansas this winter.

—There are twelve hundred Good Templars and fourteen lodges in Wayne county, New York.

—Mr. Stanton may have many virtues, says an exchange, but resignation is not one of them.

—When is a little poem like an acre of land unpaid for? When it is Anacreontic.—*Evening Bulletin*.

—Capt. Grant, the African explorer, has been requested by Gen. Napier to join the Abyssinian expedition.

—Some fifteen hundred Baltimore vessels are engaged in the oyster business, and they take about fourteen millions of bushels annually to that city.

—The Arkansas Republican Convention has nominated General Powell Clayton for Governor, and Colonel James N. Johnson for Lieutenant Governor.

—Senator Morton's great speech in reply to Doolittle's labored effort was a glorious one. Persons who have been familiar with the halls of Congress for years say that they have never heard its equal.

—Some cats live to be twenty-eight years old. One who had attained that great age, but who was an evident Methuselah among the feline race, died lamented in Cleveland recently. "Gone but not forgotten."

—Louisville has a knack of getting up very mysterious affairs. The body of a man has been found there and nobody knows him nor how he got there, and of course the papers are busily engaged in agonizing over the mystery.

—In 1860 the population of Charleston (S. C.) was about 40,000, and now it scarcely reaches 15,000; fifteen deaths per week is the usual average there, which is a large one, and if continued should, we think, depopulate the place.

—The Union League Club of New York has leased for ten years Mr. Leonard Jerome's splendid mansion, on Madison Square, originally intended for the Jockey Club. The Union League has appropriated $50,000 for furnishing their new house.

—California is an insatiable State; not satisfied with the boundless prodigality which dame nature has shown there, the Californians have taken to planting and raising pine apples, and have been successful. We really think anything would grow in that favored land.

—A new use has been found for the great Pennsylvania product, petroleum. Champagne is made of it. If all the champagne drank should hereafter be made of petroleum, the search for wells would become as brisk as ever, for the supply would have to be doubled.

—The Swedenborgian Society of Chicago has meetings of a social nature every week, when the pastor joins them and *dances when they dance*. This has caused so much dissatisfaction in clerical circles in that town that the Swedenborgian pastor is not recognized by his *Christian* and clerical brethren. Such levity, say they, can not be part of a Christian character.

—A boy in Cincinnati was cutting ice from the pavement in front of his father's house, on Thursday last. He struck a terrific blow at the ice, but hit his foot, completely severing his five toes and the end of his boot. An attempt, made by the physician called in, to join the parts again, was unsuccessful, and the boy will have a clump foot all his life.

—What a stir would be created in Paris if Napoleon were to do as Solomon did in his time, when he found that there were about two hundred thousand strangers in Jerusalem, and set them all to work as hewers and carriers of wood, as drawers of water and hod carriers. Such treatment would have the effect of keeping a goodly number of people at home now-a-days.

—The citizens of Amherst are behind the age. An outcry has been made because the old First Church in that town allowed their building to be used for an operatic performance. If Amherst were not behind the age no such outcry would have been made, for in all go-ahead places the churches are used for operatic performances every Sunday, and crowds often flock to hear them who would not otherwise go.

—The Bostonians say that better dinners can be gotten at one of the new Boston restaurants than in Paris. The good intentions that they have in Boston are better than those used in the causeways of that more tropical place, and the railroads which run in Boston are smooth as some golden streets we have read about, and the streets of Boston are as broad and beautiful as the road which leadeth unto destruction, probably, but none but the clear-sighted Hubites have eyes to see these advantages, and all others will probably live and die in the opinion that Boston is an immensely overrated, disagreeably crooked town.

—An alarming case of counting the chickens before the period of incubation was reached, has occurred in New York city. A young man married on Christmas day, intending to live on love in a cottage and $1,000 a year, which was the amount of his salary. On New Years day his bland employer kindly informed him with a Carker-like smile, that in consideration of the valuable nature of his services, and the depressed state of the markets, his salary hereafter should be $500, instead of $1,000, as heretofore. There was about as much consternation in the small family of that young man that night as is generally allotted to small families.

—A French writer has found out the reason why spectacular plays are now preferred to the legitimate drama. He says: "The modern legitimate drama fails to please because it is incapable of giving pleasure; the spectacles are preferred to it, because they are preferable." Every one will at once understand this, of course, and though some may think the explanation ends where it begins, what possible difference can that make? Then the author goes on to state that "until the drama is revived the stage cannot be reformed." Any one who wishes to know more of this Frenchman's original and valuable ideas on this subject should read his essay. His name is Villemot.

—That excellent journal, the *Independent*, which so many people read on Sundays when other papers are tabooed, although it flopped out of its tiny rivulet of religion some time ago, has given Congress such a seathing that the members must feel dreadfully about it, and especially must such tiny minds as those possessed by a Morton, a Bingham, a Sumner, a Williams or a Wilson wilt beneath the remarks which come from the mighty spirit behind the altar of the *Independent*. Hear what this modern oracle says, this Horace, this rival in elegance of language of Addison or Chesterfield: "Congress has three days of flabbiness to one of strength. * * * Congress is nothing but a wet rag, and may be wrung with impunity. * * * Perhaps a few days hence we shall see Congress once again a coward."

EPHEMERIS.

—Oregon has Grant clubs.

—The ice boats of New York had a race recently for a silver cup.

—Senator Henry Wilson was in New York on Saturday and Sunday.

—Minister Washburne is wending his way homewards from Paraguay.

