BURNING OF THE AUSTRIA.

Appalling Calamity at Sea—sixty-nine saved out of six hund ed—Explosion of the Magazine—Agonizing scene—origin of the Fire—Culpable Negligence—Interesting Statement of a Passenger.

HALIFAX, Sept. 27.—The barque Lotus from Liverpool, arrived in Halifax harbor on Sunday afternoon, with twelve of the sixty-nine surviving passengers of the steamship Austria, burnt at sea, Sept. 13th, in lat. 45 01. long. 41 30, taken from the barque Maurice on the 14th.

The agent of the Associated Press immediately boarded the Lotus and obtained the following particulars.

The following is the statement of Charles Brew, one of the survivors:

I took passage at Southampton on the 4th in the steamship Austria, Capt. Heydtman, which left Hamburg on the 2d. We sailed at 5 p. m.; the evening being a lit le misty we, in consequence, anchored between the Isle of Wight and the main; sailed again at 4 o'clock on the following morning. In weighing anchor an unfortunate accident occurred, by which one of the crew lost his life. Owing to some mismanagement, the anchor run out, whirling the capstan around with terrific force and hurling the men in all directions. Two were severely injured, and one thrown overboard. He was supposed to have been instantly killed, as he never rose to the surface. From the time the ship was laid on her course we experienced strong westerly winds.

On the 12th the weather was more favorable, and on the 13th a speed of eleven knots had been obtained, and all were in hopes of reaching New York by the 18th. At a little after 2 o'clock, p. m., I was on the quarter deck, when I saw a dense volume of smoke burst from the after entrance of the steerage. Some woman ran aft, exclaiming, "*The ship is on fire! What will become of us?*" The ship was instantly put at half speed, at which she continued until the magazine exploded, from which I infer the engineers were instantly suffocated. I only walked from where I was, on the quarter deck, to the waist of the ship, when I saw the flames breaking through the lights amidships. As the ship was head to the wind, the fire travelled with fearful rapidity.

I then went to the man at the wheel, and told him to put the vessel with her side to the wind. He hesitated—probably did not understand me, as he was a native of Hamburg. I then got a German gentleman to speak to him. At this I saw some person letting down the boat on the port side of the quarter deck. What became of the boat I don't know, but think she was crushed under the screw. I then went to get a boat over from the starboard side of the quarter-deck, but the moment we laid our hands on the ropes, there were so many who crowded into it that we could not lift it off the blocks

He, therefore, left it for a few minutes until the people got out, when we returned and launched it over the sides of the ship when the people, all rushing into it again, it descended with great violence into the water, and it was instantly swamped, all the people being washed out excepting three who held on to the sides.

We then let down a rope, and pulled up one person, who proved to be the steward. Another in the act of being hauled up, was strangled by the rope.

The fire now came on too fiercely to attempt to get up any more from the swamped boat. All the first-cabin passengers were on the poop, with the exception of a few gentlemen, who must have been smothered in the smoking room. Many of the second-cabin passengers were also on the poop, but a number of them got shut into their cabin by the fire. Some of them were pulled up through the ventilator, but the greater number could no be extricated. The last woman who was drawn up said there were six already suffocated.

We now perceived that the ship had got her head to the wind again, so that the flames came over the quarter-deck. In consequence of the crowd, I could not get to the wheel-house to ascertain the reason, but was informed that the helmsman had deserted his post, and that the vessel being left to herself, headed to the wind of her own accord.

At this time the scene on the quarter-deck was indescribable, and truly heart rending. Passengers were rushing frantically to and fro; husbands seeking their wives—wives in search of their husbands—relatives looking after relatives—mothers lamenting the loss of their children—some wholly paralyzed with fear, others madly crying to be saved—but a few perfectly calm and collected.

The flames pressed so closely upon them that many jumped into the sea; relatives clasped in each other's arms, leaped over and met a watery grave. Two girls, supposed to be sisters, jumped overboard, and sunk kissing each other.

One Hungarian gentleman, with seven fine children, four of them girls, made his wife jump in, then blessed his six eldest children, made them jump in one after the other, and followed them with an infant in his arms.

