

SUNBURY AMERICAN

H. B. MASSER, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OFFICE, CORNER OF CENTRE ALLEY & MARKET STREET.



A Family Newspaper—Devoted to Politics, Literature, Morality, Foreign and Domestic News, Science and the Arts, Agriculture, Markets, Amusements, &c.

NEW SERIES VOL. 1, NO. 43.

SUNBURY, NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, PA., SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 1849.

OLD SERIES VOL. 9, NO. 17.

TERMS OF THE AMERICAN.
 The AMERICAN is published every Saturday at TWO DOLLARS per annum in advance.
 No paper discontinued until all arrearages are paid.
 All communications to the office on business relating to the office, to insure attention, must be POST PAID.

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 To which they respectfully invite the attention
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 Orders per mail (post paid) will be punctually attended to.
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MEYER'S
 FIRST PREMIUM PIANO FORTE.
 THE SUBSCRIBER has been appointed agent for the sale of CONRAD MEYER'S CELEBRATED PREMIUM ROSE WOOD PIANOS, at this place. These Pianos have a plain, massive and beautiful exterior finish, and for depth of tone, and elegance of workmanship, are not surpassed by any in the United States.

These instruments are highly approved of by the most eminent Professors and Composers of Music in this and other cities.

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Suffice it to say that Madame Castellan, W. Y. Wallace, Vieux Temp, and his sister, the celebrated Pianist, and many others of the most distinguished performers, have given these instruments preference over all others.

They have also received the first notice of the three last Exhibitions, and the last Silver Medal by the Franklin Institute in 1843, was awarded to them, which, with other premiums from the same source, may be seen at the Ware-room No. 22 south Fourth st.

Another Silver Medal was awarded to C. Meyer, by the Franklin Institute, Oct. 1845 for the best Piano in the exhibition.

Again—at the exhibition of the Franklin Institute, Oct. 1846, the first premium and medal was awarded to C. Meyer for his Pianos, although it had been awarded at the exhibition of the year before, on the ground that he had made still greater improvements in his instruments within the past 12 months.

Again—at the last exhibition of the Franklin Institute, 1847, another Premium was awarded to C. Meyer, for the best Piano in the exhibition. At Boston, at their last exhibition, Sept. 1847, C. Meyer received the first silver Medal and Diploma, for the best square Piano in the exhibition.

These Pianos will be sold at the manufacturer's lowest Philadelphia price, if not something lower. Persons are requested to call and examine for themselves, at the residence of the subscriber, H. B. MASSER, Sunbury, April 8, 1848-9

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Country Merchants and others purchasing in the above line will find it to their advantage to call before purchasing elsewhere as the quality and prices will be fully guaranteed against all competition.
 Philadelphia, June 3, 1848-9

SELECT POETRY.

(From the Phila. Bulletin.)
THE LOCOMOTIVE.
 BY GUESS WHO.

A song, a song of the wondrous steed,
 That careereth along so fast,
 With his breath joints and his furious speed,
 And his tireless like a fiery blast;
 With his burning trails, and iron bones,
 And voice like a demon's yell,
 As swift as light, and as black as night—
 He looks like an imp from Hell.

No baby did of madder fool,
 Suffice his ravenous gale,
 But stones from the mountain and trees from the wood,
 Scarce furnish his giant meal.
 He hath eaten his fill—he pants to be off—
 His dragon-like hiss is sounding,
 Half frantic with ire he belcheth out fire,
 And see! away he is bounding.

Away, away with a shriek of delight,
 And a puff and a snort and a yell,
 Away, away with the speed of light,
 How fleet this imp of Hell!
 Still faster! still faster! hurrah! hurrah!
 No matter how heavily loaded,
 And the folks as he passes gaze at him with awe
 For he seems by the Evil One goaded.