—A peat company, with a cash capital of $100,000 has been organized in Whiteside county, Ill.

—The Brookville *Herald*, of West Va., says that "the usury law, as it now stands, is ridiculous."

—The wool growers of Brooke county, West Virginia, have concluded to hold a meeting on February 6th.

—Nearly two million dollars' worth of shoes were manufactured by some 10 firms in Chicago last year.

—Jackson county, Ill., has just opened a fine quarry, the marble of which is said to fully equal that of Italy.

—Another illicit still has been seized in Baltimore, this time carried on in an Irishman's shanty in an obscure alley.

—Mr. E. L. Davenport, Mr. Charles Dickens and Mr. H. L. Bateman's comic opera troupe are all helping to amuse the Baltimoreans.

—Peoria has two causes of rejoicing; one is the killing of a rat weighing three pounds and a half, and the other is the erection of a new jail.

—Grasshoppers' eggs are so plenty in some parts of Arkansas that it is feared the State will be plagued, literally, in the Egyptian style in the spring.

—The Salem flouring mill of Oregon is making four hundred barrels a day. This is doing pretty well, we think, for the very hem of the outskirts of civilization.

—The St. Louis *Republican* calls the various southern Conventions, "Menageries," and "ring tailed, streaked and striped," which, of course, adds greatly to the dignity of that newspaper.

—We wonder if Mr. Croly's American Order of Knighthood has many members as yet? His article on that subject is the sensation which takes the place of the Dickens article in the last number.

—The decline in the figures in Boston is noticeable, and surely cannot all be blamed on Cunard and his steamers. A modiste says that her Boston customers need more and more padding every year.

—Halifax and the province in which it is situated having become imbued with Southern principles, has made up its mind to secede from the Dominion and then to look about for a good strong hook to hang upon.

—Professor Blot has already some six hundred subscribers to his Club in New York. We shall ere long be turned out a nation of gastronomers and bon vivants if Blot lives long enough to accomplish his pleasant crusade.

—The distilleries in Peoria have stopped, and Peorians are going to petition the President, or Congress, or the Supreme Court, to have the Revenue spies dismissed, as they can't carry on their business when so closely watched.

—A wealthy property owner in the Crescent City has reduced the rents on his property. One store, which easily brought $5,000 last year, he now rents for $3,000, and the reduction on his other property has been in like proportion.

—Alabama is to have a day of fasting and prayer to deliver the State from the horrors of negro domination. If they do not soon get over their absurd resistance to fate, they may have a longer day of fasting than either we or they would care to see.

—*Punch* says that St. Martin of Tours is the patron of travellers; by a slight use of the same logic we would make the London St. Mary Axe the patroness of executioners, and we would recommend all bandied persons to the protection of St. Mary Le Bow.

—A girl—(who evidently, like Chicago, looked with longing eyes at Mrs. Grinder's fame)—lives in New York, who recently spread rat poison on the bread intended for her master's children, and then spanked them well, poor dears, because they would not eat it.

—Father Agapius, the Greek priest, who was welcomed in Trinity Church, N. Y., a few years ago, as a representative of the great Church of the Orient, is said to have become a convert to methodism, and having abandoned the gorgeous ritual of Greece, has become a circuit rider in California.

—Capt. Ed. Fisher is a candidate for State Auditor in Indiana. He lost both legs in the war, and on that account some persons think that he is not fit to be the holder of a responsible office. His ears, however, are both quite perfect, a fact of more importance than legs to an Auditor General.

—The attention of Kentuckians is being called to the existence of coal in large quantities in their State. Along the valley of the Green River there are known to exist fine beds of excellent bituminous coal. One mine has already been started and yields an average of eight hundred bushels per day, and other mines will soon be in operation.

—The recent great fire in Chicago affected the insurance interests of the whole commercial world. The loss of New York companies alone was over half a million of dollars, and between one and two hundred thousand dollars comes from England. The Western States lose over half a million, and the rest of the loss falls on New England companies.

—Atlantic City like Niagara Falls is said to be among the things which is soon to be among the things of the past. During the last three years over five hundred feet of the beach have been washed away. The pretty grove of cedars along the inlet front is almost entirely gone, and the glories of the place are not as brilliant as they have been.

—Some persons are much troubled at the modernism, or Americanism, as they call it, of calling a widow a widow woman. The use of the term is, however, the original and correct one, and widow is merely an abreviation. Widow woman occurs in Chacer and the still earlier writers, and is also used in the Old Testament.

—Chicago having achieved greatness in the divorce line, has turned its attention to fires, and has burned up two millions of dollars worth of property. Greater fires than this have occurred, in fact we do not think that Chicago, if it would all burn down, could put itself at the head in the matter of fires, for Hamburg and London have too many hundred years start of it. But in murders and such things we think that their endeavors are successful.

—Charles Dickens will not visit the West. He has thrown up all of his engagements made in Western cities, and the only reason which he offers for this action is the fact of the burning of Farwell Hall in Chicago, by which he was deprived of a hall in that city suitable for his purposes. Many, very many people will be disappointed by this repudiation of Mr. Dickens; but many, very many more would have been disappointed if they had heard him.

—The Boston *Post* has complacently gotten off the joke about tracks and tacts, this time in connection with the English in Abyssinia. We always used to like that joke when we were quite small, but for the last twenty or thirty years it has been a little inclining to antiquity, and whenever we see or hear it we are reminded of an assertion that a recent writer has made that there is an immense amount of fascination in a weak joke to a newspaper paragraphist.

