The Pittsburgh Gazette

PUBLISHED BY

FENNIMAN, REED & CO.,

AT GAZETTE BUILDING,

No. 86 Fifth Street.

P. S. FENNIMAN, } Editors.
W. W. HOWARD, }
JOSIAH KING, } Business Managers.
W. P. REED, }

TERMS FOR WEEKLY:

Three Copies, per year, by mail, each.....$1 50
Five " " " " 1 25
Ten or more copies, to one address, and one free to club..... 1 15

TERMS FOR DAILY:

Single copies..... 3 cents.
Delivered by carrier, (per week,)..... 15
To all subscribers, (per year,)..... $2.00.
Liberal reductions to Newsboys and Agents.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY, 12, 1868.

THE PETROLEUM JOB.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 5, 1868.

EDS. GAZETTE.—The editorial in to-day's GAZETTE, relative to Mr. Connell, and attributing a place for himself for the passage of the oil bill, does that Senator a cruel wrong.

That such a report was put in circulation concerning him, *was natural enough under the circumstances*, since there are always persons to be found in every community ready to impute the basest of motives to any act they disapprove of; but the presence of such reports hardly amounts to a justification of making them public.

Mr Connell introduced this bill merely *to oblige one of his constituents*. Just as any other Senator would have done for any respectable person included in his constituency. It was well understood here, and the fact was known to the Pittsburgh oil men, who came here to look after the bill, that the place created by it was intended for a Philadelphian, in no way connected with Mr. Connell. That gentleman had not the slightest interest in the matter, one way or the other.

As soon as the bill was reported I urged Mr. Connell to postpone its consideration until I could hear from the oil men of Allegheny county, and he promptly complied with my request, refusing peremptorily to yield to any suggestion from Philadelphia Pittsburgh oil men arrived here, he consented at once to such a modification of it as would completely remove all their objections.

I have felt impelled to make this statement in sheer justice to Mr. Connell, and I feel sure the GAZETTE will not refuse me the privilege of putting him right before its readers. As he did everything that was possible to give our men a full hearing in the matter, and to make the bill finally acceptable to them, it was due from me to state that I should bear the testimony to receive this from the interests so unjustly cast upon him. Respectfully,

RUSSELL EARITT.

REMARKS.—In this city, and wherever also Mr. EARITT is known, his statement will be received as reliable to the fullest degree, and will exonerate Mr. CONNELL from the charge of seeking to enrich himself by means of the Petroleum Inspectorship bill.

While Mr. EARITT magnanimously becomes the champion of Mr. CONNELL, even he is constrained to admit that the imputation "was natural under the circumstances." Mr. CONNELL says he wanted "to protect the lives of his constituents from accidents arising from the use of adulterated oils." That is his representation of his motives. Mr. EARITT rests his defence on the ground that he "merely wanted to oblige *one* of his constituents." This is another view. In either case, to impose a yearly tax of $100,000 on the oil dealers was going quite beyond the requirements of personal friendship or public duty.

But, while Mr. CONNELL affirms he was actuated only by a philanthropic desire to prevent his constituents from being killed off by kerosene explosions, Mr. EARITT tells us that the office contemplated was intended for a Philadelphian. A snug office, worth $100,000 a year, manufactured to order, might or might not operate as a sure protection to people who burn oil, but would surely be an excellent thing for any man who should fall into it. Now, it is possible that so many eggs may be put into a man's basket, even in Harrisburg, upon principles of disinterested benevolence, and with no understanding that those chiefly instrumental in the beneficence shall have the private sucking of any of them. It is possible—nay, probable—for a member of a legislative body to introduce a bill, to oblige either a friend or stranger, having a large sized snake in it, without stopping to scrutinize closely what was contained therein, or how it would operate in practice; and when such a snake came to be disclosed the legislator would be subjected unjustly to injurious imputations, as now in the case of Mr. CONNELL.

But we beg to call Mr. CONNELL's attention to the second section of his bill, commencing at the tenth line and going to the close, wherein it is provided that if the Inspector shall find any oil with a fraudulent brand or mark of inspection, or adulterated after inspection, he shall seize it, and proceed to sell it, pocketing a part of the proceeds, and turning the remainder over to the treasury of the Association for the relief of disabled firemen. Do you call this protecting the lives of your constituents? Do you call it protecting adulterated or fraudulent oils on the market, under color of law, selling them to the highest bidder? What say you, Mr. CONNELL? If such is your motive, would you not have provided that such fraudulent and impure oils should be redistilled? Such a provision would comport with your profession. The existing provision does not.

Now, we will tell Mr. CONNELL wherein he has done us injustice. The accusation against him did not originate in our columns, nor did we endorse it as well-founded. It had been running through the newspapers three or four days before we referred to it at all. Two of the journals of this city had given it both circulation and endorsement. We then spoke of it as a report for which we could not vouch, and suggested that he should make denial, if he had denial to make. Hereupon, he pounced down upon us as his accuser, charging us with impertinence and lying; but he said not a word of or to those journals which published the statement originally and vouched for its accuracy. Will Mr. CONNELL, while his hand is in, explain how this happened?