He scoureth the valleys with thundering tread,
 Ho-ho! how his blood is boiling!
 By homes of the living, by homes of the dead,
 Regardless of all he is toiling.
 He burrows the mountain, he stemmeth the tide
 And we cry sure the mischief is in it!
 As river and main, hill, valley, and plain,
 Are seen and are gone in a minute.

No matter how hot! no matter how cold!
 He heeth not wind or weather;
 He never grows weary, he never grows old,
 He will travel forages together.
 And we unto those that come in his way,
 Be thy friends, or be thy his foes;
 One thrust they will feel of his iron heel,
 As remorselessly o'er them he goes.

Then a screech of delight as his goal comes in sight,
 Ha—ho! I've done it! I've done it!
 Here we come! Here we come! Ha-ha! Ho-ho!
 Good people! I've won it!
 Then a heavier dash, and a swifter rush,
 And I say as I hear his yell,
 In pain or in pleasure, in haste or in leisure,
 Still give me this imp from Hell.

TRAGIC SKETCH.

THE SURGEON'S REVENGE.
 The following deeply interesting story was related by Dr. Gibson, in one of his lectures before the medical class of the University of Pennsylvania. The Hero of the story is Vesale, one of the most eminent of the Italian surgeons.

Andre Vesale, says the manuscript, first saw the light in the city of Brussels, in the year 1514. His father was an apothecary, attached to the service of the Princess Margaret, aunt of the Emperor Charles V., and governor of the low countries.

Up to the period when Vesale first rendered himself conspicuous, the anatomy of the human body was so imperfectly understood, as scarcely to merit that the term of science should be applied to the dim and confused ideas relating to it. Vesale was the first to break through the trammels of which ignorance and bigotry had crippled the march of science; surmounting with admirable courage and constancy, the disgust, the terror, and even the peril, inseparable from this description of labor, in which he had devoted himself, he was to be seen whole days and nights in the cemeteries, surrounded by the festering remains of mortality, or hovering about the gibbets, and disputing with the vulture for its prey, in order to compose a perfect skeleton from the remains of executed animals left there to be devoured by the carrion-bird.

It was during a sojourn at Basle, after his return from Italy, that Vesale first beheld at the house of Hans Holbein, the painter, Isabella Van Steenwyck, the daughter of a merchant at Harlem, who was destined to exercise some influence over his future life. He was scarcely twenty-eight years of age, and already he had attained the summit of well directed ambition.

The family of Van Steenwyck was a wealthy and honorable one, far superior to that of Vesale, in birth and fortune; but the distinguished position the latter had acquired for himself, entitled him to aspire to an alliance even more exalted. The son of the Princess Margaret's apothecary would have been rejected by the rich Harlem burguer; the Emperor's first physician was accepted by him as the most eligible son-in-law. The marriage solemnized, Vesale, accompanied by his young bride, set off for Seville, where Charles then held his court.

She loved her husband, there was so much awe mingled with her affection as to throw an appearance of restraint over her demeanour towards him, even in the privacy of domestic life. The very nature of his profession and occupation was calculated to increase that awe, and even to create some degree of repugnance, in a shrinking mind, which nothing but strong affection could overcome. Isabella's nature required skillful drawing out and tender fostering. Vesale, unfortunately, mistook her temerity for coldness, and resented it accordingly; this led to estrangement on her part, which she attributed to dislike, and jealous distrust at last took possession of his soul.

Amidst the galleries of Seville, where for a woman to be young and attractive, was to command the attention and authorize the devotion of the other sex, it was no difficult task to arouse the susceptibilities of a suspicious husband.

Vesale's house became the resort of all that was noble and gallant in Seville, and for a time believed his own scientific conversation to be the attraction. At first the young wife showed her usual calm indifference to the admiration that followed wherever she was seen; but, at last, something in her manner and countenance; whenever one particular person appeared, or his name was mentioned, betrayed that there did exist a being who had discovered the secret of causing the blood to flow more tumultuously through her veins. That person was Don Alvar de Solis; and as he was young, handsome, gay, and the most inconsistent gallant in Seville, the suspicions of Vesale were painfully aroused. He took silent note of the unusual emotions that agitated Isabella, whenever that nobleman was in her presence.

