

The First of April.

Those of our subscribers who intend moving about the first of April, will please let us know, so that the "Register" may be sent to them at their new places of residence.

Indian Entertainment.

One of the best entertainments given to our citizens for some time consisted of that given by the family of Indians, on Wednesday evening last, in the Odd Fellow's Hall, the head of which is the hereditary Chief of the Chippewa Tribe.

The Steamboat.

The Steamer Major Barneel, after many trials and a deep conviction that there is no such word as fail, arrived at Easton on Thursday afternoon.

Thunder Shower.

On Sunday afternoon, several showers of heavy rain fell in this place, unaccompanied to settle our muddy streets, and with our street crossings and sidewalks of mud and dirt.

Free Banking.

Our friends Bowen & Meredith of the West Chester, Pa., "Register and Examiner," in their article on the New York Bank System, have rather over-reached the mark.

Coins of the U. States.

The bill reported by Mr. Hunter, of the States Senate, a day or two ago, in relation to the coinage of the country, provides that from and after the 1st of June, 1862, the weight of the half dollar is to be 192 grains.

Manayunk and the Tariff.

The industrious and enterprising citizens of Manayunk are holding meetings in reference to alterations in the present tariff law. They want dye stuffs and other materials used in arts and manufactures, which cannot be grown or produced in this country, to be admitted duty free.

The "Ledger."

The "Pennsylvania" copies and endorses a "brief article on the money department of the Ledger" of Tuesday, as showing the mode to check special legislation. That the Pennsylvania should endorse the Ledger in any endeavor to rid the State of monopolies, is strange.

International Magazine.

The March number of the International Magazine is upon our table. It is an admirable number, beautifully illustrated, and enriched with a variety of original contributions from American authors of the highest distinction.

Union House,

Arch st., between 3rd and 4th, Phila., March 15th, 1852.

I am not informed whether you are aware that our worthy Host, Col. Webb, late of the "Eagle Hotel," 3rd street, has changed his quarters, and is now occupying his newly built house, which I think is one of the best in the city.

Herewith I forward to you a brief statement of the origin and progress of the slating business in Lehigh county. At the mouth of Fell's creek, ten miles north of Allentown, the bed of the Lehigh river presents a smooth and level surface, being a slate rock.

The Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company found this a favorable spot to build a dam for the purpose of forming a reservoir, in order to create artificial freshets for their (then) only descending navigation. A dam fourteen feet high was built, which soon became widely known, under the name of "Slate Dam."

This soon attracted the attention of Mr. Thomas Symmington, an enterprising gentleman and experienced slater, of the city of Baltimore, who, in 1828, came to the Slate Dam in search of roofing slate. He soon discovered, about one mile west of the Slate Dam, in North Whitehall township, near Fell's Creek, a place where, in his opinion, roofing slate could be quarried.

We have received a copy of this valuable semi-monthly publication, published by Oliver Dyer, Esq., at No. 257, Broadway, New York. It is devoted to Music and Literature, and so conducted as to receive the warmest encomiums of the press both religious and secular.

Pennsylvania Statistics.

From the late Census Reports we collect the following statistics and interesting information with regard to our good old Commonwealth:

In 1790 the population of Pennsylvania was 434,373. In 1800 it was 602,365, the ratio of increase for the ten years being 38.6. In 1810 the population was 810,091. The ratio of increase for the ten years being 34.4. In 1820 the population was 1,049,455, the ratio of increase being 29.5. In 1830 the population was 1,348,233, the ratio of increase from 1820 to 1830 being 28.5. In 1840 the population was 1,724,083, the ratio of increase for the ten years being 27.9. In 1850 the population was 2,311,766, the ratio of increase from 1840 to 1850 being 31.09, or greater than any preceding ten years, since 1810.

Amount of Imports.—In 1850, the following were among the imports into this country: Of woolen goods, \$17,161,509; Cotton, 20,008,719; Silk, 10,694,818; Total, \$50,865,046.

Free traders think it all right to give over fifty millions of dollars in one year to foreign nations, instead of spending it in bettering the condition and filling the purses of American laborers. No true American can fail to detest the policy which prefers encouraging the labor of other lands to that of our own.

The Lancaster County Agricultural Society, are making efforts to have the next State Fair, held at or near Lancaster. About \$2500 have been subscribed as a kind of bait, but the sum is not sufficiently large. If the Fair were held in Philadelphia county the Society would receive such a sum for admission into the exhibition, as would place it on a firm basis, and we will answer for it that Philadelphia City is large enough to accommodate all our country friends who attend.—Sun.