A few words with Mr. LOWRY. He asserts that the newspapers of this city are "common scolds." It must be admitted that they have at times exhibited much impatience and heat at the course of legislation at Harrisburg. They would have demonstrated the possession of virtues more than human if they had not. A good deal of legislation, touching most important interests of this city and region has been of a character to make even a saint swear.

But, it does not become Mr. LOWRY to put himself forward as a censor of the press in general or of any section thereof. If any ten journals in the Commonwealth have done as much violent and coarse scolding in their columns as he has done from his seat in the Senate, during the seven years he has occupied it, they deserve to be abated as public nuisances.

Public men, when irritated by strictures of the press, are wont to express a degree of contempt for journalists and journalism, they do not feel. Contempt does not find expression in the furious manner adopted by some of the members of the Senate. Why, gentlemen! lash yourselves into fury, and descend into the depths of blackguardism, if you only mean to signify that you are unmoved and regardless of the censures to which you are subjected? A sane man does not strike like a pugilist to brush a fly from his face. Eels do not wriggle in the pot, to show that boiling water is pleasant to them.

LIGHT!

We feel warranted in announcing that within thirty days the work requisite to complete the Connellsville Railroad will be advertised for letting, and that the whole will be finished probably in the space of a year, or, at farthest, within fifteen months. In a few days we shall be in a position to give the details of the contemplated arrangements.

THE Presidents of Pennsylvania Colleges held an important Convention at Harrisburg, which we shall notice in detail shortly.

SOLDIERS' ORPHANS.

GEORGE F. MCFARLAND, Esq., Superintendent of the Soldiers' Orphans' Schools of Pennsylvania, furnishes us with his annual report for 1867, made to the Governor in pursuance of law. The law provides for the care, maintenance and education, at the expense of the State, of the destitute orphan children of *all* such deceased soldiers and sailors, citizens of Pennsylvania, and soldiers who have served in Pennsylvania regiments as have died in the service of the United States in the late war to suppress the rebellion. Owing to the inadequacy of the first appropriation much difficulty was experienced in disposing of all the applications made for admission into the schools, and, indeed, in providing for those already received into the schools. After mature deliberation the Superintendent resolved to retain all the schoolars, to admit only the oldest and neediest applicants, to discharge promptly all the scholars arriving at the age of sixteen, and in no event to allow the expenditures to exceed $450,000 per year, the sum voted by the House. During the last seven months of the year one hundred and eighty-one pupils were added to the Soldiers Schools, although the Superintendent effected a change in the grade of scholarship which fully compensated for this additional number, entailing no additional cost.

In the State there are twelve schools for the more advanced scholars, containing 1,041 male and 728 female pupils; there are three Primary schools containing 180 males and 158 females. There are 26 Homes and other institutions which admit 633 males and 413 females; at the Home for destitute colored children there are 15 males and 7 females. Those figures give us 1,874 male and 1,306 female scholars, affording a grand total of 3,180 orphans supported, maintained and educated by the State out of gratitude for the services performed by their fathers on the field of battle. In 1867 the whole number of accepted applications received was 1,005, being 603 less than in 1866, and 753 less than in 1865; the number of orders issued 739, being 1,040 less than in 1866, and 845 less than in 1865; the number of admissions 630, being 945 less than in 1866, and 612 less than in 1865; the number of discharges, &c., 125, being 7 more than in 1866, and 104 more than in 1865; while the number in school at the close of the year was only 499 greater than at the close of the previous year, before which the schools were not fairly in operation.

These figures show conclusively that the maximum number in school at any one time has now been, or is being reached, and that hereafter it will decrease. The decrease from discharges on age alone will be 374 in 1868, 229 in 1869, 348 in 1870, 403 in 1871, 479 in 1872, 460 in 1873, 416 in 1874, 344 in 1875, and 307 in 1876, when the number will have been reduced to the capacity of a single institution of ordinary size.

The entire cost of clothing 1,988 orphans in the advanced schools for the eleven months ending December 1st, 1867, was $45,238 57, or $22,90 for each orphan.

The schools will enter the new year with a fair supply of good clothing, all provided at the average cost of twenty-five dollars for each child per annum.

The salaries paid during eleven months amounted to $4,974.98; other general expenses of the Department, such as postage, stationery, blank books, printing, advertising, funeral expenses, &c., amounted to $1,806 43.

While the number of children actually in school on the first of December, 1867, was 3,180, the number of outstanding orders, which entitle the holders to admission whenever presented, 640, and the number of applications on file awaiting orders, 540, making a total of 4,360 children to be provided for, exclusive of the additional applications received after December 1, 1867; yet the discharges will occur so rapidly, and the actual admissions may be made so gradually, that the number actually in school may be kept from exceeding 3,500, on the 1st of June, 1868, and 3,600 during the following year, or by the 1st of June, 1869, before which the maximum will have been reached, and the decrease have commenced.

