

THE NEW YEAR.

The Past, the Present, and the Future.

While systems change, and suns retire, and worlds blunder and wake—Time's ceaseless march proceeds!

We tender the compliments of the season to our readers! The commencement of a New Year is ever an important period. It forms a sort of point or pause-way in the journey of life, at which we may linger for a few moments, or hours, and ponder upon the past, glance at the present, and then determine our policy for the future.

How rapidly hasten on the years! How brief is the pilgrimage of mortality! A little while we are here, and then we are gone! The world rolls on, and our departure is scarcely noticed. The bubbles of the present enchant all eyes, and in grasping and clutching at them, how many of us are apt to forget our responsibilities and duties!

What have you done for yourself, and what for your fellow creatures? Has your career been brightened by deeds of humanity? Have your heart and your hands been "open" to the appeals of charity? Have you soothed the afflicted—have you assisted the unfortunate—and have you been faithful to all your obligations? These are queries appropriate to the occasion.

Alas! how few are able to answer them in the right spirit! How few can look back upon the past, without discovering much error and injustice! But, the present is the period for amendment. The season is opportune for reform, and it should not be derogated or neglected. The Republic has passed through a fiery ordeal within the last twelve months. The Union itself has seemed to be in danger.

But—thanks to a beneficent Providence—the storm has gone by, and the future again looks bright and beautiful. The danger, however, is not entirely over. The elements of discord and dissatisfaction still exist, Ultras and Disorganizers are still abroad in the land. It therefore requires the moderate and the patriotic to be vigilant and watchful.

Let us show that we appreciate the rich legacy of our fathers, by preserving and protecting it. Let us prove true to the Union, and thus not only true to the sacred trust confided to us, but to the memories of the cherished dead, and to the cause of Liberty and Republicanism throughout the world.

Our government is the fruit of wisdom, of philosophy, of patriotism and experience. It was formed upon the hard and patient patience of our fathers, and it will be preserved only by the exercise of some of the virtues that animated the bosoms of our ancestors.

The Holidays.

The observance of the high Christmas holiday, was very general throughout our Borough. Business was universally suspended, and religious services performed in all the Churches.

The day was an unpleasant one, the rain which had fallen for several days previously, made the streets and crossings very muddy, rendering pedestrianism exceedingly disagreeable, and interfered much with the custom of making calls.

New Year's Eve, is the time for the sports of the youth. Every gun and pistol that could be raked up, was brought in requisition, and powder and percussion gave evidence of their explosive properties.

The firing commenced early in the evening, and continued unabated through the entire night. The practice of allowing children to thus exhibit their military and manly propensities may be exceedingly gratifying to their parents, but it is very annoying to the public.

The Concert. The Concert on New Year's evening, was well attended, in fact the Hall was crowded. The performance was excellent and speaks well for the musical talent of our place.

Gold Half Dollars. On Saturday last, says the Norristown Watchman, we were shown, by the Rev. J. G. Ralston, of this Borough, a beautiful little gold coin of half a dollar denomination.

The Ball Season. Has fairly commenced. On Friday evening, one of those parties came off at the Union House, of Messrs Roth & Baum, and the "trip on the light fantastic toe," was performed after the approved teachings of Col. De Korpony.

Large Turkeys. Jacob Eastburn, of Solebury township, Bucks county, sold a Turkey from his flock last week, in the Philadelphia market, that weighed thirty pounds when dressed.

The Country Gentleman. This is the title of a new weekly journal, for the Farm, the Garden, and the Fireside. It was long contemplated by Mr. Downing the late editor of "The Horticulturist," and is now carried into effect by Luther Tucker, publisher of the Albany Cultivator.

West Branch Bank. We learn from the Evening Bulletin, that in the Supreme Court of this State, sitting in Philadelphia, a Quo Warranto was issued on Tuesday morning, directed to the Sheriff of Lycoming county, summoning the Bank to appear before the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, on the 10th day of January next, at 10 o'clock.

Robbery. On the evening of the 15th of December, a young man by the name of Joseph Bowman, was robbed of about \$600, in rather a respectable house, in this Borough. The money is supposed to have been taken by Geo. W. Horn and James Irlie, who were very sociable with Mr. Bowman, on the evening in question.

A Large Hog. Mr. Nathan Weiler, of North Whitehall, killed his mammoth Hog on Monday the 27th of December. It weighed 776 pounds. Who can beat it!