THE PITTSBURGH GAZETTE.—The *Gazette* is the largest paper published in Pennsylvania, and evinces more life and ability than any other Republican paper published in Western Pennsylvania. To those of our friends who wish to subscribe for a paper in addition to their own home organ, get the Pittsburgh *Gazette*, as it contains more general news and useful reading matter than any other paper in the State.—*Juniata Sentinel*.

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

The Song of the Horse.

A poor old stage-horse, lank and thin,
Not much else than bones and skin,
I jog along, week out, week in,
Kicked and cursed, and meanly fed,
Jammed in the side and jerked in the head—
But the thing that I can't at all make out
Is, what on earth it's all about.

Why was I made to toil and tug
For this odd little human bug,
Two-legged, dumpy as a jug,
Who sits aloft my ribs to batter—
Or why was he made, for that matter!
And, if I needs must be created,
Why is it that I was not fated
To prance and curvet, finely mated,
Silver-harnessed, sleek and fat,
With groom and blanket, and all that?

Here I go, day after day,
Pounding and slipping down Broadway,
Dragging these curious biped things,
With fore-legs gone and yet no wings—
Where they all go to I don't know,
Nor why in the world they hurry so,
Nor what good use Heaven puts them to!

It wasn't my fault, you see, at all,
That my joints grew big and my muscles small,
And so I missed of a rich man's stall.
I'm clumsy, crooked, stupid, slow,
Yet the meanest horse is a horse, you know,
And his ribs can ache with the kick or blow,
As well as the glossiest nags that go.
O, Lord, how long will they use me so?

And when may the equine spirit go
Where glorified horses stand in a row,
Switching their bright tails to and fro,
Careless of either wheel or whoa—
Where oats are always apropos,
And flies don't grow—
Oh, no
O!

Re-Stocking Rivers With Fish.

Legislatures in the Eastern States are all co-operating heartily in the effort to restore choice varieties of fish to those rivers in which they have been exterminated through the agency of mill-dams and other artificial barriers. In almost every State, commissioners have been appointed to study the habits of fish in the ascent of rivers to their spawning beds, and laws have been passed to secure the piscatory tribes in the rights of propagating their species. In Massachusetts, with the approval of the New Hampshire commissioners, substantial progress has been made by constructing fish ways on the Merrimac river at Lowell and Lawrence. That at Lowell is of the kind known as the "double stair," consisting of parallel lines of tanks, each of which is twelve feet higher than the next below, all built of masonary and timber, to resist the ice and freshets. The fish way at Lawrence is a kind of sloping dam, twelve feet wide, with a fall of one foot in ten and intermediate tanks in which the fish may rest. On the Connecticut no fish ways have yet been built, but the proprietors of the new dam building at Turner's Falls, have been notified that fish have rights that must be respected, and a fish way at Hadley Falls is in contemplation. The New Hampshire commissioners have planted about 20,000 salmon ova in the Pemigewasset. These are expected to hatch next spring.—*N. Y. Journal of Commerce*.

Seasoning Timber.

A chief reason why summer cut timber lasts longer than winter cut, is the rapidity with which it is or may be seasoned. If cut in the winter and allowed to remain in the log until the summer before sawing or splitting, it becomes more or less sap rotten, and of little comparative value. When cut in summer and sawed immediately, it dries in a few days, and becomes firm and hard like horn.

But many farmers cannot find time to cut and prepare their timber during the busy summer season. The next best thing is to provide in winter for effecting the seasoning as quickly as possible after the trees are felled. Go to the saw mill and make an arrangement to have your logs worked up immediately after being drawn there; and when the saw has done its work, place them on a windy spot where they will dry as rapidly as possible. If intended for rails or firewood, do the splitting at once, and as fine as the intended use will permit. Cord wood, intended to be cut up for small stoves, will be worth twice as much a few months hence, if sawed and split at once into small sticks, and placed for seasoning where the wind has access, than if left in large pieces.—*Country Gentleman*.

Gas-House Lime

This article has the effect of lime in but a slight degree. After it has been weathered, it consists to a great extent of gypsum (plaster.) Its effects upon the soil are to supply lime to the plant where this ingredient is wanting, (which on common soils rarely occurs, (to supply sulphur and sulphuric acid, and to produce that series of obscure, yet beneficial effects which plaster does—all of which plaster will do equally well or better, but not so cheaply. The weathered gas lime often contains small quantities of lime remaining long in the condition of slacked lime. This is exceedingly abundant when the article is fresh, and then it acts with good effect in vegetable compost heaps, upon muck, etc. If applied to the soil in this fresh state, and, during the growing season, placed upon the soil where crops will be effected, the results are uniformly disastrous, not owing to the lime, but to various combinations of sulphur with lime, which, after some months' exposure become converted into the sulphate of lime, or gypsum above alluded to.—*American Agriculturist*.

How to Treat Balky Horses.

If you have balky horses, it is your own fault, and not the horses, for if they do not pull true, there is some cause for it, and if you will remove the cause, the effect will cease. When your horse balks he is excited, and does not know what you want him to do. When he gets a little excited, stop him five or ten minutes; let him become calm; go to the balky horse, pat him and speak gently to him; and as soon as he is over his excitement, he will, in nine cases out of ten pull at the word. Whipping and slashing and swearing only make the matter worse. After you have gentled awhile, and his excitement has cooled down, take him by the bits; turn him each way for a few minutes, as far as you can; pull out the tongue; gentle him a little; unrein him; then step before the balky horse, and let the other start first; then you can take them anywhere you wish. A balky horse is always high spirited and starts quick; half the pull is out before the other starts; by standing before him the other starts first. By close application to this rule, you can make any balky horse pull. If a horse has been badly spoiled, you should hitch him to an empty wagon, and pull it around a while on level ground; then put on a small load, and increase it gradually, caressing as before, and in a short time you can have a good work horse.—*American Farmer*.