Thus restricted, the average number in school will not differ materially from 3,400 for the six months ending June 1, 1868, and 3,500 for the year ending June 1, 1868.

Assuming that no provision will be made for no more than the numbers here indicated, the Superintendent estimates the average cost per pupil for the year at $142.98. This contemplates only the admission of the friendless and destitute, and the Superintendent strongly urges the Legislature to make a more liberal appropriation, so as to provide for the reception of fully five hundred more pupils, and as the maximum number will be reached this year, the grant now asked will be the heaviest that will ever be required.

The Superintendent is not particularly pleased with the character, style and accommodations of the advanced and primary schools, and sets them down as approaching failure when compared with model institutions of the character. However, he congratulates himself that most of the schools show steady and encouraging advance towards the required standard.

The report concludes by paying a just tribute to the patriotism of Gov. CURTIN, to whose sympathy, wise and farseeing statesmanship is due the establishment of the Soldiers' Orphans' schools in Pennsylvania.

ONLY one thing do we care to say in reply to the Harrisburg *Telegraph*, and that in short metre. Members of the Legislature, or others, may think it legitimate to introduce bills, with or without examination, stirring seriously at large industrial or commercial interests; tending to put those interests under contribution to sharpers, on pretense of promoting the public welfare; throwing those interests into temporary uncertainty; and taking men concerned therein away from their homes and affairs, on expense, to explain or counteract, but business men take a different view of the case. They hold that legislators are bound to know what they are about, and not, with eyes open or shut, strike at whole classes or whole communities. They will resent such blows as promptly as legislators do aspersions upon their integrity. At the opening of the session, some lessons were inculcated, on this head, that ought not soon to be forgotten. Other lessons, of like character, will follow in due season, from this section of the Commonwealth.

THE Beaver County Republican Central Committee met in Beaver on Saturday and elected Messrs. J. S. Rutan and J. C. Boyle as delegates to the State Convention. Messrs. Benjamin Wilde, G. C. Barker, Hon. M. S. Quay, D. L. Imbrie and D. Weyand were appointed conferees to meet with conferees from other counties of the District to select delegates to the National Convention.

Resolutions were adopted instructing for Gen. Grant for President, ex-Gov. Andrew G. Curtin for Vice President, Gen. Hartranft for Auditor General and Col. Campbell for Surveyor General.

THE Republicans of Wayne and Pike counties have appointed Mr. John Shouse delegate to the State Convention. Instructed for Grant and Curtin.

Col. Samuel Knorr has been selected as the Senatorial delegate from the Columbia District to the Republican State Convention. The Representative delegate has been conceded to Montour county.

In Clarion the Republicans have made G. W. Lathy and B. J. Reid delegates to the State Convention, and instructed for Grant and Curtin.

EARLY LAST WEEK we quoted the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, pronounced by Chief Justice TANEY, in the Rhode Island case, (Dorr's Rebellion,) in which the law was laid down to be that in political matters the bench had no jurisdiction, the Constitution devolving on Congress exclusively the right and duty of adjudging whether the State organizations were republican in form and substance. This was demonstrating that the power now claimed by Congress for itself, of regulating the governments of the Southern States, and denied to the Supreme Court, was not revolutionary or even novel, but strictly in accordance with the organic law as expounded by the highest judicial tribunal. It was, also, showing inferentially that the Democrats, under color of zeal for the authority and dignity of the Supreme bench, were aiming to debauch it into an instrument of partizan contentions.

The *Post* read this decision with profound amazement, cogitated upon it for the remainder of the week, took it for its Sunday meditation; and, finally, on Monday undertook to prove that the Judges were egregiously ignorant of the meaning of the Constitution and of the extent of their powers—and, all this, under color of replying to our reflections upon the decision and its applicability to the existing situation. So, then, our contemporary is equally at variance with Congress and the Supreme Court. Probably it agrees just as little with the Executive as with Legislative and Judicial Departments. If it could only run all three of co-ordinate branches to suit itself, it is glad to be satisfied, but it would produce a government no good citizen would be willing to live under.

To the grief of the *Post*, doubtless, the Supreme Court, on yesterday morning, reaffirmed its old doctrine, dismissing the Georgia and Mississippi Reconstruction cases. The Democrats will now feel like contempt for the Court as for Congress.

CONGRESS has been accused, alike by Democrats and Conservative Republicans, of usurping authority in its Reconstruction Policy not conferred on it by the Constitution. The Supreme Court has had this question before it, and has decided that Congress has exercised authority in the premises, only political topics being involved. What is more, this decision conforms to the doctrine held by the Court on this class of matters from the foundation of the government. Congress has been, and is still acting strictly within the limits of its prerogatives; and its assailants wish to make new rules, in conflict with all past precedents to suit their party ends.

