

Then followed business rapidly and surely, and subsequently I became my master's partner in business, at his urgent solicitations. One year since I was solicited to become a member of Congress, which I of course accepted and now I have come home to see you once more—father!

The old man was weeping, the boy's prophecy was fulfilled. Indeed was he sorry, and as the son again stood before him, in his pride of manly beauty and strength he bowed his face in his hands and wept like a child.

Tremendous Conflagration.

From the Pittsburg Post, April 8th.
Twenty Squares of the City in Ruins—From 1000 to 1200 Houses Destroyed—Loss Estimated at Ten Millions.

It is our painful duty to record one of the most terrible fires that ever devastated any city on this continent. A great portion of our busy and populous town is in ruins. More houses have been destroyed by this single and horrible conflagration, than have ever occurred in this city before.

Those acquainted with the plan of Pittsburg will realize the extent of the terrible calamity we have suffered when we state that nearly all that part of the city extending from Ferry street up the Monongahela river to the city line, and thence to the head of the entire suburb called 'Pipetown' [Kensington] has been destroyed.

The fire reached up Market street as far as the south side of Third street, and up Wood street as far as the south side of Diamond alley. The boundaries of the burnt district may be thus described: From Water street up Ferry to Third street, (the third Presbyterian Church was saved,) up Third to Wood, up Wood to Diamond alley both sides, up Diamond alley to Smithfield street, and thence down Smithfield to Fourth street, both sides; up Fourth street to Ross st., and thence to the head of Pipetown, including, as we have estimated above about 20 squares, and comprising from 10 to 1200 houses, many of the warehouses containing goods of immense value—they were grocery, dry goods and commission houses, and their spring stocks had been just laid in.

The fire originated in a frame building over an ice house belonging to Wm. Diehl, near the corner of Second and Ferry streets. The wind was blowing stiffly from the Northwest, though it frequently veered to other points, and owing to its variations, the fire extended up Wood street further than it otherwise could have done.

It was first discovered about 12 o'clock till 5 in the afternoon. Even while we write, (at 9 o'clock, P. M.) the engines are playing vigorously in Wood street.

We can give no adequate idea of the distress which pervades our stricken community. The progress of the flames was so fearfully rapid that many persons had not time to remove their goods—others, again, had got their property into the street, when the flames seized it there, before it could be removed to a place of safety.

Others still would not believe the devouring element could reach their dwellings and did not think of removing until it was too late to save their furniture. And we saw many people who escaped with nothing but the apparel they had upon their persons.

At dark, you might see, at every direction, families sitting without shelter guarding such portions of their household furniture as they were able to save from the flames, and not knowing where they would lay their heads, or procure a morsel of food. Of course the kindness of their more fortunate fellow citizens did much to alleviate their sufferings, and we believe all were provided for as well as the melancholy nature of affairs would allow.

The Councils met in the afternoon, and attempted to devise some means to stay the conflagration. It was proposed to blow up houses that seemed in the way of the flames, the deliberations, however were ineffectual in results, and we believe but one or two buildings were blown up. It seems to us, indeed that there could not have been time to accomplish any thing in the way of destroying houses, so terribly rapid was the progress of the fire.

There is abundant reason for thankfulness that so few lives were lost. There are many rumors of men being killed, and burnt and wounded—but they are not authenticated. One woman is certainly burned, and we saw a poor old man, tottering along with the help of two friends, his face badly burned. The loss of life, however, cannot be learned in the awful confusion which prevails.

We know not how to express our sense of the lively gratitude to which the firemen are entitled from our afflicted and ruined citizens, as well as those they have saved—nothing in the shape of reward can compensate them for the incessant toil they had to undergo, and for the unyielding, heroic firmness

which they manifested under the appalling terrors which surrounded them on every side.

If they had a sufficiency of water during the whole time, they could have saved much more property—as it was they prevented the destruction of an incalculable amount.

The following are the principle public buildings, manufactories and offices that were destroyed:—

Globe Cotton Factory, corner of Second and Ferry streets.

Fire Navigation Insurance Office, Market, between Second and Third.

Firemen's Insurance Office, corner of Market and Third.

Penn Insurance Office, cor. Market and Third.

Bank of Pittsburg, Fourth, between Market and Wood.

Office of the Daily Chronicle, do.

Job Printing Office of J. D. Butler, Third between Market and Wood streets.

Merchants' Hotel, corner of 3d and Wood sts.