Over one thousand new buildings will be put up in Cincinnati, this spring.

Slate Quarries in Lehigh County.

The following communication we take from the last number of that excellent monthly agricultural periodical, the "Plough, the Loom, and the Anvil." It gives a true and accurate account of the rise and progress of the Slating business in Lehigh county, and is from the pen of our esteemed friend, Edward Kohler, Esq.:

Herewith I forward to you a brief statement of the origin and progress of the slating business in Lehigh county. At the mouth of Fell's creek, ten miles north of Allentown, the bed of the Lehigh river presents a smooth and level surface, being a slate rock.

The Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company found this a favorable spot to build a dam for the purpose of forming a reservoir, in order to create artificial freshets for their (then) only descending navigation. A dam fourteen feet high was built, which soon became widely known, under the name of "Slate Dam."

This soon attracted the attention of Mr. Thomas Symmington, an enterprising gentleman and experienced slater, of the city of Baltimore, who, in 1828, came to the Slate Dam in search of roofing slate. He soon discovered, about one mile west of the Slate Dam, in North Whitehall township, near Fell's Creek, a place where, in his opinion, roofing slate could be quarried.

We have received a copy of this valuable semi-monthly publication, published by Oliver Dyer, Esq., at No. 257, Broadway, New York. It is devoted to Music and Literature, and so conducted as to receive the warmest encomiums of the press both religious and secular.

Pennsylvania Statistics.

From the late Census Reports we collect the following statistics and interesting information with regard to our good old Commonwealth:

In 1790 the population of Pennsylvania was 434,373. In 1800 it was 602,365, the ratio of increase for the ten years being 38.6. In 1810 the population was 810,091. The ratio of increase for the ten years being 34.4. In 1820 the population was 1,049,455, the ratio of increase being 29.5. In 1830 the population was 1,348,233, the ratio of increase from 1820 to 1830 being 28.5. In 1840 the population was 1,724,083, the ratio of increase for the ten years being 27.9. In 1850 the population was 2,311,766, the ratio of increase from 1840 to 1850 being 31.09, or greater than any preceding ten years, since 1810.

The industrious and enterprising citizens of Manayunk are holding meetings in reference to alterations in the present tariff law. They want dye stuffs and other materials used in arts and manufactures, which cannot be grown or produced in this country, to be admitted duty free.

The "Pennsylvania" copies and endorses a "brief article on the money department of the Ledger" of Tuesday, as showing the mode to check special legislation. That the Pennsylvania should endorse the Ledger in any endeavor to rid the State of monopolies, is strange.

The Lancaster County Agricultural Society, are making efforts to have the next State Fair, held at or near Lancaster. About \$2500 have been subscribed as a kind of bait, but the sum is not sufficiently large. If the Fair were held in Philadelphia county the Society would receive such a sum for admission into the exhibition, as would place it on a firm basis, and we will answer for it that Philadelphia City is large enough to accommodate all our country friends who attend.—Sun.

Over one thousand new buildings will be put up in Cincinnati, this spring.

Weight of Stone Coal.

The frauds in weighing coal have at last attracted the attention of the Legislature. A bill is now before the General Assembly, which proposes to appoint a public weigher, who may appoint deputies. There are scales to be put up in each district, where all coal intended to be sold for use shall be weighed before delivery.

Another plan also before the Legislature provides for the licensing of any person to act as weigher who takes the proper oath—an arrangement which would give to every coal yard its own special officer. The latter plan would be very convenient to coal dealers, but would put the public weighers entirely too much in their power.

The coal dealers of Philadelphia, the "Dispatch" says, have held a meeting and determined that the bills proposed to the Legislature are objectionable. They have appointed a committee to frame a law, such as they think would be fair to seller and consumer.

One gentleman (Mr. Pierson) thought that two thousand pounds was as much as any horse could draw without injuring himself, and he thought that the standard weight of the ton should be altered to that amount. This suggestion is humane to the horses, but would act disadvantageously to consumers.

Mr. Davis does not propose that the wholesale standard should be reduced from two thousand two hundred and forty pounds, but only the retail measure. There are many objections to make a difference between wholesale and retail measure, and even if the general coal ton was two thousand pounds, the difference between that and the usual ton weight for other commodities would lead to many serious difficulties and mistakes.