This decision is the more consequential because it has been endorsed for months that a majority of the Judges, in their private opinions, do not consent to what Congress has done and is doing. If they had the power they would not do as Congress is doing, but they are constrained to adjudge that the discretion is not with them, but with the Senate and House. After this, it will require all the Democrats to state somewhat, at least, of their wild talk about the usurpations of Congress.

THE CANADIANS are taking alarm at the reorganization of the Fenian brotherhood in this country, and, in view of possible contingencies, a force of regulars will be stationed along the Niagara frontier as soon as navigation is resumed. This piece of prudence may be very well, but we take it there need be no alarm felt by our cousins across the border. The leaders of the Fenians have not all faith in relation for the invasion of Canada, and in the future will confine their operations to the soil of Ireland.

BY ANCIENT DECISION of the Supreme Court, in session at Philadelphia, Mrs. JANE G. SWISSHELM, of this city, recovers real estate to the value of some $60,000, which had been illegally transferred by her husband from whom she was divorced. Mrs. S. has battled this case for some time past, and her many friends will be pleased to note the final decision in her favor.

GEN. CAMERON has earned the applause of all considerate men in protesting against the employment of secret agents by the State Department. Such agents belong to a system of espionage as old as world is fast outgrowing. One honest, frank and explicit negotiator is worth a whole army of sneaks and spies.

AT A MEETING of the Republican Committee of Crawford county, held on Saturday last, delegates were selected to the State and Senatorial Conventions, and instructed to support Gen. Grant for President and Galusha A. Grow for Vice President.

A New Masonic Temple.

Philadelphia rejoices now in the possession of one of the finest Masonic temples in America, but the members of that order have in contemplation the erection of a new Temple which will completely overshadow the present one in point of elegance and grandeur. On next St. John's Day the corner stone will be laid on the site selected, Broad and Filbert streets, and the temple will be completed five years from that date, at a cost of $750,000.

The new hall will be of granite, and in the Norman style; the massive character of this order of architecture, however, will be relieved by the ornamentation of the buttresses, balconies, balustrades and graceful pinnacles which form part of the design. The four sides of the building will be of granite, the only difference in the design being in the front on Broad street, which will present one of the most magnificent features of this thoroughfare. The building will be three stories high, and the front on Broad street will present two towers, one at each corner, the intervening space being occupied by a handsome portico running to the second story, and above which will be two more stories (one of silence,) the whole surmounted at the apex of the roof with a small tower, at the summit of which will be a statue of Charity. On the face of this main front, in addition to the ornamental windows, will be the official emblem of the Order—the square and compass, &c.

The tower at the southwest corner of the building will be the grand feature. It will be three hundred feet from the ground level, has a spire, or one hundred and four feet higher than Christ Church steeple. The four corners of this tower will be surrounded by pinnacles, while the buttresses extending up a considerable distance, the balconies at the windows, and the balustrades and pretend ornamentation of this portion of the structure will add greatly to the beauty of the whole design. The remaining three sides of the building will be relieved by buttresses between the windows, and the whole effect of the exterior will be at once massive and graceful. The portico at the front, being twenty feet in advance of the line of the building, will still further add to the beauty of the design.

The building throughout will be fireproof, iron girders being used at the stories, and other precautions are being adopted to guard against the destruction of the edifice. Ventilation of the most complete kind has been provided, the steam apparatus to be used for heating the building being also designed to drive a fan to keep up a circulation of fresh air in all of the rooms. Provision has also been made for a bountiful supply of water at every story. The entire building will be devoted to Masonic purposes, and therefore there will be no residence within the hall, as heretofore.

Curious Murder Trial.

—A curious murder trial has just been concluded at Ionia, Mich. It appears that John Brown and William Morse had frequently quarrelled, that the former had sworn he would kill Morse on the first opportunity. One morning Morse went to his barn, and some time afterward was found there, hanging by the neck with a strap taken from his own harness. The jury visited the premises, and from the position in which the body was found, came to the conclusion that he must have been strangled, and then placed in that position, to make it appear that he done the deed himself, and strong circumstances pointed to Brown as the murderer. He was convicted.

—The American Board of Foreign Missions corrects a false impression of the expense of getting funds to the heathen stations. Instead of costing seventy-five cents to get a dollar to the heathen, as has been said, only a little more than six per cent. of its income is spent in raising funds; and including all expenses of administration, the cost is only eight and three-eighths per cent. And in the fifty-two years of its existence not one dollar has ever been lost by unfaithfulness, incapacity, or negligence in the Board.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