A. Kramer's Exchange Office, do.

James & Sibbel's Exchange Office, corner of 4th and Wood sts.

Wm. A. Hill's Exchange Office, between 4th st. and Diamond alley.

R. & R. H. Patterson's Eagle and Bazaar Livery Stables, Diamond Alley and Fourth st.

Associate Reformed Church, Fourth st., near Grant.

Baptist Church, Grant st.

Bakewell's extensive Glass Works, Water, above Grant street.

The Monongahela House, destroyed, with all the furniture.

Monongahela Bridge entirely destroyed. It is rumored that several lives were lost on the Bridge.

The Dallas Iron Works in Pipetown, entirely destroyed.

The loss sustained in the destruction of the above buildings is immense, but it is small when compared with the destruction of merchandize in the warehouses on Water, Wood, 1st and 2d streets.

The merchants found it impossible to attempt to save any thing; whole blocks were destroyed in a few minutes, and the most they could do was to make an effort to save their books, and but few of them succeeded even in that.

It will be many years before our city can recover from the effects of this dreadful calamity; it has cast a blight over the commercial and manufacturing enterprise of hundreds of our most worthy citizens, and in an hour has swept from them all the profits of years of toil and industry.

To thousands enough to escape this wide-spread destruction, they must look for aid to 'commence the world anew,' and we are confident they will not look in vain.

We write in the hurry, confusion and excitement of the terrible time, and under the physical weariness caused by laboring to save the furniture of the house of one of the editors, which was burned to the ground—therefore, we may omit much that we sought to notice—but we have endeavored to give as full an account of the calamity as we could.

We are informed that two lives were lost at the fire yesterday. One was an old woman in the neighborhood of Grant and Third streets, who had no aid to remove her furniture, and she refused to leave her dwelling until it was too late to save her.

The other that we heard of was a gentleman doing business in Wood street but we hope it may be a mere report. We hear rumors of many lives being lost, but as none of the reports are authentic we refrain from giving them until we receive more reliable information.

STRANGE DISEASE.

A very singular contagion has broken out in Valatie, a small village in Columbia county, New York. It discolors the face to a greenish cast, the eyes lose their usual expression, and have a vacant stare, the voice becomes husky, the memory vanishes, and the conversation becomes confused, and a set of incoherent sentences jumbled together, without order and without meaning. The strength leaves and the form dwindles away to a skeleton. The person attacked raves like a maniac, and the doctors have been unable to do anything for them. The informant states that every person wears an affrighted countenance and if it does not soon stop its ravages, the whole town will be inhabited by lunatics! None have died from it as yet but numbers afflicted with it.—*New York Sun.*

ROWLAND HILL.

It is stated in a recent English paper that Rowland Hill, the originator of the cheap postage system, received from the London Mercantile Committee on cheap postage a check for \$50,000, with an intimation that they reserve till some future opportunity a further demonstration of public gratitude.

BIOGROPH.

"TRUTH WITHOUT FEAR"

BLOOMSBURG:

STURDAY, April 19, 1845

This number completes the seventh volume of the Columbia Democrat, since we took charge of it, and it has become necessary that all debts due us, whether for the paper, job work or for advertising, should be settled. Some of our subscribers owe us for the whole term, and others for different periods, and we must have our pay. All who have received our papers for seven years and still owe us for the same, that do not pay soon, must not feel hard, if their paper is stopped, & the payment enforced.

TOWNSHIP ELECTION.

A Special Election in Bloom township was held on last Monday, to elect two Justices of the Peace, there being a tie and no choice at the March election. The result is given below, and is rather a singular one again, but fortunately we have succeeded in making a choice, and the matter is disposed of. Two of the candidates, Sloan and Case, are tied, and it seems as if that must be the case with some of the candidates for Justices always in Bloom township, as Kahler and Painter were tied five years since. We give the vote at the March election in connection with the late vote.

	March.	April.
Charles Kahler	167	192
Thomas Painter	167	195
George Sloan	167	185
Nathan Case	148	155

Of the two Justices elected, one is a democrat, and the other a whig. The number of votes in March was 341; at the late election 381.

PUFFING EXTRAORDINARY.