Making Straw Mats.

Those who use hot-beds or cold frames can hardly dispense with straw mats for covering them. The usual way of making them is to lash straw in handsful to cords stretched lengthwise for a warp. A correspondent, "N," of Milford, Ct., sends us his way for making the mats, which he considers easier and better. "Stretch the cords for the under side of the mat, (five is the usual number), lay on the straw, then stretch above the straw an equal number of cords, directly over the others. Then *sew* through the straw, catching the strings both ways, in the same way that brooms are sowed. To straighten the edges, lay a straight-edged board on the mat, stand on it, and with an axe cut off the ends of the straw. By this method the straw is all laid on at once, and there are no seams to allow of the passage of air." The plan of Mr. N. looks practicable. In whichever way the mat is made, the straw is laid on evenly, and at right angles with the warp. The butt-ends of the straw should be placed at the edges of the mat, and the upper ends lap over in the centre, taking pains to keep the thickness uniform throughout. The making of mats is good work for stormy weather in winter, and they are of great utility in protecting plants from early and late frosts.

Packing Snow Upon Wheat.

Last winter we suggested the experiment of packing snow upon winter wheat by rolling it down with a common land roller; but it was rather late in the season to be of any practical use at the time. This hint was taken from reading an account of an accidental experiment of the kind. A man having occasion to haul wood, one winter, across his neighbor's field of winter wheat, he engaged to pay him whatever damage it might do to the wheat, presuming that more or less damage would accrue. The road was staked out, so that it could be accurately distinguished at harvest time. But there was no need of stakes, for all through the season the wheat upon the track was a whole head and shoulders above any other part of the field, and the yield of grain was proportionably larger.

The difference was so marked that it seemed impossible that it should have been the result of the little manure dropped upon the track as the teams were passing, and the cause of the difference was regarded as a mystery. It is well known that snow well packed will resist the spring thaws and remain on the ground much longer than snow left as it falls, and that it is early bare ground in the spring time that injures the wheat. Hence the suggestion to take opportunities when the snow is soft enough to pack well, and roll it down on the fields of winter wheat. It is certain that it will cause the snow to remain on the ground longer and hold the soil more firmly in its place and protect the roots of the grain from some of the early freezings and thawings, which are supposed to be the chief causes of winter killing.

There is, as yet, no snow in this region to pack down, but it is liable to come any day or night. When it does come, we hope numbers of our farmers will avail themselves of the first opportunity to try the experiment, and in due time communicate the result. It will cost but little and may pay well. Every heavy fall of snow should be treated in this way to make the experiment perfect.—*Wisconsin Farmer*.

Household Recipes.

PHILADELPHIA BUNS.—One pint of milk, one cup of butter, one pint of yeast, three cups of sugar, one egg, make a soft dough at night. Early in the morning add not quite a teaspoonful of soda and two teaspoonsful of ammonia. Now put in a little more of flour, mould it well, and return it to rise. When light, make into cakes, and let them stand half an hour or till light enough, then bake them.

SNOW BALLS.—Take half a pound of the best rice, put it into a saucepan with a quart of new milk; simmer it slowly, so that it may not burn; when it has absorbed all the milk, let it cool; then mix in the whites of two eggs; pare and core some middling sized apples; put a little sugar into each, then envelop them in rice, tie them in cloths, and boil them for twenty minutes or half an hour, according to the quality of the apples used; turn them into a dish to serve, and dust them thickly over with loaf sugar. The advantage of this dish is, that it employs the whites of eggs; and sometimes, after making custards or preparations which require the yoks of eggs, housekeepers are at a loss to turn the whites of eggs to account.

CAKE SANDWICHES.—Four eggs, half pound of pounded lump sugar, half a pound of fresh butter, half a pound of flour; beat the butter to a cream, dust in the flour, and add the eggs well whisked; beat with a fork for a quarter of an hour; butter a tin, and pour in half of the mixture; bake from a quarter of an hour to twenty minutes; remove from the tin, butter again, and add the other half of the mixture; bake as before. When cool, spread jam thickly over one portion of the cake, place the other part over it, and cut into whatever shape you please.

FRITTERS WITH YEAST.—Make a batter of one pint of milk and as much flour as will form it, one teaspoonful of salt, and five tablespoonfuls of yeast; put this in a warm place three hours. Just before dinner, beat up one egg well, and add. These fritters are quite wholesome, being light, and do not absorb much lard. Boil them in lard.

BREAD CHEESE CAKES.—Slice up a large French roll very thin, pour on it some boiling cream or milk; when cold, add six or eight eggs, half a pound of butter melted, some nutmeg, a spoonful of brandy, a little sugar, and half a pound of currants; when mixed together pour the mixture into puff-paste as other cheese cakes.

A PIPPIN PUDDING.—Boil six apples well, take out the cores, put in half a pint of milk thickened with three eggs, a little lemon peel, and sugar to the taste; put puff-paste round your dish, bake it in a slow oven, grate sugar over it, and serve it hot.

DELIGHTFUL PUDDING.—One quart of boiled milk, a quarter of a pound of mashed potatoes, a quarter of a pound of flour, a small piece of butter, and, when cold, add three eggs well beaten; bake half an hour; eat with wine sauce.