I, about this time, was standing outside of the bulwarks, holding on by the davits, leaning out to avoid the flames which were leaping towards me. I saw a swamped boat under me, spinning by a rope still attached to the ship. As the oars were tied to her, I thought if I could get to her I would be enabled to save myself and some others. I let myself down by a rope, passing over a man who was clinging to it, but who refused to come with me; I took out a pen knife to cut the tackle; the large blade broke, and I then severed it with the small blade. The ship then passed ahead, and as the boat approached the screw I found the boat was drawn towards it; I tried to keep it away, but the screw caught the boat and capsized it over me. I dived away from the ship, and came to the surface near the boat which was now keel upward.

I got on her, and by pressing on one side, with the assistance of a wave she righted, but was still swamped. The oars had been knocked out by the screw. The only thing I could find in her to paddle with, was some laths nailed together as a sheathing for the sides. When I looked around, the ship was a quarter of a mile from me. I could see, the ladies and gentlemen jumping off the poop into the water, in twos and threes some of the ladies being in flames. Several hesitated to leap from the burning ship until the last moment, as the height was 21 feet, and were only at length compelled to throw themselves off to avoid a more painful death.

In half an hour not a soul was to be seen on the poop. I pulled after the ship and picked up a German who was swimming strongly; I got him beside me on the boat, and we paddled after the ship with the laths. I now saw a vessel under sail, approaching She reached the Steamer at about 5 p. m We continued pulling towards them, and at about half past seven, after being five hours in the water, got within hail of the sailing vessel. She put off a boat and took us on board. She proved to be the French barque Maurice, Captain Ernest Renaud, of Nantes, bound from Newfoundland to the Isle of Bourbon with fish. She had, up to that time, rescued forty passengers of the burning steamer, chiefly taken off the bowsprit, though a few were picked up floating around.

At about 8 o'clock, one of the metalic boats came up, with about twenty-three persons, including the second the third officers. Afterwards, three or four men were picked up, floating on a piece of broken boat. The second officer was taken up, having been swimming, with nothing to float him, for six hours. The second and third officers were severely burnt. One male passenger was burnt frightfully, and some of the other male passengers slightly.

There were but six women saved, three of whom were burnt, one in a shocking manner.

Captain Renaud acted with the utmost kindness. He gave clothes, as far as he could furnish them, to the suffering passengers, and acted as a nurse, doctor, and surgeon to the burnt people, dressing the wounds of the females with a delicacy and tenderness that evinced a benevolent and amiable disposition.

I did not see an officer of the ship during the fire, and am certain there was not one of them or the crew on the poop, except a man at the wheel for a short time.

I understand that when the captain heard of the fire he rushed on deck without a cap, and when he saw the flames, exclaimed "*We are all lost.*" He tried to get out a boat, which accidentally or not I do not know, fell into the sea and was soon left behind. He cut her loose from the davits. She was carried under the screw and smashed, and several in her were drowned. Three or four men escaped on a fragment and were picked up by the Maurice, as before stated. About the same time one metallic life-boat from the port bow was let down and swamped, but got cleared away with about thirty-three persons in her, including the first and third officers and several women.

The men in the boat capsized her two or three times in trying to clear her of water. Ten persons were thus drowned, including some women. They afterwards bailed her out with life preservers, cut in two and pulled to the Maurice, having picked up two or three passengers (before reaching the barque). Altogether there were sixty-seven souls taken into the Maurice during the night.

A Norwegian barque came up with the steamer the next morning, and a boat was observed going around the burning ship—They may have picked up a few persons, but only a few.

The Maurice had no communication with the Norwegian barque.

At about seven o'clock the Maurice sailed for Fayal to deposit the rescued passengers.

At about two o'clock, the same afternoon, she fell in with the barque Lotus, Captain Trafy, of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, from Liverpool for Halifax. As I was anxious to get on British territory Captain Trafy kindly gave me a passage. He was anxious to take all the American citizens, but there was such a rush of foreigners into the boats that only one load of eleven could be got off, and even several of these were foreigners. The fire is known to have arisen from very culpable negligence of some of the crew.

The captain and surgeon considered it expedient to fumigate the steerage with burning tar. The operation was to be performed by the boatswain, under the superintendence of the fourth officer. The boatswein heated the end of a chain, to dip in the tar in order to produce smoke. The end became too hot to hold, and he let it drop upon the deck, to which it set fire. The tar upset, and immediately all about was in flames. A feeble attempt was made to extinguish it, but without effect. There was nothing at hand to meet such an emergency.