From the glowing accounts of the papers, the Forty-ninth Anniversary of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, just held at Albany, N. Y., must have been a grand affair. Sunday, the day before the anniversary proper took place, was devoted to holding special services in the various churches of the Capital. Varied services took place also in one or two churches Monday morning and afternoon. In the evening the crowning service was held, in Tweddle Hall, His Excellency, Gov. Fenton, presiding. After the opening religious services, the Governor delivered a brief address, in which he stated that he was glad to be relieved a moment from public cares to meet the representatives of Methodism. A missionary spirit, he remarked, had prevailed from the planting of Christianity, and he was therefore glad to hail the assembly there convened to help on this great movement. He then referred in strong terms to the patriotism of the M. E. Church in the hour of our country's need, and of its existence on this continent. Among the distinguished speakers who participated were Bishop Janes, Dr. Harris, one of the Missionary Secretaries, Dr. Sewall, the eloquent Brooklyn preacher, Rev. R. W. Clark, of the Reformed Church, and Judge Wright, of Pennsylvania. By special invitation, Rev. G. Douglass, of Canada, was present and delivered an address of great power. He is represented as perhaps the most eloquent speaker in the Dominion of Canada. Dr. Sewall's closing words had a thrilling effect. He affirmed that he believed Jesus Christ will get the world, and when he does, he said he should like to be permitted to take part in the hallelujah chorus of the great English composer. The doctor then related the following incident: It is said that the privacy of his solitude was interrupted by a visitor, who found him at his desk writing his music to the marvellous words, "He shall reign forever and ever, Hallelujah! He shall reign forever and ever!" and the streaming tears were rolling down in the good man's cheeks as he repeated the language and wrote his music. "He shall reign forever and ever, ever and ever, Hallelujah! He shall reign forever and ever, Hallelujah! The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth!"

The *United Presbyterian* of this week contains an editorial entitled "Reform in Church Music," in which it argues that a want of proper knowledge of music, by the cultivation of the voice, calls for a reform in this respect, and that God is entitled to the best offerings we can give, and therefore every means should be employed to cultivate our powers to render acceptable praise. Reform is urged in the practice of having such artistic and elaborate music as to silence the praises of the congregation; and, designedly so, that the sweet harmonies of congregational singers may not be disturbed by less musical voices. Severe strictures, and very justly too, are made against the course of some churches for employing ungodly men and women to sing, taken from the theatre and opera. It is gratifying to note that this evil practice does not obtain in but a part of the country that we are aware of, at least not in the offensive form it exists in some eastern cities.

Rev. John Hall, D.D., of New York, lately from Europe, during the last Sunday School Institute in New York, briefly spoke of the means that should be employed for the conversion of schools. He said to this end teachers should, 1. Try to deal personally with the children. Be simple, simply, intelligently, and without effort to display; there should be no high flown, florid pulpit rhetoric or rhapsody in the enumeration of God's truths. 3. The scholars should be truly loved. 4 Teachers should be only persons before their children, as elsewhere—not severely sanctimonious. 5. Be patient and faithful. 6. Set forth, distinctly, kindly, and fully, before the children, with the aid of the Holy Spirit. Attention to these suggestions would, he thought, secure the conversion of Sabbath schools.

Recent intelligence from Johnstown, Penn., represents the churches all aglow with revival power. Considerable interest prevails in the Presbyterian and United Brethren Churches. A number of baptisms by immersion, administered by the minister of the Disciple's Church, took place last Sunday. Marked success crowns the efforts at the special services in the Methodist Episcopal and Methodist (Protestant) Churches. Rev. Evangelical Lutheran Church, under the pastoral care of our friend, Rev. R. A. Fink, has enjoyed great spiritual prosperity. On a recent Sunday seventy-two persons connected themselves with that Church. Of these eighteen adults were baptized. Meetings still continue.

According to the report of the treasurer of the American Baptist Missionary Union, at a special meeting of the Board of Managers, held in New York city, last week, the expenditures of the Union for the year, including the balance against the Society last year, will likely be $250,000. During the quarter ending March 31st, the receipts ought to reach, from all sources, not less than $162,000, to meet the wants of the Union.

Rev. S. C. Faris has been employed by the First Presbyterian Church, Rev. S. P. Scovel, pastor, of this city, to labor as city missionary. We believe one or two other of our city Churches have already initiated this new movement, in connection with the work of the respective congregations.

The project of planting Congregational churches in the South, under the auspices of the American Home Missionary Society, is so greatly hindered by the obstacles interposed by the unreconstructed condition of society in the late rebel States, that only one new church, the Independent Church at Salem, Mississippi, has been occupied during the year. The general poverty which prevails, produced by the rebellion and the failure of the crops, has compelled most of the churches to fall back upon the Society for support.

Rev. Thomas K. Beecher, of Elmira, New York, has commenced holding Sunday evening meetings at the Opera House, for the reason that a regular church edifice, with rented pews, is too exclusive, and repels the masses, instead of attracting them, while under this plan all may feel free to hear the Gospel presented, "without money and without price."

The *Independent* says that two Methodist, the Congregational, and the Second Baptist churches, at Newport, R. I., united on a recent Sunday evening in partaking of the Lord's Supper. The Baptist pastor, Rev. Charles H. Malcolm, presided, aided by the other clergymen. It thinks the course of this pastor of the Baptist Church is much preferable to that of Mr. Earle, who is holding meetings at Boston.