Meeting of the Soldiers of 1812.

At a large meeting of Soldiers, and heirs of Soldiers of the war of 1812, of the Borough of Allentown and its vicinity, held at the house of J. W. Esbach, on the evening of December 23, 1852.

Resolved, That in looking over and reading the proceedings of a meeting of the surviving Soldiers of the war of 1812, of the city of Philadelphia, held at the County Court House, on the evening of December 11, 1852, we the soldiers of this vicinity cordially agree with the sentiments expressed in their resolutions, and heartily confirm them.

Resolved, That the special thanks of this meeting are hereby tendered to the Hon. J. B. SURANLAW, for his early, active, and unceasing exertions to procure the passage of a law to satisfy the just claims of those who stepped forward to defend their country on land and sea in time of peril.

Resolved, That in granting 120 acres of land to these of the soldiers who received 40 acres, and 160 to those who have not as yet received any, Congress will more fully conform with the wishes of the public, than by passing an act to give to actual settlers 160 acres; whereas by receiving only 40 acres, very few will be induced to move to the far distant West; but by granting 160 acres, a great many of the younger portion of the survivors or heirs will be induced to go.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the Hon. THOMAS ROSS, our Member of Congress of this district, and also one copy to each of our Senators.

Resolved, That the editors of newspapers of our county, be requested to give these proceedings a place in their columns.

Testimonial in Dr. J. S. Helfrich.—A beautiful cane, says the Philadelphia Sun, was shown to us, made by John B. Palmer, to be presented through the Union Mission Sunday School to Dr. J. S. Helfrich, formerly of Allentown, for his efficient services as a teacher. The cane is of ebony, gold mounted, and has a large and valuable amethyst in the top. It is the most beautiful cane we have ever seen.

Philadelphia and the Lehigh Valley. Six thousand shares of stock of the Philadelphia, Easton and Water Gap Railroad Company have been subscribed.

We are indebted to the Trenton True American, for the foregoing information. It is gratifying to know that so much has been done, little as it is, towards starting this enterprise. The apathy of Philadelphians, in longer delaying subscriptions to the stock of this company, is most unaccountable.

Expected Vice President Vacancy. The alarming illness of Mr. King, has induced a delicate discussion, as to what will be done should he die before the electoral vote is declared. In art. 2, sec. 5, of the Constitution of the United States, it is provided that Congress may by law, provide for the case of removal, death, resignation, or inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what officer shall then act as President, and such officer shall act accordingly until the disability be removed or a President shall be elected.

Another article, the 12th of the amendments, provides that "the person having the greatest number of electoral votes as Vice President shall be the Vice President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed, and, if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose the Vice President." The Congress could hardly declare a dead person elected, and would have to fall back upon Mr. Graham, the second highest candidate, but for the provisions of the fifth section of the second article, under which the right will be assumed to declare by law, the Vice Presidency vacant.

In this case a President of the Senate would be elected who would perform the Vice Presidential duties, and succeed Gen. Pierce in the event of his death. Col. Johnson was the only Vice President ever elected by the Senate, on account of "no person having a majority." George Clinton and Eldridge Gerry, chosen Vice Presidents at the successive elections of Madison, died in office, and were succeeded respectively by William H. Crawford and John Gaillard, as pro tem. Presidents of the Senate, which offices they filled during the sickness, and to which they were re-elected upon the occasion of the death of the Vice President.

On the opening of the session of 1813, to April 17, 1814 Joseph B. Varnum was President pro tem of the Senate, on account of the illness of Mr. Gerry, but Mr. Gaillard occupied the chair in Nov., 1814, when Mr. Gerry died.

Premiums for Field Crops.

We transfer to our columns the following notice which we find in the Harrisburg papers: "At a meeting of the executive committee of the State Agricultural Society, Dec. 10, 1852, it was

Resolved, That competition for premiums for field crops be invited until Saturday, the 15th of January next; that the list of premiums be published in a Harrisburg, Pittsburg, Lancaster and Germantown newspaper and that editors throughout the State friendly to the cause of Agriculture be requested to give this notice an insertion in their paper.

Competitors must furnish a full statement of the mode of cultivation, and accompany the same with the certificate of two respectable men, as to the product and measurement of the ground, and also exhibit a sample of each crop at the annual meeting in January, when the premiums will be awarded.