NEWS FROM UTAH BY MAIL.—The intelligence from Salt Lake by mail is to the 4th of September. Governor Cumming had returned to the city after a pleasure excursion of a couple of days to Cottonwood Kanyon, with some of the *elite* of Mormondon. Gen. Grant and Williams were tried and convicted of a breach of the peace. They were both found guilty and sentenced to pay a fine of one hundred dollars and the costs of court. Breaches of the peace are becoming quite common in the streets of the holy city. Trouble is anticipated with the Indians—The mail of the 17th of August had been destroyed by them, and the carriers barely escaped with their lives. Col. Harbin had been obliged to call upon Gen. Johnson for an escort of soldiers to protect the herds of cattle he was driving to California. The Indians have declared their intention to rob every mail, and to stampede the stock of every emigrant train that attempts to cross to California. Col. Lander had arrived in Salt Lake City. He reported that the wagon road under his superintendance was progressing rapidly, and would be completed before the mountain snows set in. Brigham Young is still at Salt Lake City, be closely confines himself in doors. Business was reviving at Salt Lake, and traders were coming in with their goods. Snow fell on the 5th ult., at Platte Bridge, about one hundred and fifty miles above Fort Laramie.

STAR OF THE NORTH.

WM. H. JACOBY, EDITOR.

BLOOMSBURG, WEDNESDAY, October 13, 1858.

THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST.—In giving our exchanges a thorough overhauling we came in contact with the above named publication, which is published every month for the express benefit of the farmers and mechanics. It is a good journal, calculated to improve all classes engaged in the occupation of tilling the soil for a livelihood.—The October issue is the number last received. Every farmer should become a subscriber to it, who wishes to keep himself conversant with the agricultural improvements, and well versed in horticulture. Orange Gudd, is the editor and proprietor, at 189 Water street, New York. Price, liberal, only one dollar a year in advance.

BATTALION PARADE—The Company belonging to the first Brigade, ninth division, Pennsylvania Volunteers met at Orangeville, on the 9th inst., for inspection and drill, and presented a fine soldierly appearance, and manœuvred with much regularity and percision. We were not present, but the gentleman at our elbow was. He informs us that they are a body of men well drilled, and that they went through the different evolutions with much accuracy. No doubt they are a fine body of men and made a very favorable impression upon those who witnessed their military exercises. The Company was under the command of HIRAM R KLINE. Brigade Inspector, who is thorougly versed in military tactics.

THE SHUYLKILL COUNTY FAIR.—The fair of the Schuylkill County Agricultural Society commenced in their grounds at Orwigsburg on Monday last. There was an unusually large attendance, much larger than on any previous occasion. Every department of agricultural was fully represented and the exhibition of stock was very creditable.—There can be no estimate made of the advantages to be derived from any agricultural fairs when properly conducted, and we are gratified that Schuylkill county farmers and manufacturers so well appreciate such institutions. On Tuesday the target practice of the military was a leading feature. The officers and managers of the Schuylkill County Society deserve much credit for the manner in which this fair was conducted They have the satisfaction of knowing that their efforts have been appreciated by the friends and patrons of the Association. The weather, we are happy to say, was very fine during all the days of the exhibition.

☞ It will be remembered that some months ago a person representing his name to be Wm. H. Gleason, hired a span of horses and a buggy at Danville, ran away with them, and was subsequently arrested at Easton, but escaped from the cars near Mauch Chunk, while being conveyed back to Danville. It appears that he subsequently was arrested in Wyoming county for larceny, and on Tuesday morning of week before last, effected his escape from the jail at Tunkhannock, by scaling the walls. His real name is O'Brian, an accomplished [illegible] from Massachusetts.

COAL BREAKER BURNED—The Minersville *Advocate* says:—"About 5 o'clock on Saturday morning last, our town was awakened from its slumbers, by an alarm of fire, which proved to be the Coal Breaker of P H. Schoellenberger, on Wolf Creek. It seems that the fire originated from the boilers, which were attached to the Breaker The fire spread with such rapidity, that the building was a heap of smouldering ruins in a very short time The loss is estimated at $5000, although the Philadelphia *Ledger*, with its usual correctness reported the loss only $1000. No insurance. The policy had run out some time ago.