A GOOD CAKE WITHOUT EGGS.—One cup of sugar, one cup of butter, nutmeg, one cup of milk, two ounces currants, one teaspoonful of cream tartar, one half ounce of soda dissolved in milk, flour enough to make a batter.

HARD GINGERBREAD.—Two pounds of flour, half a pound of butter, one pint of molasses, a quarter of a pound of sugar, one ounce of ginger, half teaspoonful of soda, one teaspoonful cream of tartar.

POOR MAN'S CAKE.—Two cups flour, one cup cream, one cup sugar, one egg, one teaspoonful of soda, two teaspoonsful of cream of tartar, mixed with flour.

SCOTCH CAKE.—One pound of brown sugar, one pound of flour, a half pound of butter, two eggs, cinnamon. Roll very thin.

The Head and Hand.

Agriculture being a science as well as an art, requires both an "educated head and an educated hand." The educated hand must have the direction of the educated head, or, skilled as it may be in practice, it will lose half its labor for not working in the right direction. So the educated head must have the help of the practiced hand, or its wise devices will fail of proper execution.

THE following song appears in that portion of Mrs. Spofford's Tale in the Night, which is published in the February number of the *Northern Monthly*:

Sorrow be all my sport!
Since here no breast
Lends me its own support
And Heaven's rest.

Sorrow be all my stay!
For now no arm
Upholds me as I sway
From storm to calm.

Sorrow be all my grace!
No smile there is
To overrun my face
When flung from his.

O sorrow lift thy sword
Whose lightnings shine!
Destroy me at a word
For I am thine.

Biddy on Her Travels.

A hen has been traveling, during the past six months, over the entire country east of the Mississippi. She has become a protege of the Merchants' Union Express Company, and travels from office to office in her coop. She started from Syracuse last July, and has been, since that time, in nearly every large Western city, and as far north as St. Paul, Minnesota. She is now in New England, having left Bridgeport, Connecticut, last Saturday, for Pittsfield, Mass. A Bridgeport paper gives a full account of her autocratic manners, her plump physical health and her cheerful disposition. She seems to examine the various offices with much interest, is usually at liberty, when not traveling, has more than she can eat of course, and lives like a princess. The officers of the company are her humble servants, and afford her protection as well as every possible facility.

It has been suggested that this hen intends to write a volume of *American Notes*. We hardly credit this report, however. The Express Company employes are mostly respectable, hard-working men, and do not furnish that olla-pod of vulgarity and vice, which a great author should consider necessary to a correct delineation of national character. Some have said that Biddy intends to give a course of readings, and that a young rooster has been engaged as her agent. We trust the report is true. We shall read with much interest the eulogistic "criti-isms" of the *Tribune* and the *World*.—*N. Y. Mail*.

Overland Communication and Traffic.

The express time between San Francisco and New York was reduced to fifteen days at the close of 1867, and by the close of this year it is expected the time will be further reduced to eleven days, by the further extension of the Pacific Railroad from both directions. By the middle of 1870, if not sooner, we may look for the all-rail connection; and a schedule of about six days from ocean to ocean; and therefore we may look for a prodigious stream of travel and traffic over the Main Stem Line.

By reason of the unprecedented low rates of fare on the competing steamship lines, no less than 10,000 passengers have left New York for California, *via* the Isthmus, within three months. The internal and agricultural development of the Pacific coast is so rapid that the demand for labor is inappeasable. The dispatches announce that the Central Pacific Company are organizing a force of 10,000 workmen, with which to prosecute the grand enterprise during this year.

Persons desiring a steady and safe investment have now an opportunity of securing the First Mortgage Bonds upon this great road at less than their par value. See the advertisement of the Financial Agents on another page.

—The Columbus (Ohio) *Journal* says an attempt to swindle life an accident companies out of $50,000 has just come to light, in which the Accident Insurance Company of Columbus is interested to the amount of $10,000. A man named Capt. M. L. Bryan, formerly of the rebel army, and a citizen of Georgia, went to Savannah and secured policies on his life to the amount of $50,000, early in June. In company with a man named Owens on the 10th of June, he went fishing on the Savannah River, and Owens testified under oath that the boat was upset and Bryan drowned. The insurance companies, however, were slow in paying up their losses on the dead man, and on the 14th of January, 1868, Bryan turned up at his home in Georgia.

—The excavations which have been made in the hill of Fourvieres at Lyons has brought to light numerous vestiges of Roman construction which are of great interest. There is found columns and capitals of the pure Archaique style, with tablets of stone and sculptured marble, indicating beyond question the spot where was situated one of those sumptuous palaces inhabited by the Cæsars, who made the capitals of Gaul their homes during the first year of the christian era.

—The murderer of Louise Krause, the beautiful Berlin lorette, is a deaf mute, and only eighteen years old. He asserts that she attempted to take from him his pocket-book, containing only four dollars.

STATE NEWS.

—The three following items we find in the Johnstown correspondence of the Ebensburg *Alleghenian*:

A disturbance occurred in a lager beer saloon here the other day, during the continuance of which a young man named Broderick was severely cut by a dirk knife in the hands of some person unknown.

A valuable roll of carpet was stolen from the door of Mr. John J. Murphy's store a couple of days ago. A reward of twenty dollars is offered for information that will lead to the detection of the thief. Store-door stealing has become quite common here of late.

A child of Mrs. Boyers, of Sharpsburg, aged eighteen months, was scalded to death one day last week by the upsetting upon it of a tub of hot water.