The bill before the Legislature proposes to give the weighers six cents for every ton weighed in public scales. This is entirely too high, and would make the coal weigher the most lucrative post in the country. We do not know that there are any statistics of the amount of coal used in Philadelphia in the course of a year. Last year, four millions nine hundred and twenty thousand tons of Anthracite were brought to Richmond by the Reading railroad, and one million two hundred and eleven thousand six hundred and fifteen tons shipped from thence to other ports.

The balance remained in the hands of dealers. Much of it probably found its way into the interior of the State, or was exported at the wharves by wholesale dealers. We must remember, too, that the produce brought by the Lehigh and Schuylkill canals are not included in these estimates. We therefore may compute that the sales of coal not intended for transportation are immense. One or two cents per ton will be amply sufficient to make the weigher's office one greatly to be desired.

Destroyer Rifle.—An American of the name of Jones has invented a rifle which fires twenty-five distinct shots with one loading. The rifle says the Liverpool [England] Chronicle, has the appearance of the ordinary double barreled gun, with the exception that the barrels are placed one above the other, and the lower barrel is rather shorter than the upper. In the lower barrel are placed twenty-five bullets of a conical shape, each about an inch in length. The upper part of these bullets is charged with powder, and, by a slight movement of a small lever, they are brought into the upper barrel one after the other as the previous one is discharged from it. In the stock there is a small box for holding a number of detonating pills, quite on the homoeopathic principle, which one by one fall under the hammer of the trigger, and do the duty of the ordinary copper caps. On Monday a week the operator discharged his gun twenty-four times in a minute, and said that he could load and reload his gun and fire it one hundred and twenty-five times in less than five minutes. The gun is under the consideration of the Board of Ordnance.

Transplanting.—Lose no time in transplanting fruit, shade, or ornamental trees. Plant out new shrubs, vines, &c. Continue to make strawberry plantations; plant cuttings of grapes, figs, roses, &c.; be certain to have a fresh, clean cut put in the ground, when a cutting is planted. Regularly grow in the soil, and to prune its top just in proportion to loss of roots. Do not erump the roots, but give them all the room they originally had; a healthy start is at least two years in the growth of a tree; and who has years enough to spare that he can afford to lose two years? We give these oft-repeated cautions at the risk of tiring some of our readers, and yet we fear the many will not heed them. "Plant a tree, should be the motto of every hearth, stone, and how and when to plant it, should be engraved upon every heart. Now, plant trees, shrubs, and vines.

Important Law.—"An act to provide for a Registration of Marriages, Births, and Deaths," was passed near the close of the session of the last Legislature and handed to Gov. Johnston for approval. It has become the law of the Commonwealth agreeably to the Constitution, not having been sent back within three days of the meeting of the present general Assembly. As we understand the law, it will go into effect from and after the first day of July, ensuing. In order to carry out this law, it will be necessary for the Registers in the different counties to publish it in every newspaper. Otherwise many persons will remain in ignorance of its provisions, and we hope newspaper publishers will not be so "green" as to publish it for nothing—as it will be a source of revenue to the Register, they should give it authentic publication.

Eastern Industry.—The Boston Traveller notices the following facts of trade that it industriously city: "During the last five months, over 85,000 cases of boots and shoes have been shipped from this port. In the same time nearly 120,000 bales of cotton have been landed here. The receipts of coal from Philadelphia alone, last year, were over 300,000 tons. Every thing else used in manufacturing and required for home consumption; is in about the same proportion.

GLEANINGS.

It is said that Gov. Kossuth has contracted with some two or three manufacturers in Cincinnati for one thousand saddles, at \$12 each. The Tennessee Legislature has passed a Free Banking Law.

The dog population of the United States is estimated at about two millions, and the expense of keeping them at upwards of \$10,000,000 per annum.

The mileage of Gen. J. Lane, Delegate from Oregon, has been put upon the same footing as that of other members of Congress, which gives him about \$7,500 each Congress.

The age of Presidential candidates is as follows: Cass and Webster about 70; Houston, Scott, Marey and Butler, over 60; Buchanan, 62; Lane, 59; Fillmore, 53; Douglas, and Walker, about 40.

Chevalier Wikoff, and the Courier of Miss Gamble, have been sentenced to fifteen months imprisonment, by the tribunals of Genoa, for their attempt upon the fortune of that lady. Mr. Wikoff was formerly editor of the "Democratic Review," in this country.

The Norristown Gas Company, just incorporated by the Legislature, is already organized and gone to work.