We have been much amused with the continued insertion, from week to week, of articles in the Danville papers, puffing the business of that village. One would suppose from reading their account, that but few cities of the Union were doing more business, or increasing more rapidly in population. We know not how many times we have seen notices of the erection of several hundred dwelling houses, new furnaces, new rolling mills, new foundries, and thousands other splendid establishments for this or that kind of business. Now what will the public say, when we tell them, that there has not been, for the last three years, a single furnace built; but one, other than some 8 by 10' shanties, stuck up in the lots in the neighborhood of their oil mines and furnaces. As to the immense increase of inhabitants, let the election decide. At the last November election, when greater exertions were never used by both parties, to get out their votes, they polled 491 votes, while at the election two years previous, they swelled their vote to 520. This is about in a ratio with their increase of business. And yet we see weekly puffs of the tremendous growth of Danville. We think they must have taken lessons from the eastern and western land speculators, who build cities in the woods without clearing away the timber, or the assembling of a single soul to inhabit them.

By an account in another column it will be seen that a dreadful calamity has visited Pittsburg, destroying about 1100 houses, and an immense amount of Merchandise, Groceries & Furniture. The loss is variously estimated at eight to twelve millions. On Monday last, the Governor sent a special message to both branches of the Legislature, recommending that some provisions be made for the relief of the sufferers. A bill was immediately introduced into the house, and passed unanimously appropriating \$50,000 to the relief of the sufferers by fire in Pittsburg, to be distributed by the city authorities, releasing the property destroyed from taxation, and refunding and releasing all licences of merchants and others having their goods destroyed.

The Bill, passed the Senate on Tuesday.

NEW YORK CITY ELECTION.

The annual election in the city of New York, for municipal officers took place on the 8th and resulted in a complete victory for the democratic party, over whigism and Nativeism. The Democrats elected their Mayor by 6673 majority, and their candidates in fifteen out of seventeen wards. In the other two, the whig ticket was elected leaving not a native to represent his party in the board of common council. It will be recollected, that last year, the natives, elected their mayor and a majority of the Aldermen. This is a most glorious triumph for the Democrats, and the entire prostration of the Native party.

THE LEGISLATURE.

In pursuance of a resolution of both houses, was to have adjourned on Tuesday last, but the appropriation bill not passing until the afternoon of that day; there was not time for it to be transcribed and presented to the Governor for his signature. The governor wisely reprobating this course of proceeding, and determined to put a stop to the practice that had grown up of leaving important bills to be transcribed & signed by the governor, after the Legislature adjourned, sent in a proclamation a few moments before the hour of adjournment, ordering the convening of an Extra session on the next day. The Legislature accordingly convened on Wednesday morning, but will undoubtedly adjourn again in a day or two.

We have since learned that the Legislature adjourned finally on Wednesday.

A dreadful disaster occurred on the North river, on the night of the 7th inst. by the loss of the steamboat Swallow. On her passage down the river, with about 300 passengers, when opposite Athens, she struck upon a rock. The scene is thus vividly described by a passenger.

'You can imagine the horrors of the scene at this moment, when more than three hundred souls were thus exposed in the midst of falling snow and almost utter darkness. As the water reached the brilliant fires, a sheet of mingled steam, smoke and flame poured into the boat, illuminating the ghastly countenances with a sudden glare of vivid light; and completing the consternation. The conviction that the curse of fire was to be added to our other imminent perils, curbed the resolution of the stoutest hearts. But the rapid sinking of the boat extinguished the fires, and all was darkness again.

In less than five minutes, by the blessing of God, the stern rested on the bottom, the water being above the windows of the saloon state rooms. Several females were drawn out of state rooms by dashing in the windows; two almost exhausted—one very aged, and now lying on board this boat in a precarious situation—were taken from the ladies cabin by cutting through the floor. They had sustained themselves on settees, with only a few inches of breathing room for their faces. The bow had been forced high and dry upon the rock, and the boat, split open amidships, was left rising almost perpendicularly upward, covered with agonies hanging clinging to the bulwarks. The remainder of the passengers were sadly grouped on the forward upper deck, many bewailing the absence of dear companions, and actuated by the most dreadful apprehensions for their fate.

By this time the alarm had been thoroughly communicated to the shore on either side. The bells of the churches began to ring, and the river was soon covered with torches waving in the fleet of boats that put off to our assistance, while the Rochester, which had found it difficult to get to us, and the Express, which had now come up, were gradually approaching alongside. The sound of the bells pealing on the air, the shouts of those in the boats, the light of the waving torches, and the wailing grief of many on the wreck constituted the features of this most impressive scene.

In the course of an hour all were taken off who remained in the Rochester, the past seeming like a terrible dream.