—Last Tuesday a week ago, the 7th inst., as William Small, a boy of about twelve years of age, son of John A. Small, of Polk township, was returning home from school, he had to go through the woods a short distance. While in the woods he heard some rattling in the brush and out flew a pheasant and lighted on his head. He grabbed and held it with one hand, and just at this moment out ran a red fox after the pheasant. The lad made a grab for him with the other hand, but he being too quick, William missed the sly fox. He has the pheasant at home alive.—*Monroe Democrat*.

—A man named Yonson, a shinglemaker, left Phillipsburg on Friday, January 17th, partially intoxicated, with a horse and sleigh, and on Saturday, the 18th, he was found in the Allegheny mountains, east of Phillipsburg, frozen to death. The horse was also dead and stiff. This is a terrible warning to those who are in the habit of indulging freely in intoxicating drinks. An inquest was held on the body, and a verdict in accordance with the above facts rendered by the jury.

—The entire line of the Wilmington and Birdsboro' Railroad has been let from West street, Wilmington, to its junction with the Reading road at Birdsboro'. The contractors are already busy at work, each with a large force of hands. The Wilmington and Reading road has a live President in Edward Brooke, Esq., who will put it through in less time and at less cost than was expended on any previous work of the kind built in the State.—*Reading Journal*.

—On Wednesday evening, 22d inst., a sad and perhaps fatal accident occurred at Phillipsburg, this county. A daughter of Mr. Wm. McCoy, of that place, aged fourteen, was engaged in filling a lamp with oil, and to see whether or not the lamp was full, lighted a pine splinter, which, coming in contact with the oil can, caused it to explode, the ignited oil being thrown upon the girl, whose clothes were soon almost consumed. Her screams soon brought her aid, but not until she was terribly burned. She is not expected to recover.—*Clarion Banner*.

—The Shamokin *Herald* of Thursday last says: On Wednesday morning of last week, as Patrick Burke, residing at the Excelsior Colliery, descended the stairs, he found the lifeless body of his aged mother lying at the bottom, with a deep gash in her forehead, and her neck broken. It is supposed the old lady had attempted to go down to the kitchen at an early hour, as was her custom, and in some way fell headlong to the bottom of the stairs, although no one in the house heard the noise. She was one of the oldest ladies in this section, being in her ninety-second year, but had full use of her limbs, and was considered active for one of her age.

—The Model Farm recently located in Chester county, proves rather expensive to the good people among whom it is placed. They were first called upon to contribute to the purchase of the farm, and are now asked to stock it. The Chester County Agricultural Society has agreed to contribute this sum, provided its officers are allowed a voice in the control of the farm, and it is understood that the Trustees of the Pennsylvania Farm School have agreed to the proposition.

—Heavy damages of $11,000 against the Catawissa Railroad Company were recovered by Jane E. Caldwell, in the Supreme Court, on Thursday last. The plaintiff claimed that the accident which resulted in the injuries for which she obtained so large an amount in damages, was from carelessness, while the Company contended that a rail that had been made brittle by frost had broken, and that the mishap was beyond their control. The jury took the plaintiff's view of the question, and the result is seen in an award of damages to the amount of $11,000.

—In Lancaster county the rate of taxation for the current year is two and a half mills on the dollar; in York county it is seven mills; in Berks county nearly ten. Lancaster has a Republican majority of about six thousand, York a Democratic majority of about three thousand, and Berks of about seven thousand.

—The next Annual Fair of the State Agricultural Society will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, September 29th and 30th, and October 1st and 2d. The President and Secretary invite proposals for the place of the next exhibition, such proposals to be laid before the Committee at its next meeting, March 18th, 1868.

—The City Passenger Railway Companies of Philadelphia having resolved to issue no more passes to members of the city council, this year, the latter are disposed to resent the outrage with proper spirit. On Friday, an ordinance was submitted, providing for a tax of one cent on each passenger, where the fare is seven cents. This is but the beginning of the contest.

—The Downingtown *Journal* says the wife of Jacob Spots, of Springfield, Chester county, on Sunday night of last week, gave birth to four children, each weighing eight pounds. The mother and children are all doing well. The same paper says that on the same day the wife of Elijah E. Rettew, Esq., residing near Morgantown, gave birth to a boy weighing thirteen pounds.

—The Elizabethtown (Lancaster county) *Gazette* says: "Mathias Shenk, Sr., in West Donegal township, this county, has a goose forty-five years of age, and is still alive and apparently in good health. About seven years ago it laid eight eggs, since that none at all. Mr. Shenk has also on his premises a land tortoise, which he knows to be sixty-eight years of age.

—The Columbia *Spy* says that on Saturday evening last two boys, named Frank Burg, aged sixteen years, and William Charles, aged fourteen years, got into an altercation in a church in Washington borough, when angry words ensued, and an invitation to fight outside of the church was given, when they both went out and Burg attacked Charles, who drew a knife and stabbed Burg very dangerously in the region of the heart.

—About four o'clock Friday afternoon last, the next to the youngest child of Sheriff Albright, of Lewisburg, was left in a room with a stove, and in a very few moments came running down stairs screaming, his clothing all on fire, his flesh in places burned brown. He lingered in great distress, constantly demanding water, until about half-past two o'clock the next morning, when death came to his relief.—*Lewisburg Chronicle*.

—The Pottsville *Journal* gives the amount of anthracite coal sent from Pennsylvania to tide-water during the year 1867, at 12,650,571 tons, being an increase of 271,081 tons over the year 1866. Of semi-anthracite and bituminous reaching tide-water there were last year 2,255,535 tons, being a decrease of 87,583 tons from the preceding year. This gives an aggregate of 14,905,300 tons, and an increase of 183,603 tons.