Mr. Lorenzo Seibert, of Woodstock, Va., has invented a brick machine that will turn out from 50,000 to 100,000 bricks per day.

Drunkenness turns a man out of himself and leaves a beast in his room. "I am very much afraid of lightning," said a pretty girl. "And well you may be," replied her despairing lover, "as your heart is made of steel."

The Louisiana Democratic State Convention has elected Delegates to the National Convention, with instructions to support Gen. Cass for the Presidency.

The Delaware and Raritan Canal was opened on Monday.

Payerclay & Perkins, the great London brewers, have a clear annual profit of a million dollars.

The proprietors of the Philadelphia Ledger have ordered two new printing presses at a cost of \$25,000 each.

"Ma'am, your shawl is dragging in the mud." "Well, suppose it is, isn't it fashionable?" "Do you know," said a cunning yankee to a Jew, "that they hang Jews and Jackasses together in Portland?"

"Indeed, brother, then it's well you and I are not there."

"That's what I call a fair shake" as the Illinois squatter said when he shook his toe nails off with the axe.

The lawyer who believes it's wicked to lie is spending a week with the old Quaker who indulges in marine horripipes.

"Of the dead, speak only what is good."

Cast iron cents have been put in circulation again. The fellow who would be guilty of counterfeiting coppers in this golden age should be sent to the penitentiary.

Philadelphia ale is consumed extensively in all the principal places of the Union. It is of superior quality.

A Cincinnati editor is dunning his subscribers, and says he has responsibilities thrown upon him which he is obliged to meet.

England imports from the continent a hundred thousand eggs annually.

Gov. Digler has appointed George M. Dallas as Counsel for the State in the case of Rachel Parker, the colored girl abducted from Chester County, and now in jail at Baltimore.

Mr. Clay's health has so much improved that he is expected to take his seat in the Senate in a few days.

I. O. of O. F.—The benevolent institution of Odd Fellows in the United States numbers 200,000 members. There are 2325 Lodges and 600 Encampments in the United States. The amount of revenue for the year 1851 was \$1,200,000. The amount paid the same year for relief was nearly \$500,000.

American Colleges.—There are in the United States two hundred and seventeen colleges and professional schools. Of this number one hundred and twenty are colleges proper, forty-three theological, seventeen law, and twenty-seven medical schools. Out of the aggregate, Pennsylvania has twenty-one—consisting of eight colleges, seven theological, two law, and four medical schools. The number of volumes contained in the libraries of the colleges, exclusive of those of the professional schools, is, as estimated by returns, 871,800.

The French President.—The partisans of Louis Napoleon say, with a chuckle, since his last act of treason, that he has shown the world "he is not the fool folks took him for," and declare that he is a "long headed fellow." No doubt his head is too long—it should be cut off.

New Invention.—A man named Papp, living in Philadelphia, has invented glass coffins. They are made air tight, and of sufficient strength to prevent bulging. The durability of glass is well known, and the remains of the departed being entirely protected, decomposition goes on very slowly.

Wonderful Aeronautic Exhibition.—One day last week, Mr. Robert Shields, of Mackretille, raised a kite, from Kentucky Hall, 90 Perry street, New York, on a wagger of five hundred dollars. The kite is composed of wire and silk; is ten feet long by seven wide; and is so constructed that it expands or contracts in proportion to the surrounding atmospheric pressure. This is one of the greatest scientific, aeronautic inventions of the world ever produced, and the exhibition attracted the attention of thousands upon thousands. We have not heard the result of the experiment; but four miles was the altitude said to be gained by the kite.

Good Business.—The travel on the Pennsylvania Railroad is quite brisk. As high as 230 passengers, in one train of cars, travelling eastward, and on the same day, 308 going westward, indicate the number of persons moving on that new, prosperous, and now nearly completed railroad. The Company are likewise transporting about 100 tons of Merchandise, westward, daily, and an immense freight going eastward.

Tall Bridge.

There is a bridge in the course of construction on the Buffalo and New York City railroad, where it crosses the Genesee River, near Port, ageville. When completed it will be 230 feet high and 600 feet span; stone piers set on the bed of the rock, are carried up 30 feet high from the bed of the river, a few rods above the upper falls. From the top of the piers, the woodwork rises 200 feet, and so perfect is the model of the bridge (that may be seen on the ground) that it is thought there will not be the least tremor or motion, under the heaviest train of cars that may ever have occasion to pass over it. The timber grown on 160 acres has already been exhausted, and 50 acres more purchased. It is thought 210 acres will afford timber enough to complete the superstructure. Some idea may be formed of the size of the bridge as it takes over thirty tons of iron bolts alone.