At the latest accounts, there was yet no certainty as to the number of lives lost. Thirteen bodies only had been found, though it is supposed that the loss is much greater. This, however, is sufficient to render the calamity deeply heart-rending.

An incident like that told of Sir Walter Scott at the coronation of George IV, lately occurred to Washington Irving. Landing late at night at Gibraltar, the sentinel refused to admit him; whereupon Mr. Irving handed him his card, with the request that it might be left with the proper authorities, so that in the morning no delay might occur in admitting him. The soldier looked upon the card, and then raising his hat, 'Sir,' said he; 'are you Washington Irving of America? are you the author of the Sketch Book, and the Tales of the Alhambra?' Mr. Irving replied, in some surprise, 'I am.' 'Then,' said the sentinel, 'you may enter, I know that I shall be pardoned for admitting you.'

INSANE ASYLUM.

We announce with great pleasure, that the bill from the House making provision for the creation of an Asylum for the insane to be located within ten miles of Harrisburg passed the Senate, by a vote of 20 to 9.

A boy named Adams, in Webster, Mass., on Tuesday last, accidentally shot his sister in the head, killing her instantly.

A Mrs. Dorothea Foss, who died in

Baltimore on Saturday, dreamed some years since, that she would die on the 5th of April 1845, and her acquaintances had often heard her state her presentiment. About two years ago, she accidentally fell out of bed, and broke her hip, and otherwise injured, so that all hopes of her recovery were given up, but she steadily insisted that she would get about again, and not die until the 5th of April, 1845, and singular though it may be, yet such is the fact, she did live until last Saturday, the 5th of April, and died on that day. This equals the celebrated case of Lord Lytleton, who prophesied the exact hour of his death:

The Pittsburg Mercury, in alluding to the recent bomb-shell explosion in New York, mentions that for many years a number of cannon which had been captured from the British on Lake Erie, lay in one of the streets of Pittsburg, near a large foundry. It was at last determined to put these trophies of American bravery to a useful purpose, and one of them was stuck into a furnace, but foremost, to be melted down. While this process was going on, the great gun went off, sending a ball through the side of the foundry into the hill beyond! As it fortunately turned out, no person was injured.

MELANCHOLY & FATAL EVENT.

It is with undissembled sorrow that we announce to our readers the death by suicide of FREDERICK E. BAILEY, Esq. of this borough, on Monday afternoon. The commission of Mr. Bailey, as Prosecutor of the Pleas of the Commonwealth in York county had been read in open Court that day, and he had been sworn into office. During the early part of the afternoon session, some criminal business had been attended to by Mr. B. soon after which he took up his papers and left the Court house. Court adjourned at an early hour chiefly on account of his absence, and several persons having business with him; connected with his official duties, went to his office to see him, but did not find him there. After five o'clock he was discovered suspended by his handkerchief to a door on the garret of his dwelling, which is nearly opposite to the Court House on High street, and when taken down, life was extinct—the extremities of his body cold, and all efforts to restore vitality vain. We will not suffer ourselves to speculate on the cause of this melancholy catastrophe, further than to say that without doubt Mr. Bailey's mind, which was very sensitive, had become disturbed by influences springing from the responsibilities of his public station, and upon that state of excitement a trivial error which occurred in drawing an Indictment, operated to produce the fatal result which we have stated, and which so greatly astonished and shocked our community.—*York Republican.*

A letter to the Rochester Democrat, dated Buffalo, April 4, says:—'An extraordinary excitement has prevailed at Queenston and Lewiston for the last three days. The ice has disappeared from here with great rapidity. Such have been its movements over the Niagara Falls, accompanied with a strong north wind, that the Niagara river has been completely blocked up. The ice there yesterday, within a mile of the falls, was forty feet high!—In the rapid course of the ice, every thing on the wharves at Queenston and Lewiston has been swept off, with the contents of the storehouses.—At Youngstown, it has cleared off every house near the wharves, and the steam flour mill has gone with it, with some eighty barrels of flour and a large lot of potash in store there. The damage, all round, is not far from \$100,000.'

EXTENSIVE ROBBERY.

The iron proof in the captain's office, on board the barge Clinton, at Poughkeepsie from New York, was opened by some person on the night of the 7th inst; and several packages of money, amounting to \$23,000, abstracted. A reward of \$2000 is offered for the recovery of the money, and the detection of the robbers.