—The dwelling house of Anthony Foust, Washingtonville, was burned on last Sunday. Mr. F., we learn, was absent at the time. The entire building and nearly all its contents, together with a small grain house attached, containing a quantity of wheat were consumed, and in addition to the above, several hundred dollars in gold, silver and greenbacks. No insurance.—*Danville Intelligencer*.

—On last Tuesday morning about one o'clock, the body of Joseph Kline, of Selinsgrove, Snyder county, was run over by the down express train at Watsontown, and horribly mangled. It is thought he had been murdered and the body laid on the track. The remains were taken to Selinsgrove on the 10:25 train, on the same morning. He leaves a family.—*Sunbury Sentinel*.

—The Stockholders of the Neversink Fire Insurance Company, of this city have under consideration the propriety of changing the present name to "Reading Fire Insurance Company." This will be a decided improvement, as it more thoroughly identifies that organization with the city where it originated, and its head-quarters are located.—*Reading Journal*.

—On Friday afternoon of last week, a son of Jonas Bonawitz, of Berrysburg, in this county, between nine and ten years of age, while on his way home from school was run over by a sled loaded with lime, and so severely injured that he expired in an hour afterwards.—*Upper Dauphin Register*.

—On Friday last, a little girl, aged about ten years, daughter of Mr. Shay, residing near the new bridge over the Railroad in Loudonsville, adjoining Altoona, was so severely burned that she died the following night.

—One night week before last the prisoners in the Columbia county jail escaped by digging through the wall. A reward of $100 for their return being offered, parties pursued and captured them.

—On Saturday last two fifty barrel oil wells were struck in the vicinity of Pithole—one on the territory of the United States Petroleum Company, and the other on the Bean Farm.

—Wyoming county elected delegates on the 24th ult., to the Republican State Convention, and passed resolutions for Grant and Grow for President and Vice President.

—The Honesdale *Republic* mentions that David Gillaid, keeper of a grocery in that town, shot a rowdy customer through the heart one day last week, killing him instantly.

—During the past year, seven men and one woman were hung, in Pennsylvania, for murder. Two were executed on Tuesday, three on Wednesday, two on Thursday, and one on Friday.

RUTH.

BY THOMAS HOOD.

She stood breast high amid the corn,
Clasped by the golden light of morn,
Like the sweetheart of the sun,
Who many a glowing kiss had won.

On her cheek an Autumn flush
Deeply ripened;—such a blush
In the midst of brown was born,
Like red poppies grown with corn.

Round her eyes her tresses fell,
Which were blackest none could tell;
But long lashes veiled a light
That had else been all too bright.

And her hat, with shady brim,
Made her tressy forehead dim;
Thus she stood amid the stocks,
Praising God with sweetest looks.

Sure, I said, Heaven did not mean
Where I reap thou shouldst but glean;
Lay thy sheaf adown and come,
Share my harvest and my home.

CHURCH RE-OPENING.

East Liberty and Its Surroundings—Its Palatial Residences and Churches—Re-Opening of Emory M. E. Church—Bishop Simpson's Sermon, etc.

East Liberty and its immediate surroundings is generally regarded as the "garden spot" of our suburban districts. Its natural advantages of surpassing beauty, level surface, and proximity to the pent up city, attracted many of our wealthiest citizens, who have erected palatial residences, and spent vast sums to make the grounds attached blossom as the rose. Even at this season of the year, the grounds indicate the culture they have received, and the numerous elegant residences, that rise up in every direction, are seen to better advantage than when hidden amid the summer foliage.

Beautiful as this spot has always been, within a brief score of years the whole neighborhood has been transformed under the magic touch of modern culture. The opening of the Pennsylvania Railroad, which sweeps through it, has had much to do with this marvellous change. Rapid travel under comfortable circumstances has yielded a rich fruitage. The influx of so much wealth and culture soon began to be felt. With the erection of elegant residences, the necessity of having better church edifices soon became apparent, and now handsome church structures dot the place, adding beauty and solidity to it. Among the first churches erected was Emory M. E. Church, and soon after the Presbyterians built one of great architectural beauty. Soon after, the Episcopalians were worshipping in a tasteful cut stone structure, and other denominations erected excellent churches.

A score of years ago this small body of Methodists worshipped in a plain unpretending brick building, much like a country school house in olden times, and located in an obscure place. With the erection of the new building about a decade of years ago, Methodism assumed a new position, and since then has been gradually growing stronger. Feeling that their church accommodations were insufficient to meet the demands of the age, it was determined to remodel the building throughout, at a cost of twelve thousand dollars. The extra cost was magnified until full twenty-eight thousand was spent. For about a year the work of "reconstruction" has been going on, and as it progressed new features were added, until the plain brick steepled edifice has become completely metamorphosed, and is now one of the most graceful churches to be found west of the mountains.