The Christian Disciples' Church of New Castle, Pa., just ready for occupancy, is a very beautiful edifice, of the English Gothic style. It is stated it was built by the liberality of Phillips Brothers, four gentlemen of fortune, residing in that place. Its cost, when fully furnished, will be about ninety thousand dollars. It is most likely the handsomest church edifice belonging to the Campbellite body in the United States.

The *Presbyterian* states that the Church schools in the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania are prospering, and show an increase in numbers and strength. Andalusia College opens with twelve or fifteen more scholars than hitherto, the Allentown Academy has over one hundred, St. Mark's Academy, at Mauch Chunk, has fifty, while new institutions have been organized in the parishes of Mahoney City, White Haven and elsewhere.

The Peabody Memorial (Congregational) Church in Georgetown, Massachusetts, costing nearly one hundred thousand dollars, the entire amount being furnished by Mr. Peabody, was dedicated to the worship of God quite recently. It is built of brick, in the Norman style, is quite an ornament to the village, and will seat six hundred persons.

A new Episcopal Church is about to be established on or near the upper part of Fifth Avenue, New York.

The *Christian Witness*, (United Presbyterian) favors the holding of a Convention in this city, on the third Tuesday of March next, by United and Reformed Presbyterians, with a view to consider questions bearing upon the Union of those bodies. Thus the work of Union goes forward, and with the admirable spirit manifested by the Presbyterians, the day does not appear distant when a closer union will be affected, not only by the two branches named but by other members of the Presbyterian family.

—Revival interest prevails in many of the Presbyterian churches in this State. At Susquehanna Depot, the Presbyterian church enjoys quite an interesting work. Thus far over sixty have requested prayers, and, of this number, fifty have expressed a hope in Jesus. The church at Altoona, Pa., is favored with a revival of great power. Thursday night of last week the inquirers numbered fifty.

The lecture room of the Lawrenceville church, Rev. J. A. Miller, pastor, will be formally opened for public worship on next Sabbath, the 9th. At the morning hour, Dr. H. Miller will preach. In the afternoon Rev. S. P. Wolff will occupy the pulpit. Services will be held at three o'clock. Bishop Simpson will be present in the evening, at 7½ o'clock, and will participate in the services. No subscriptions taken; simply a basket collection. A cordial invitation is extended to all who can make it convenient to attend.

EPHEMERIS.

—The robbins of the North have been driven South by the severity of the weather, and the people of Pensacola are shooting and eating them.

—A monument to the memory of the late venerable Right Reverend Bishop Hopkins, of Vermont, is to be raised in Trinity church, New York.

—The Boston *Advertiser* says: "Some people think that Pittsburgh done up in January, is an answer to 'Does it pay to smoke?' propounded in February."

—A petroleum well has been discovered in England, and the Fenians permitting, we may look for a repetition of the petroleum excitement in that island of frogs and spleen.

—Count Taafe, a member of the new Austrian Cabinet, is an Irish Viscount. Nothing can equal the men of that nation in turning up in queer places, and often just when wanted.

—Nova Scotia not having seceded as yet, is going to do so in driblets, and also to colonize New Zealand. A shipload of blue noses is going in a co-operative way from halifax shortly.

—It is stated that during the past two years about two thousand persons have been murdered in Texas, with bowie-knife or revolver, and that none of the murderers have been judicially punished.

—Louisville had a grand lark killing excitement the other day. A "celebrated dog Jack" killed one hundred rats in five and a half minutes. Coon drawing was also one of the amusements of the evening.

—Evidently the country is going down hill after Spain as fast as it can. Louisville is to have the honor, however, of inaugurating the latest symptom of the fall. There is to be a bull fight in that lively town.

—Bright, Carlyle and Bismarck all smoke, and their intellect seem, to common observers to be as brilliant as is that of Mr. Parton, who holds himself up as a shining example of great men who do not indulge in the "pleasant weed."

—Brigham Young, the Pope of Polygamists, has remonstrated with his saints on the subject of physicians. He objects at present to their employment, and believes that people will get well, if they are going to at all, without any interference by the faculty.

—A party of English tourists profess to have found the identical pillar of salt where Lot's wife so thoughtlessly turned in, leaving her husband and family to hunt up other lodgings. These English discoverers were utilitarian and late part of the 17th with their hard-boiled eggs.

—We are sorry to hear that Mrs. Grant is affected. Nothing is more disagreeable to the general public than affectation in persons occupying high social positions. The Boston *Post* is our authority for this statement; it says "Mrs. Gen. Grant affects—pink silk."

—When G. P. Train was asked for his autograph in Cincinnati, during his arrest, he wrote for one man,

"Whether on the gallows high,
Or in the battle's van,
The fittest place for man to die,
Is where he dies for man."

For another he wrote, "Pay Alabama claims or fight. Release American citizens in English jails, or war is certain."

—A fair has been opened in London to raise money for the relief of the starving dogs of that city. A more worthy charity could not be found if there were no starving men in London, or the world; but it were perhaps better to let all the dogs, though they are noble and true, starve outright than by so doing one man's life could be kept in him.