The general conduct of Don Alvar was calculated to baffle suspicion, being marked by indifference. This would have misled the vigilant husband, had he not, on one occasion when his back was turned towards Don Alvar, perceived him, in an opposite mirror, fix his kindling eyes upon Isabella, with an expression not to be mistaken, while she grew red and pale by turns, and then, as though unable to surmount her agitation, rose and left the room. Shortly after, Vesale received an anonymous note, saying, "Look to your wife and Don Alvar de Solis, they are not deceived by appearance. They only want a fitting opportunity to dishonor you. Even now he carries about him the gloves she dropped for him at mass."

Vesale shut himself up to ponder over the most effectual means of avenging himself. His resolution was promptly taken. He had established schools of anatomy at Lan Lucar and Cordova—obtained the Emperor's permission to visit them, quitted Seville, ostensibly for that purpose, but returned the same night, concealed himself in a tenement belonging to him, at some distance from his abode in Alcazar, which was devoted to the double purpose of a laboratory and dissecting room. He had taken no person into his confidence; he was alone in his vengeance, and he listened to his own counsel. At dark in the following evening, he issued forth, muffled to the eyes in a woman's mantle and hood, and left a note at Don Alvar's habitation, containing an embroidered glove of Isabella's and these words:

"I have obtained the key to Vesale's laboratory, during his absence; be at the gate an hour after midnight, and you will be admitted on pronouncing the name of Isabella."

The assignment was promptly kept by Don Alvar. At an hour past midnight he left his house, alone; but he never returned to it. Whether he had gone none could say; nor could any trace of him ever be discovered. It was supposed he must have missed his footing and fallen in the Guadalquivir, near which his abode was situated; and that his body had been swept away by the waves into the ocean.

Such an occurrence was calculated to produce a great sensation in the place where it had happened; and Vesale, recalled, three weeks after, by the illness of his wife, found the disappearance of Don Alvar the theme of every tongue. The altered appearance of Isabella was attributed, by Vesale, to grief for the mysterious absence of Don Alvar; and that conviction took from him all pity for her sufferings.

It chanced to be the festival of Santa Isabella, and to do honor to her patron saint, as well as to celebrate the return of her husband, Isabella put on her wedding dress, and seated herself by an open casement that overlooked the Alvar gardens, she watched for his coming. But whilst her eyes were vainly fixed upon the path by which she expected him to appear, a hand was laid upon her shoulder, and turning round she beheld Vesale standing by her side.

"Drink this," he said; "it is a sovereign cure for the complaint you are suffering from."
 "Pledge me in the draught," she replied, filling up a goblet from the same flask, and handing it to him, "and it will bring a quicker healing to me. Let us drink to our absent friend, Andre."
 Vesale accepted the offering, and they emptied their goblets together, and they suddenly fixing his eyes upon her, "You have not spoken to me of Don Alvar de Solis. Are all hopes of hearing from him relinquished?" "He was a bargainer and a libertine, and boasted that no woman ever resisted his seductions, that no husband ever suspected the injury he was preparing for him." Then, grasping his wife by the hand he led her up to a door at the farther end of the room, and throwing it wide open, revealed to her view a skeleton, suspended within, holding in one of his bony hands one of her embroidered gloves.

"Behold," he said, pointing to the ghastly spectacle, the gallant and beautiful Don Alvar de Solis—the object of your guilty love—contemplate him well, if the sight can render your moment's happier, for you are about to die too: the wine I have just given you was poisoned!"
 When the last dreadful sentence, and its still more dreadful illustration, burst upon her affrighted senses, she became paralyzed with excess of emotion; the scream which had arisen to her throat, died there, in strangling murmurs, and sinking back, she fell, as one dead upon the arm of Vesale.