The church fronts on what is familiarly known as Greensburg pike, now the principal street, and lies quite close to the railroad station. The front presents a pure Romanesque style of architecture, while in other portions of the building there is slight blending of Gothic. Entering the spacious door, a short hall opens into the spacious lecture room. The enlargement of this room will accommodate four hundred persons. It is fitted up with considerable taste, and is admirably adapted for Sunday School and lecture purposes. Immediately in the rear are two class rooms. By easy flights of stairs from the vestibule you enter the main audience room, which contains ninety-six pews, capable of seating seven hundred persons. It is ninety by forty-eight, though at the front, including the wings, the width is sixty-seven feet. The seats are black walnut finish, neatly cushioned bright red color, and in striking contrast to the elegant Brussels carpet which graces the entire floor, strongly tinted in green. The large windows are filled with stained glass, of bright, cheerful colors. The adjustment of the chandeliers and side lights, numbering thirty-six globes, brilliantly lights the chamber. Arrangements are in progress to manufacture gas on the premises for the use of the church. The walls are orange tint, and ceiling purple or flesh color. The beautiful tower protects a deep-toned musical bell. The building is heated with steam. On either side of the pulpit, the "Ten Commandments," "Psalm fifteenth," "Lord's Prayer" and "Confession of Faith," are beautifully inscribed in antique letters.

Yesterday the re-opening services took place. Bishop Simpson, that prince of pulpit speakers, delivered a very able and eloquent discourse in the morning, and in the afternoon Rev. Dr. H. Miller, of this city, occupied the pulpit, to the great satisfaction of the numerous auditory. The congregation in the morning gave a liberal contribution, and in the afternoon a plate collection was taken. Quite a number of strangers were present from other churches. Rev. W. W. Roup, of Wilkinsburg, took part in the exercises, and Rev. F. M. M'Gowan, a worthy minister, was also present in the altar. The services were rendered more interesting by the sweet vocal music of the choir, accompanied by one of Mason & Hamlin's superb organs, furnished by C. C. Mellor, under the skillful lead of W. J. Bender, Esq., formerly leader of the choir of Liberty Street M. E. Church.

Glancing over the vast throng of upturned faces, listening reverently and attentively to the eloquent Bishop, we saw but few familiar faces, who had mingled in the services of the little dingy brick church of a score of years. The venerable John Stewart, father-in-law of A. Bradley, Esq., and father of ex-Sheriff Stewart; the sweet spirited J. B. Bayard, and Samuel Chadwick, formerly of the House of Representatives, were the only prominent ones we recognized. Among the many who have become active and prominent we observed Col. J. H. Stewart; one of the trustees, Dr. J. Perchment, and the members of the Building Committee, Messrs. Frank Sellers, Capt. C. W. Batchelor, S. B. McElroy, J. K. Kerr, P. H. Laufman, Alex. Bates and J. W. Woodwell. This committee, and the ladies of the Church, are spoken of in the highest praise.

Since this church became a separate charge, it has been favored with some prominent Ministers of the Conference, among whom we name President Pershing, Prof. J. L. G. McKeown, and Rev. H. Sinsabaugh. The latter minister was pastor when the contemplated improvement was agitated. The present pastor, Rev. W. Pitt. Turner, A. M., deserves to be well thought of and doubtless is, by his congregation, for his unceasing labors to promote the project. He is a young minister, of culture and very promising. We found during our brief stay in this paradisical part of our new consolidation acquisition, that in the palatial residence of Frank Sellers, Esq., there was comfort and luxury, worthy to tender to princes, and such we received from our host, and his accomplished wife.

OHIO NEWS.

—Ex-Governor Cox has settled down in Cincinnati to practice his profession, the law, and if any of his friends say anything to him hereafter about official places, he will be grieved.

—The Ohio State Library at Columbus has 23,000 volumes. The Public Library at Detroit has over 15,000 volumes, and devotes an annual income of over $1,000 to the purchase of books. All forfeited bail bonds in that city are to be collected and paid over to this fund.

—The suicide of Rev. Mr. Brush, at Delaware, Ohio, was committed on Sunday morning, while his congregation were quietly awaiting his appearance to conduct the opening exercises of the regular quarterly meeting. The members having waited some time after the usual hour of commencing service, dispatched one of their number to ascertain the cause of his delay. And he was found hanging dead in his barn. Another clergyman, the Rev. Mr. Ryan, at Marysville, in the county adjoining Delaware, also committed suicide the same Sunday afternoon, by cutting his throat. Insanity is alleged in both cases, and in the last named it had been for some time apparent.

—The Dayton *Journal* mentions some of the incidents which enlivened a coon hunt at Phillipsburg, in that vicinity, on Sunday morning. A coon was treed, the tree felled, and a coach dog belonging to a young man named Skyles seized the coon. The latter was getting the best of the fight when Miner Walker, in attempting to make a diversion in favor of the dog with a stick, struck the latter accidentally and killed him. Skyles was enraged at the death of his dog, and felled Walker with a club, knocking him senseless. Jacob Milton, a friend of Walker, seized the axe with which the tree was felled, and chopped into Skyles shoulder. Whereupon Daniel Crow drew a revolver and shot Milton on the right shoulder, wounding him severely. The party were subsequently arrested.

—Mr. John Robertson Postmaster at this place, was attacked on his way home, on Sunday night about nine o'clock, knocked down and robbed of some two hundred and ninety dollars. The particulars are: Mr. Robertson after church repaired to the postoffice, as is his custom, to make up the mails leaving early Monday morning. After concluding his labors, he started for home, and had reached the steps in front of the residence of Mr. G. W. Nelson, when two men who had concealed themselves behind the pillars at the side of the gate rushed out, knocked him senseless and relieved him of the amount stated above. Mr. Robertson remained prostrate on the ground in an insensible condition for about an hour, when reason returned and he sought his home. He is considerably injured about the head, but his wounds are not considered dangerous. No clue to the perpetrators of the murderous assault and robbery has yet been elicited.—*New Lisbon Journal*.