A. O. HEISTER, Harrisburg, MICHAEL DOUDLE, York, JACOB FRANTZ, Lancaster, R. C. WALKER, Sec'y. Committee. Harrisburg, December 11th, 1852.

Agricultural Productions of Field Crops. For best 5 acres of Corn, \$15. Best acre of do 8. " 5 acres of Wheat, 15. " acre of do 10. " acre of Irish potatoes, 10. " half acre do 10. " 5 acres of Rye, 10. " 5 acres of Oats, 10. " 5 acres of Barley, 10. " 5 acres of Timothy, 10. " 5 acres of Clover, 10. " quarter acre of Carrots, 8. " quarter acre of Ruta Baga, 8. " quarter acre of Sugar Beets, 8. " quarter acre of Mangel Wurzel, 8. " quarter acre Turnips, 8.

We hope to see our Lehigh county farmers stirring up and carrying off at least some of these prizes.

Musical Matters. "Music is the only art which can calm the agitation of the soul and put the devil to flight," says Martin Luther, and Luther is good authority on this point; he was a good musician; and, according to all accounts, when the devil came peering over his shoulder, and tried to retard his labor of translating the bible, Luther would seize his flute, and pouring forth a flood of heavenly melody, drive the old rascal out of the room, and return to his labor with renewed energy.

Satan could not stand so sweet and pure a thing as Music, and Luther knew it. Just so it is now; the blue-devils, (which are the only fiends that now-a-days torment us while living,) always flee before music. A few soothing strains from the voice, or gentle hand, of parent, or wife of daughter, or friend, or from one's self, will, in these days, even, put a troop of blue devils to flight at any time. Thus musically armed, one can chase a thousand, two can put ten thousand to flight, and a quartette can disperse a pyramid, should so many ever assemble together.

Music is one of the most refining and elevating of the arts. Harmony—full, rich, pure harmony—operates as a soul-bath, cleansing the heart and purifying the spirit of gross and sensual desires, opens, (so to speak,) the pores of the soul, and renders the whole being keenly sensitive to ennobling and heavenly influences.

Of the utility of music, there is no question; but there is a question as to how a knowledge of the art shall be fixed permanently in the mind—how an interest in it shall be constantly kept alive—how we shall manage not to forget one year what we learned the year before—and how we can keep growing in our knowledge and appreciation of the pure and most elevated styles of music. We know of but one way to accomplish these important objects, and that is, to have a constant supply of choice new music, musical instruction, and interesting musical reading furnished at so low a rate as to bring it within the means of all.

The next question is: how is this to be done? It can only be done through the medium of an ably conducted Musical Journal; and, fortunately, there is such a Journal now published in this country. The Musical World & Times, which is published every Saturday, at 257 Broadway, N. Y., by Messrs. Dyer & Willis, is, in our opinion, the thing needed. It supplies a long felt want. Every week it comes to the fire-side of the subscriber, freighted with its treasures of new and choice music, musical criticisms, musical instruction, musical news and musical reading, which refresh, and stimulate, and improve the musical taste and capacity of the reader, and keep alive his interest in the subject.

The object of the Musical World & Times is fourfold: 1st. It furnishes four pages of music in each number, making two hundred and eighty pages in a year. This embraces every variety of music, vocal and instrumental, sacred and secular, which, bought at the stores, would cost not less than \$25. 2d. It gives a thorough course of musical instruction from the A B C of the art, up to its highest development. 3d. It gives the most truthful and reliable criticisms on all musical performances, music books and sheet music. Its independence and spiciness in this respect are as grateful to the public as they must be execrating to pretentious performers. 4th. It gives a large amount of musical reading, consisting of biographies and anecdotes of celebrated musicians, and other interesting matter. All this is furnished weekly at \$3 a year; two copies, \$5; five copies \$10. The most distinguished musicians in America recommend the Musical World & Times very highly, and there can be no doubt as to its great utility to those interested in Music, and especially to learners. Now is the time to subscribe, as a new volume commenced on the first of January. Persons wishing to subscribe can do so by addressing Dyer & Willis, 257 Broadway, New York.

Musical Gazette.—A very neat monthly, the first number of which has been received, and promises, if we dare judge from the first number, to be a faithful help in every singing community where it may find its way. We heartily recommend it to the musical public. Published in New York, by R. S. Willis, at 50 cents per annum, or 3 copies for \$1 00.

GLEANINGS.

More than \$15,000 has been subscribed in Boston, for the Webster monument.