The Hon. Amos Kendall and the Hon. Francis O. J. Smith passed through Baltimore on Tuesday last on their way to N. Y. where they have an appointment to consummate the necessary arrangements for constructing a line of Morse's Telegraph from that city to Baltimore, through Philadelphia; and it is expected that the communication will be fairly established and in operation at the commencement of the next session of Congress. A line from Baltimore to Harrisburg is also contemplated.

From Oregon.

Oregon, according to the following account taken from a letter in the Peoria Register, is an uncommonly fertile country. The letter is written by Mr. Carver, one of the emigrants.

'The harvest is just at hand and such crops of wheat, barley, oats, peas and potatoes are seldom, if ever, to be seen in the States, that of wheat in particular—the stalks being in many instances as high as my head; the grains generally much larger—I would not much exaggerate to say they are as large again as those grown east of the mountains. The soil is good and the climate most superior, being mild the year round, and very healthy, more so than any country I have lived in the same length of time. Produce bears an excellent price—pork 10 cents, beef 6 cents, potatoes 50 cents, wheat \$1 per bushel. These articles are purchased at the above prices with great avidity by the merchants for shipment generally to the Sandwich Islands and Russian settlements on this continent and are paid for mostly in stores and groceries, the latter of which is the product of these islands, particularly sugar and coffee, of which abundant supplies are furnished. Wages for laborers are high—common hands are getting from one to two dollars per day, and mechanics from two to four dollars per day. It is with difficulty men can be procured at these prices, so easily can they do better on their farms. The plains are a perpetual meadow, furnishing two complete new crops in a year, spring and fall, the latter remaining green through the winter. Beef is killed from the grass at any season of the year. If you have any enterprise left, or if your neighbors have any, here is the place for them. Dr. McLaughlin has just commenced a canal around the Wallametta Falls, which he expects to complete in two years, at a cost of thirty thousand dollars. Our Legislature (the lower house) of which I have the honor to be speaker) which has just finished its session, granted the Doctor a charter for twenty years—the entering into an agreement to complete the canal for boats of thirteen feet in width to pass in safety; the whole to be completed in two years as above stated. He has a number of hands now engaged in its construction, and no doubts are entertained of his ability to complete it. He is constructing a large flouring mill, with four burrs, which will be ready for business this fall. He has already two saw mills in operation at the falls. Every thing is flourishing in this country.

A PROMISING CHILD.

The Raleigh Register notices one of the greatest curiosities of the day, viz: a child who will not be eight years of age until July next, and who weighs 177 lbs!—more than the celebrated Daniel Lambert weighed at the same age. He measures round the waist 64 inches—around the hips 47—the thighs 26—the knees 18—neck 17—and his height is 4 feet 8 1/2 inches.

Intelligence has been received of a destructive fire in Towanda, Pa. on Monday last, which destroyed several valuable buildings on the northwest corner of the public square. The fire broke out in the Eagle Hotel, which was entirely consumed together with all the buildings on the north and south to the value of about \$15,000. The whole square west of Main street, and between Poplar and State, is one heap of ruins. The buildings were mostly frame, and the larger portion of the property belonged to the Towanda Bank. Messrs. C. L. Ward and J. Elliott also suffered severely.

CURIOUS FULFILMENT OF A PROMISE.

An English gentleman, on a Sunday evening of last summer, drove out to Greenwood Cemetery, and on arriving at the gate was refused admission, not having a proprietor's ticket. 'I am a stranger,' he said, 'and don't like to go back without seeing the place. And you may as well admit me, for my health is going, and if I fancy a spot, I'll come and lay my bones here!' The quiet seriousness with which this quaint argument was urged pleased the gate-keeper and he drew bolt and let the pleader in. He drove about till the twilight, and, on passing out, thanked the keeper very feelingly and said he should keep his promise. A few days ago, a gentleman called with a description of a particular spot in the cemetery, identified and purchased it, mentioning that the remains of an English gentleman were on their way from Palermo for burial there. He was the subject of the incident just related. Before his death he had recorded his promise to the gate-keeper, and given orders for his removal to the place chosen, requesting that the fulfillment of his promise might be mentioned as he should pass through the gate! His remains are expected daily.—*N. Y. Mirror.*

It is confidentially rumored about Washington, that the Globe has been selected as the organ of the new administration; and that Thomas Ritchie Esq., of the Richmond Enquirer, and Mr. Heiss, formerly of the Nashville Union, are to be its editors.