She was not dead, however; he had not poisoned her; that crime he had hesitated to commit, yet he was not the less murderer. Convulsion followed convulsion, and at last she died; and, in that supreme moment, the hour that preceded death her husband, who had never quitted her, beheld one of those phenomena which sometimes attend the dying. Awakening from a torpid slumber, consciousness and memory returned at once, and with them a calm and courage she had never possessed in the flush of life.

"Andre," said she, fixing her eyes on her husband, "I am dying by your hand, yet I am innocent; I never wronged you by thought or deed. Don Alvar pursued me with his love and his threats, but I repulsed him. I never loved but you. I feared and honored you as much as I loved, but I dared not tell you of his pursuit. Oh, Andre, believe my words, the dying dead not in falsehoods!" Should I be thus calm were I guilty?"

Vesale, sinking upon his knee, solemnly protested his faith in the innocence of his wife, and, with choking sobs, adjured her to believe that he only feigned to give her poison, that he could not nerve his hand to take away her life; but the terror of death, and not death itself, was upon her! And, while he yet spoke, Isabella murmured—
 "Thanks be to Heaven for this!" and, drawing his hand towards her, laid it upon her heart, and, as he did so, it ceased to beat.

OLD TIME WINTERS.

In 1664 the cold was so intense that the Thames was covered with ice sixty-one inches thick. Almost all the birds perished.

In 1691 the cold was so excessive that the famished wolves entered Vienna and attacked beasts and even man. Many people in Germany were frozen to death in 1695, and the winters of 1697 and 1699 were nearly as bad.

In 1709 occurred that famous winter called by distinction, the cold winter. All the rivers and lakes were frozen, and even the sea for several miles from the shore. The ground was frozen nine feet deep. Birds and beasts were struck dead in the fields, and men perished by thousands in their houses. In the south of France the wine plantations were almost all destroyed nor have they yet recovered that fatal disaster. The Adriatic sea was frozen, and even the Mediterranean about Genoa, and the citron and orange groves suffered extremely in the finest parts of Italy.

In 1716 the winter was so intense that people travelled across the straits from Copenhagen to the province of Senia, in Sweden.

In 1729, in Scotland, multitudes of cattle and sheep were buried in the snow.

In 1740 the winter was scarcely inferior to that of 1709. The snow lay ten feet deep in Spain and Portugal. The Zeyder Zee was frozen over, and thousands of people went over it. And the lakes in England froze.

In 1744 the winter was very cold. Snow fell in Portugal to the depth of 23 feet on a level.

In 1754 and 1755 the winters were very severe and cold. In England the strongest ale, exposed to the air in a glass, was covered in 15 minutes with ice one eighth of an inch thick.

In 1771 the Elbe was frozen to the bottom.

In 1776 the Danube bore ice five feet deep below Vienna. Vast numbers of the feather and finny tribes perished.

The winters of 1784 and 5 were uncommonly severe. The Little Belt was frozen over.

From 1800 to 1812 also, the winters were remarkably cold, particularly the latter, in Russia, which proved so disastrous to the French army.

(From the Phila. Ledger of the 10th inst.)
A FRIGID SCENE.
 Yesterday afternoon, about twenty minutes of 5 o'clock, an appalling occurrence transpired upon the Schuylkill river, in the immediate vicinity of the Fairmount dam, in consequence of which a very large number of persons, who had collected upon the ice in that quarter, were suddenly and unexpectedly submerged in the congealing element. The intensely cold weather for the past week as our readers are aware, had the effect of producing ice above the dam of considerable thickness, furnishing to the ice-dealers a prospect of an abundant supply for their store-houses, and to the skaters and those who are fond of witnessing the dexterity and agility of the latter, unusual sport and gratification.

The ice had formed to the thickness of several inches, and extended to within fifteen feet of the dam, which never freezes over, except when the rigidity of the atmosphere is very intense, and continues for a long period of time. Along the eastern shore of the river there are a number of ice houses, and the establishment nearest to the dam is that of Mr. Kern. Some hundred yards distant from the house the employers of this gentleman had made an opening in the pure ice, and for the purpose of conveying the cakes as they were cut to the depository, a narrow canal was made, extending diagonally from the ice house, in a southwesterly direction.