—A van of an Irish menagerie, containing a pair of lionesses and a lion, was overturned recently on the road. The lion and the lionesses were confined in separate compartments, but the fall broke down the partition between them, which altogether enraged the forest's monarch so much that he set upon and slew the two females.

—The Boston *Post* is so encouraged at the terrible lashing General Grant has given to Mr. Johnston that it says in its wrath that Washburne and Stanton wrote his letters for him. For our part we can't see how that betters the thing. Stanton has been, if possible, treated in a more disgustingly, rude manner than Lee Grant, and, therefore, has a better right to thrash the President, whose tongue is often too thick to thrash with.

—The proclamation which was posted on the facade of the Mansion House in London, a couple of weeks ago, and which caused much indignant excitement in the Aldermanic circles of London, read as follows: "The Firkinmen of America are united! Irishmen of England, follow their example! Unite, forward, ye fearless sons of Ireland. Stand for the old country!" At the head of this was a harp, the motto, "God save Ireland," and the letters I. R.

—The young men in New Haven "deserve a great deal of credit" for their inventive faculties. They have improved on the fashions of England twenty years ago amazingly. Then the fashionable swell would go miles to be able to find, wrench off and steal a unique knocker from the door of a private house. Now the gay young men of New Haven, who are most fashionably inclined, steal and carry off the gates themselves, thus emulating Samson in their sportive moods.

—The ancients were not intimately acquainted with zoology. We remember that in one of their fables a fox jeers the lioness for bringing forth but one cub, whereas she, the fox, had a whole litter of pups, and the royal beast remarked that that *one* however was a lion. The moral of this was very pointed, but the statements were not facts. The lioness in the zoological gardens at Dublin has just given birth to six cubs, and four or five is by no means an unusual number.

Milling and Dressing Poultry.

Almost every locality has its own system, but I may relevet to a few facts on this subject: Poultry, when killed by death, is much whiter in the flesh. I should advise the following plan, as the very best, causing instant death without pain or disfigurement:

Open the beak of the fowl, then with a pointed and narrow knife, make an incision through the roof of the mouth, which pierces the brain; then take a round stick, four or five feet long, of the diameter, make a gudge in one end and cut a fit to fit the holes located in the rack or ladders, or instead of being gudge, insert staples can be used on the under side of the rack or slat body, which will hold the pulley. Bore two or three holes in a half lever holes in this roller, and you have a windlass similar to those used by blacksmiths for raising cattle. When the wood is placed upon the sled, tackle the binding chinky firmly to the front end of the sled, and passed over the middle of the sled, tackling the other end to the windlass, which being turned, draws the chinks with great force upon the wood, so that not a chink or move until the sledis upset, or the wedges loosened. I the binding chain becomes loose by jolting of the load on the road, you have only to turn the windlass a little, and the chain is tight as before. This is the quickest and most thorough way of fastening loads of wood, hay, on wagon or sled, and often saves the load from turning over, by keeping it in place on the road on slanting places.—*N. E. Homestead.*

The Service Berry—Pyrus Arbutifolia.

The mountains and valleys of British Columbia over which fire has swept, consuming all the timber, and leaving nothing standing after its departure, are covered with a growth of service berry, and the service berry shrub, which does not attain any great size, although I have seen specimens of the Eastern Canada variety, the fruit, large and fine, and fully equal to the best specimens of the Eastern Canada variety. This is needed information. Some years since I received from R. T. Fulkerson, Esq., some plants of a dwarf variety of the service berry, which gave a pleasant little fruit, but its want of character on its own roots led me to neglect it, and I have not it. As a novelty and an ornamental shrub, I prize it this now; that our growers may take hold of and introduce it.—D. R. E.—*Horticulturist for January.*

Bearing Apple Trees.

There is a certain period in the season, when the bark may be stripped wholly from the trunks of apple trees, without destroying them. It must be at a time when some new bark has been put forth beneath the old, thus forming a well-seated coating for a new growth. It is necessary that the old bark be taken off, without rubbing or chafing the new surface. We lately examined a few trees in the town of Brighton, near Rochester, a part of the trees of which had been divested of their bark with this purpose. They were found in a thrifty, healthy condition, the trunks being covered with a smooth, shining bark, of the fairness of about one sixteenth of an inch. We are unable to say how long the season continues, when this operation may be performed with safety, nor what degree of benefit or injury is likely to result. In the present case, the trees were evidently much improved in smoothness of appearance. Have any of our readers had any decided or satisfactory experience in this respect?—*Country Gentleman.*

How to Keep up Your Hay Crop.

A farmer who had been in the habit of selling his hay for many years in succession, being asked how he kept up his hay crop without manuring or cultivating his land, replied, "I never allowed the after swath to be cut." If this rule was generally followed there would be less said about running out of grass fields or short crops of hay. Some farmers feed off every green thing and compel their cattle to pull up and gnaw off the roots of the grass. Cutting rowen is certain death to hay crops. A farmer had better buy hay at forty dollars per ton than ruin his hay field by close grazing. The general treatment of grass lands in this respect is wrong and expensive, and should be abandoned as a matter of profit and economy.—*Wisconsin Farmer.*

The Beech as a Hedge Plant.