The cigar bill of an Oxford student has been known to run up to \$700 a year.

Why are wealthy fathers like oysters? Because the more readily they "shell out," the more highly they are esteemed.

The skeletons of a cat and rat, in excellent preservation, have been found in Gerard's Hall crypt, London. The rat was firmly held in the mouth of the cat. It is thought they had lain there 450 or 500 years.

Protestantism is said to be rapidly on the increase in Florence, notwithstanding the efforts of the Jesuits to check it.

A free person of color cannot purchase a glass of liquor in North Carolina. The law forbids it.

Hon. John M. Clayton is said to be seriously ill.

Vice President King, that is soon to be, proposes to spend the winter in Havana, for the benefit of his health.

Senator Hunter has returned to Washington from his visit to Gen. Pierce. He keeps "shady" about the plans of the new administration.

The Clay Monument at Pottsville, Pa., is progressing rapidly, and it is said will be finished by the 4th of July next.

Deer are said to be very plenty this year. Several have been shot on the Blue Mountain, near Lebanon.

Hon. Edward Stanley, of North Carolina, designs, it is said, at the close of the present session of Congress, to remove to California to practice his profession—the Law.

A Hog was killed at Westery, R. I., last week, which weighed 1050 lbs.

At a ball given by the "Buchanan Rifles," in Lancaster city, the Whig says: Among the guests we observed Mr. Buchanan, who danced several sets with great sprightness and grace, considering his weight and age—but as he is a bachelor we will say nothing of his age.

Spiritual Table Experiment.—Some high dogmatism in Trenton, who are investigating "spiritualism," tried what is called the "table experiment," on Thursday. After keeping their hands on the table for about twenty minutes it is said to have turned round in some unexplained manner.—Phila. Sun.

The State Gazette has led our cotemporary of the Sun into a fatal error in reference to this matter. It is true that a number of gentlemen of this city sat down to a "spiritual table experiment," the very day indicated in the above paragraph. But the gentlemen "experimented" some five or six hours around and about that table, instead of the bezzary twenty minutes of the Sun. About the fifth hour, the "experimenters" thought the table was turning around, and the chairs, and the fire place, and the clock, and in fact the whole room also. In the morning, two of the "experimenters" were discovered sleeping under the mysterious table, one with a spit box for a pillow, while the others had deviated the usual route to a similar purpose, but in the excitement of the occasion had placed his feet upon it instead of his head. No clue has yet been obtained as to the fate of the rest of the party.—Trenton True American.

Who is "Fanny Fern"?—Certain young gentlemen are dying to know who is the author of those charming sketches in the Boston Olive Branch, over the signature of "Fanny Fern." A paragraph appeared in a New York paper a short time since stating that "Fanny" was a sister of N. P. Willis. A Boston paper noticing this, says that this "sister" of N. P. Willis is very much in favor of the "Bloomer costume," wears breeches, smokes cigars, promades the streets in Wellington boots, and a standing shirt collar, edits the best paper, and is the best looking man in Boston; she bears the cognomen of quaint "Fanny Fern" abroad, but is better known at home as Tom Norris, the editor of the Olive Branch.

Bounty Lands.—We perceive the Hon. Richard Brodhead has introduced a bill in the United States Senate, which purports to give one hundred and sixty acres of land to the soldiers or the widows or children of such as are dead, for services in the war of 1812, and the other wars of the country. This is certainly a laudable act and one that must meet with general approbation throughout our country. We see that several meetings have already been held in our own State and strong resolutions passed urging the passage of such a law by Congress.

Increase of Salaries.—It is reported that an effort will be made previous to the close of the present session of Congress to increase the salary of the President to \$50,000 per annum, and also to have houses erected for the accommodation of the families of the members of the Cabinet, and the salaries of our foreign ministers increased.

Curious Moravian Customs.

The religious celebration on Christmas Eve among the Moravians is simple and peculiar. They are the same now as in our school-boy days, viz: "At the appointed hour the service of the church will commence with instrumental music by the choir, after which the pastor will read the sacred history of the birth of Christ, when all will partake of a Love Feast, consisting of a 'Love Feast Cake,' and a mug of hot coffee. The choir will again perform a piece of sacred music, near the conclusion of which all the little children will be served with a lighted wax candle about four inches long, which they will hold in their hands, until the close of the ceremony." The Moravians have a number of queer customs, among others the of assembling in the Church before day on Easter morning and marching in procession to the grave yard to the sound of plaintive music, and sounding a funeral dirge for each member of the community who has died during the preceding year.