A large number of persons having collected upon the area of ice which intervened between the dam and the canal, their weight had the effect to cause a fracture, and three men fell into the opening thus made.

As soon as they were observed to fall in, a body of persons rushed to the edge of the ice to rescue them, and they were quickly dragged out of the water. It was apparent that about an acre of ice had separated from the main body, and was floating towards the edge of the dam. By this time a large number of persons had collected upon the ice on the other side, and their great weight had the effect to break off another large piece, also about an acre in size, which moved in the direction of the dam. Those who were upon these huge cakes of ice were principally women and children, who had preferred remaining near the shore, to venturing far out upon the slippery surface. Their consternation became most fearful, when they found themselves being carried towards the dam. Some of the men leaped from one cake to another while others, with females and children in their grasp, sprang into the water, as they neared the brink of the yawning abyss. Some of the women were so terrified, that they sunk upon the ice, and were taken up insensibly from the excess of their emotions.

Those who maintained their presence of mind succeeded in getting a foot-hold upon the shelving breastwork of the dam, and remained standing there until they were taken off in boats. At least seventy persons, it is estimated, were in the water upon the dam at one time, and the fearful scene which was presented it is impossible to describe. As soon as their situation was discovered by person owning boats upon the shore, they put out for their assistance. Four large boats were quickly slid along the ice and launched and the shivering and affrighted sufferers taken on board and safely landed. There were about six inches of water running over the dam at the time of the accident, which was amply sufficient to float a batteau over. The mass of ice, upon reaching the edge of the dam, broke off into small pieces and fell into the current below. But three individuals were carried over the dam, viz: a girl of 11 or 12 years of age, daughter of Morgan Ash; a young woman, domestic in a family in the northwestern part of the city, who took out with her two small children who were separated from her and saved from the danger which threatened them, and a young man a student of medicine from Virginia.

Mr. Abraham King, the proprietor of the hotel at the locks, saw the three descend into the raging waters, and immediately launched his boat and went to their rescue. He succeeded in getting them all on board and brought them to his house. Miss Ash was from thence carried to the premises of Mr. Blackwell, keeper of the refreshment house at Fairmount, where medical aid was summoned. At first pulsation was not perceptible, but after the application of proper remedies she was partially restored. The young woman was taken home from King's and, from appearances, she had sustained very severe internal injuries from the fall, or being struck with some of the pieces of ice. The student seemed to be uninjured.

The heroic conduct of Mr. King, in saving the lives of the above persons at the hazard of his own, was the theme of general praise among those who witnessed the act. The preservation of the lives and limbs of those who were the victims of this unlooked for calamity is truly providential, and their expressions of gratitude to the parties who had so magnanimously come to their relief at the moment when despair was written upon every lineament of their countenances, was loud and deep.

Dr. J. K. Mitchell and other gentlemen of the healing art were fortunately present at the time, and exerted themselves in administering to the wants and giving advice to the sufferers.

The drenched and shivering crowd as soon as relieved from their cold bath, lost no time in obtaining the first conveyance and departing for their homes to change their dripping habiliments, and by six o'clock none remained to tell the story of their sad disaster.

It is impossible to particularize all the events which the eye beheld during the struggle for life on the part of the terrified mass who were visited by this fearful calamity. We, however, give some of the most prominent. We noticed Dr. Storey, his lady and son, of about ten years of age, struggling and buffeting with the broken ice, by the aid of a plank. They were, however, rescued, but not until nearly exhausted by the violence of their efforts, a generous stranger, whose attentions had been drawn to them, laid himself flat upon his face and slid along the edge of the ice until he reached the boy, whom he caught by the hair, and though the ice broke several times, he succeeded in dragging him out of the water.