I noticed your article in the *Farmer* of November 9th, upon the use of the beech as a hedge plant. I think it may be used with much success, making a beautiful hedge, if care is used in shortening in. I saw many hedges of this kind in Switzerland, Eastern France and Prussia, and was struck with the adaptation of the beech for a thin but effective hedge. It branches little, is stiff and keeps its place. I saw but little that was killed or injured by dry seasons.—*T. L. S., in Maine Farmer.*

WHISKY FOR RATS.—A correspondent of the *Arkansas Conservative*, whose house was overrun with rats, says a servant girl, who had seen the effect of whisky on bipeds, thought she would try an experiment upon rats. Accordingly she took a small quantity, mixed it very sweet with sugar, crumbled in bread enough for the crowd, and set the dish in the cellar. A few hours after she went down and found several rats drunkenly "fuddled," engaged in throwing potato parings, and hauling one another by the ears. These were certainly disposed of, and those not killed left the premises immediately, suffering from a severe headache.

MUCK FOR POTATOES.—The editor of the *Maine Farmer* finds from an experience of many years that muck does well for potatoes on dry land. He advises hauling out muck in the winter on sandy or gravelly pasture, and there allowed to freeze; then, in the spring apply a shovelful of muck in a hill with a tablespoonful of plaster. This course, he says, will bring sound, mealy potatoes, and at least a fair crop. Potatoes in Maine the past season were a small crop and poor in quality.

STATE NEWS.

—The Republicans of Mifflin county have adopted the Crawford county system of nominations.

—It is given out that John M. Cooper, Esq., of Chambersburg, is to be the Democratic candidate for Surveyor General.

—Monroe county has elected a delegate to the State Convention at Philadelphia, and instructed for Grant and Grow.

—At Waterford, Erie county, on Monday last, the mercury or thermometer indicated thirty degrees below zero, the coldest weather in that locality this season.

—Sixty-two steamers in the northern part of the State are now so strongly backed with locks to allow the passage of the largest rafts and most heavily loaded wagons.

—Six hundred copies of such illustrated papers as the Police Gazette are sold in Meadville every week. A plentiful crop of crime and immorality will be the result.

—Dr. Dunn, of Connellsville, recently had a tooth extracted from Mr. Kump for slander, and succeeded in obtaining $700 damages. The slanderous expressions were made at the time when Dr. Dunn was in the array.

—The fire well on the Atkinson Farm, Cranberry Township, which has produced two hundred barrels per day for some time past, commenced to flow on Thursday last. The production is three hundred barrels per day.

—A man who had been at work at the Brady's Bend Iron Company, near Limerick, was found frozen to death on Saturday morning, with his bottle by his side. He was supposed to have died from the effects of his hearthing house.—*Williamsport Record of the Times.*

—On Friday night, the 7th inst., Robt. Young and wife, now living in Harmony, whilom their return home from a visit to Father McElvaine's, missed their wealth in the shape of a purse containing $50 in greenbacks, which they had left in the house. The purse was upset and threw them out, breaking Mrs. Young's collar bone.—*Butler Citizen.*

—The contract for building the Marine Hospital for the Eighth Internal Revenue District, of this city, has been let to Messrs. Lamb, Esq., and other parties, who have gone to Washington to inspect various public hospitals so as to be the better enabled to determine upon the plan.—*Erie Dispatch.*

—In the Dauphin county court, the case of the Commonwealth against the Pennsylvania Railroad Central Company, for not opening ways for fish to pass over the dam, was decided against the Company. The case will go to the Supreme Court to test the constitutionality of the act.

—The County Commissioners of Mercer have purchased the hotel and residence in Mercer of Mr. Hunter, located on the diamond, south of the Court House, and contemplate erecting thereon a new jail the coming spring and summer. This is needed improvement, one recommended time and again by the Grand Jury.

—A fire broke out in George P. Richard's new three story brick building, in Greenville, on Monday last, entirely destroying it. It was not uninsured, and one organized by a pile of shavings in the room, and the store leaning when it was fired. Loss, $4,000.—*Mercer Dispatch.*

—A number of granite, admirably adapted for building purposes, has recently been discovered near Stony Run, in Cumru township, Berks county. The supply is apparently inexhaustible, and the stone is pronounced by competent judges to be of great durability. Blocks may be obtained from twenty to thirty feet in length.

—A few years ago, during the progress of an auction sale at the store of H. Hirsirim, in Freeburg, Snyder county, the floor gave way, and a large number of men and women was precipitated into the cellar. A large stove filled with burning coal also went down with the crowd. Fifty or sixty persons were very badly bruised, bruised and otherwise injured, and it is feared that some of them will not survive.

—The Oil City correspondent of the