On New Year's Eve the people also repair to the church about seven o'clock, and pass the time in reading the scriptures, listening to a sermon, &c., until within a few minutes of 12 o'clock. The congregation then unite in solemn prayer, but at the first stroke of the clock in the steeple that proclaims the birth of the new year, the band, stationed in the choir, strike up a tremendous clangor of welcome, in which cornets, flutes, dulcimer and all kinds of instruments help to swell the joyful strain. After performing for several minutes the congregation interchange congratulations, and retire to their respective homes. Very curious people are the Moravians, but a more excellent and worthy sect is nowhere to be found.—Lancaster Wigg.

Governor Bigler. The Washington correspondent of the Ledger, says that Governor Bigler begins to be talked of among some of the Pennsylvania members, as connected with General Pierce's Cabinet. The argument is that he received the suffrages of all factions, cliques and coteries, into which the Democratic party of Pennsylvania is divided, and that therefore, no one could grumble at his being offered the Postmaster Generalship, if Gov. Bright is tendered the Secretaryship of the Interior.

Railroad Earnings in Illinois.—The exhibit of the earnings of the Chicago and Galena Railroad during the last four months, sums up \$201,704 51. The cost of the ninety two miles of road used was less than \$1,100,000, and, estimating the running expenses at \$61,791—which is an extreme figure, taking the year as a criterion—\$140,000 is left as the clear profit for one third of the year, on an investment of \$1,100,000, which is at a rate of forty per cent per annum.

Pardon of Esler.—The conduct of Gov. Bigler in granting a pardon to Esler, who has recently been convicted of a violent assault on Mr. Gratz, at the late election in Penn District, Philadelphia, has excited a great deal of indignation, and is universally regarded as an outrage which has no parallel in the history of pardons, even in our own State.

The Evening Bulletin but speaks the sentiment of this community, when it says: "To-day there is but one voice in the community, a voice of indignant anger and rebuke. Could Gov. Bigler hear the universal reprobation with which this act has been received, he would, if not entirely callous, wish his right hand had been withered before he signed the pardon."

Gold at a Discount.—The change in the standard of American Gold Coin by the Bank of England, makes one-eighth of one per cent. against the use of gold as a medium of exchange between the two countries. This, if bills will have to rate one eighth higher.

Senator Dixon was admitted to his seat last Monday, although sixteen grave and reverend senators voted to keep him out of it. There never was a doubt who was the true Senator from Kentucky, although upon the principles that "might gives right" the Locofoco majority could, if they had chosen to set justice aside, have admitted Mr. Merrittweather. Among those who voted against Dixon was Gen. Cass!—a proof that the "Great Michigander," can at times descend to a mean course as well as smaller potatoes of the same ilk.

Price of Iron.—By the latest arrival from England, we learn as follows: "The Iron districts are actively employed, having large orders from the United States." A volume in a single clause. This is free Trade practically. England gets our money, and with it bribes Locofocos to betray their country; and so legislate as to injure ourselves and benefit our enemies, and the enemies of republicanism. The Locofoco party have by their course on the Tariff question, done the great cause of liberty throughout the world more harm than all the bayonets of the Russian Emperor.

The Crowned heads of Europe have used their power to put down all uprisings of the people for free Constitutions. The Locofoco party of this country have by their policy given these tyrants much of the money by which their horrible system of espionage and tyranny is maintained.

Disagreeing Affair.—A most distressing incident occurred near Easton, Pa., on Wednesday morning last. A man named Abraham Lisk, whilst proceeding at a late hour on Tuesday night from Little York to Easton, was so overcome with fatigue of other causes, that he fell on the road, and was found next morning in a dying condition, from the effects of the exposure he was carried immediately to the farm house of Mr. Samuel Dickworth, where he died in a few minutes afterwards. Just as the man had been received into the house, the wife of the farmer, Mrs. D., came suddenly into the room, and was so shocked and overcome by fright at the unexpected sight of the unfortunate man, that she fell to the floor and died almost instantly.

Political Speculations.—By a change of 24,463 votes properly divided between certain States, General Scott would have been elected President, and by a change of only 10,710 votes divided between the States of Massachusetts, Vermont, Kentucky and Tennessee, Franklin Pierce would have been elected unanimously.