A young lady, about 18 years of age, was also engulfed in the midst of broken ice, but rescued by the assistance of Mr. Robert Parham and others. Two gentlemen, whose situation among the broken ice was most perilous, after the greatest difficulty, at length reached the shore in safety.

The most terrible encounter was for those who were on the large sheet of ice, which moved towards the edge of dam, separating as it neared the precipice, and carrying over on its fragile surface the persons whom we have mentioned above.

Dr. Storey and his family were taken to a house in Coates street, near Schuylkill Third and was attended by Dr. W. Jewell, who, with the disinterested kindness of the family made them as comfortable as the nature of the cases would admit of. We learn that they are doing well.

THE MILITIA SYSTEM—ADJUTANT GENERAL'S REPORT.

We have furnished you, at an early day, by our Harrisburg correspondent, the report of the Adjutant General, W. H. Irwin, upon the militia system of the Commonwealth, who recommends an entire abolition of militia trainings, as very expensive and altogether useless, but proposes a volunteer organization, calmly pursuing, in times of peace, the ordinary avocations of civil life, but ready at a moment's warning to take the field, exhibiting the steady and disciplined bearing in the presence of an enemy, which, when directed by science, is irresistible. This system, he thinks may be established with less than half the expense of the present absurd system.

The public is not generally aware, we believe, what the burlesque of militia trainings annually costs. It adds at least more than twenty thousand dollars to the debt of the State every year, and of course requires that much additional taxation upon our citizens annually to pay for the folly. As the authorized assessments are found insufficient to raise the required revenue for State purposes, and an increase of taxation will probably be resorted to, it is time that every item which goes to swell the public debt should be strictly inquired into, and all unnecessary and useless expenses be cut off. To show the utility of the militia system of the State we copy from the report the following table of its receipts and expenditures for eighteen years past, and challenge any one to show any benefit corresponding with this enormous outlay:

Years	Militia and Excepted Fines Amount.	Militia Expenses.	Years	Militia Amount.
1826	\$5,120 50	1826	\$23,238 05	
1827	1,518 20	1827	26,666 75	
1828	1,350 70	1828	25,542 50	
1829	3,600 71	1829	17,738 22	
1830	7,847 13	1830	22,090 24	
1831	1,331 41	1831	22,859 00	
1832	2,313 27	1832	21,561 43	
1833	1,693 00	1833	20,776 99	
1834	1,160 70	1834	21,075 87	
1835	2,350 87	1835	21,862 44	
1836	3,164 16	1836	29,601 65	
1837	22 82	1837	22,451 01	
1838	288 58	1838	30,664 21	
1839	812 16	1839	25,981 17	
1840	229 00	1840	33,470 75	
1841	446 58	1841	33,037 81	
1842	13 30	1842	23,164 94	
1843	11 40	1843	42,448 59	
Total	\$32,669 43	Total	473,226 85	
		Don't fines	31,669 43	

Thus it will be seen, that for eighteen successive years the militia expenses have largely exceeded the revenue (the average annual excess being twenty-five thousand dollars), and that in this short time we have expended FOUR HUNDRED AND FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS for no good, or in the words of the Adjutant General, the money has been "thrown away." The plan or outline of the reform he proposes is as follows:

"The present military organization of divisions, brigades, regiments and battalions, and the appropriate officers for these several corps we cannot abolish; it exists by virtue of an act of Congress. Our State Legislature can increase or diminish the number of divisions, the number of brigades being determined by the major general and brigadier generals of any division, and the number of regiments by the brigadier general and the colonels of the regiments of any brigade; but the provisions of the act of Congress of 1792, (which an act of 2d April, 1822, attempted to carry out) must be observed by establishing these distinct corps. Let this be the limit, let the septennial elections be held, the officers duly commissioned, the enrolment be made, (by the assessors,) the returns of brigade inspectors be furnished to the Adjutant General, but let company and battalion trainings, and inspections, be forever abolished, and thus we are at once relieved from the injurious and expensive part of the existing system.