California.—By the latest advices from California, it appears that more attention was being paid to the cultivation of the soil. This is as it should be. California will never become a wealthy and prosperous State so long as she is dependent upon other countries for the necessities of life. A San Francisco correspondent of the Journal of Commerce, says: "Immense quantities of barley and wheat have been and are still in process of being sown in our valley. Thousands and tens of thousands of acres are being occupied and tilled by the husbandman the present season. Seed wheat has been greatly sought after at 6 to 8c. per pound.

"Great attention is being turned to horticultural pursuits, and seeds of all kinds have been in active request; others are forming nurseries, and ransacking the city for apple seeds, peach pits, &c., and paying their weight in gold dust for all they can lay hands on. Thousands of fruit trees will be planted this year, the quantity only limited by the scanty supply from the Atlantic nurseries.

"Agricultural implements of all kinds have been in very active request, but the season is now drawing to a close, and the deficiency in ploughs has been made up by arrivals from Oregon of about two hundred or more, made in Boston, and sent there for sale. But California is to take the lead of Oregon, and she must succumb to our young State, even in the farming line—the gold mines we will say nothing—as our hills and valleys can speak for themselves."

New Brick Machine.—A machine for the manufacture of bricks is shortly to be put in operation in Louisville. The inventor is a native of England, and is now in that city. It is said that the machine when constructed will manufacture bricks ready for use in the short space of thirty six hours, and at a cost of at least fifty per cent less than the usual mode of manufacturing them.

Improved Collar for Horses.—Mr. P. F. Hicks, of Bristol, Ontario Co., N. Y., has taken measures to secure a patent for an improvement in Breast Collars for Horses, which consists in making the collar of such a form that the shoulder-blades of the animal are allowed free and expanded action when going fast or drawing heavy loads. The collar is an elastic one, with the lower part forming a loop, and the upper ends bent over at right angles with the sides of the bow. It is well known that the common stuffed collar has a kind of choking effect when a horse is drawing a heavy draft, and for this reason many have preferred the Dutch harness, which has no collar. This collar obviates that evil, and presents all the advantages of the stuffed one.

Governor's Question.—A movement of inquiry has been made in the Legislature, as to the propriety of building a permanent residence for the Governor of the Commonwealth.

Leap-Year Parties.—Among the many unusual incidents attendant upon the occurrence of leap year, are the so-called "leap year parties," that are being given at various places. On Friday evening last, one of these parties was given in Philadelphia—it was gotten up by the ladies; the whole order of things was reversed—the ladies, according to leap-year etiquette, being required to do the agreeable, and the gentlemen to occupy their seats while the ladies were soliciting the pleasure of their hands for the quadrille. We should like to attend a party of this kind, merely for the purpose of experiencing the feeling that would be likely to pervade a person's breast when asked by a lady for his hand—in the next dance. Wonder how one of these parties would take in Allentown?

Cotton from Oats Straw.—An English paper states that an amateur chemist, of Nottingham, while engaged in testing Clausen's process for making flax cotton, tried it upon oats straw, when, to his astonishment, after the silica was dissolved, he obtained a large quantity of good straw cotton; of this we have no doubt, as paper—very coarse to be sure—is made out of straw, and shows that it contains cloth-producing material.

On the 6th, on motion of Mr. Laury, the bill appointing three commissioners to investigate the conduct of the officers and concerns of the Northampton Bank, was taken up, read twice, debated at length by Messrs. Bonham, Jackson, Lilly, Laury, Gillis and Flanagan, and defeated—yeas 21—nays 52.

Newspaper to be Sold.—The establishment of the "Somerset Whig," at Somerset, N. J., will be sold by the Sheriff, on the 24th inst. The proprietor, Mr. Allen N. Wilson, recently died, and the establishment must be sold. Somerset is a Whig county, and contains an active and prosperous population. An enterprising young Whig with industrious habits, and a small capital, could make a profitable investment by purchasing the concern, which will no doubt be sold very cheap. We would recommend the position as agreeable and remunerative.

Last week a terrible murder took place in York, Pa. A girl named Basler, about 12 years of age, killed her sister, not ten years old, because the deceased threatened to tell her mother that she had stolen some trifling article.