The State will thus be divided by law into volunteer divisions, brigades, &c., entirely distinct from the militia and the appropriate general, staff and field officers will be elected and appointed by the volunteers, to hold their commissions for five years. Let the officers of brigade, and direction inspectors of volunteers, be filled by men who will serve, as all volunteer officers should, gratuitously. To these officers let the duty of inspecting the public arms, &c., be entrusted. Let there be semi-annual military encampments, at each of which there will be a muster, review and inspection of the volunteers—the first encampment, in May, to be by brigade; the second, in October, by regiment. Let every regiment be by law required to perform one term of camp and field duty annually, of not less than five days. Let the colonel of every regiment be required to establish a "Regimental School of Instruction," so that every commanding and subaltern officer may immediately learn his duty, and be qualified to impart instruction to new commissioned officers non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates, in each volunteer corps, correspond with that in the regular army; and let a neat cheap, and soldierly uniform be substituted for the gaudy, expensive and unserviceable one, now generally affected by our volunteer corps. Let the term of service to secure exemption from military duty, (except during a war,) be reduced from seven to five successive years. Let the most rigid accountability for arms, equipments, &c., be insisted on all reports, returns and muster rolls, &c., be made strictly after the forms furnished by the Adjutant General of the State.

The young men of this State should particularly be induced to form volunteer corps. Let them, early in life, enter the corps of

their choice, be enrolled therein, serve one year at least in the ranks, and six months as a non-commissioned officer, before being eligible to a commissioned office; and having served faithfully as a volunteer officer, or private for five successive years, be forever exempt from military duty in time of peace.

This part of the system, serving in the ranks for the year, ought to be indispensable in all who join volunteer corps.

To sustain the proposed change of which I have sketched an outline, I would recommend that each county of the State contribute by a tax in proportion to its population, to be levied as the ordinary taxes now are. The trifling sum of from fifteen to twenty cents for each citizen subject to military duty, will produce at once a sufficient and available revenue to defray all the military expenses of this State. There was in Pennsylvania, in 1847, two hundred and thirty odd thousand militia, and twenty-four thousand volunteers. When, by the proposed reform, so much of the expense is removed, how light, how trivial the tax to sustain merely the organization of the militia and the volunteer system.

LETTING OUT.—An Irish tailor making a gentleman's coat and vest too small, was ordered to take them home and let them out. Some days after, the gentleman inquiring for his garments, was told by the ninth part of an Irishman that the clothes happening to fit a countryman of his, he had let them out at a chilling a week.

CHANCE FOR AUTHORS.—A prize of \$100 is offered by the Scientific American for the best essay, of not more than twenty pages, on the Patent Laws of the United States and their improvement.

A "BIG ONE."—We can't vouch for the truth of the following, from the Boston Post: "A man in Chatham, N. Y., has a frog 22 years old, which weighs 172 pounds! It is kept in a cellar, and fed on corn meal and cabbage."

HORRORS OF THE SLAVE TRADE.—A letter from Capt. Eden, of the British man-of-war Amphitrite, dated Bights of Benin, Oct. 3d, says that 690 slaves were lately murdered by the chiefs at Palma, who were unable to dispose of them.

BEGINNING THE YEAR RIGHTLY.—The Brooklyn Eagle of the 8th, contains the following letter, received on Thursday by Mr. David Coepe, of Brooklyn:—

"Sir—I knew a person once that bought \$12,000 of you, with full expectation of paying you; you neglected to charge it—his honesty was not very positive, so that it has now reached, principal and interest, \$19,500. You will find \$20 enclosed; the change you may keep to give away. This is a New Year's resolution. Truly, O—"

MR. H. H. EARL, of Newark, N. J., cut and put up on Monday and Tuesday, one ton of ice every two minutes, for 10 hours—ice 10 and 12 inches thick.

THE FISHERMAN.

BY JOHN G. SANK.

There lived an honest fisherman,<