☞ The Northumberland County Fair was held in the town of Milton last week, and was largely attended. There appears to be the right kind of interest felt in the matter in that country; consequently they present on exhibition for premiums articles of the first class. It is to be hoped that the same interest will be made manifest in our County Fair, to be held this week, commencing on Thursday, and continue till Staturday.

☞ By reference to our advertising columns it will be seen that JOHN H. YOUNG is not the proprietor of the Marble Yard formerly carried on by him in Berwick, but that he is acting as agent for the same. All business entrusted to that establishment will be attended to with dispatch, and in a workmanlike manner, as heretofore. Therefore as far as work and prices are concerned there will be no difference. "Go ye to him that would be served!"

☞ The Williamsport *Press*, of last Saturday, says:—On Tuesday morning last while out gunning two sons of Dewitt, of this place were accidently shot by a comrade. It seems that he had attempted to fire his gun, but the cap had merely snapped; and, while putting on a new cap, the gun went off and wounded both of his his companions.—One was shot in the lungs and it is feared is fatally wounded.

THE TURF—FOSTER'S COURSE. MICHIGAN.—Detroit, October 2d.—"Flora Temple" and "Prince" trotted in harness over Foster's Course to day, mile heats, best in three—Flora won the first two heats. Time 2 31¼, 2.34.

SHIPWRECK AND LOSS OF LIFE—Oswego, October 8th.—During a severe gale on the Lake last night, the schooner Osprey, of Buffalo, from Racine, was wrecked. The Captain's wife and child and the mates were all drowned.

THE FIRST SNOW STORM.—Hornellsville, October 8th.—Three inches of snow fell in this neighborhood last night. Snow has fell along the line of the Erie Railroad as far east as Great Bend.

ELECTION RETURNS.

John M. Read, the opposition candidate for Supreme Judge, in Bloom township, this county, received 115 majority over William A. Porter, Democrat.——Frazier's majority, Republican, for Canal Commissioner, in Bloom twp. is 109——Scranton's majority over McReynolds for Congress in this township is 200, in Scott twp. 193, in the Borough of Wilkesbarre 126, in Hyde Park borough 114, in Carbondale City and bor. 63, in Pittston bor. 305, in Scranton bor. 790. McR[illegible]olds majority in Hemlock twp, this county, [illegible] Salem twp., Luzerne co., 36, in [illegible]eck, same county, tie vote.——Allentown borough, Lehigh county, gave Read, opposition, for Supreme Judge, 190.——B. P. Fortner's maj. over John Snyder for Sheriff, in this twp, is 104; Snyder maj. in Briarcreek twp. is 24.——For Assembly, the Republican candidates have a majority in this township.

We have neither time nor space to give any further returns.

HORRIBLE CRUELTY.—A Texas correspondent of the Louisville *Journal* relates a horrible story of the inhuman treatment of a soldier who deserted from the Second Cavlry, and was arrested and brought back to Fort Smith, Texas. Harrington was his name, and he was a native of Louisville.—The man who arrested him compelled him to travel some thirty hours without giving him a morsel to eat; the officer to whom he was surrendered made him march twelve miles fa[illegible]ing, dragging a ball and with handcuffs. The next day he was tied to the tail of a wagon, and followed on foot over an extremely rough road; his ball and chain dropping into deep holes would jerk him off his feet, and bring him down upon the feed box on his breast, hanging by his wrists. This treament was continued until he died.

☞ The reply of Mr. Barret to the notice of contest served upon him by F. P. Blair, Jr., is published at length in the St. Louis *Republican* of the 30ult. Mr. Barrett states that when Mr. Blair boasted in Washington that he was merely coming out to count the votes it was to be hoped that he would be satisfied with that *count*, and not attempt to cast odium upon his district and State by wholesale charges of fraud. He denies the charges and specifications of Mr. Blair *seriatim*, and [illegible] large sums of money were used by him for the purpose of aiding his election by bribery and corruption. The money so used was contributed by northern Emigrant Aid Societies, by abolitionist and others, and with said moneys votes otherwise illegal obtained by him at said election. He also charges various fraudulent practies resorted to by Mr Blair and his friends for the purpose of defeating his election and securing the election of his opponent.

SHOCKING AFFAIR.—We are informed that Bridget, wife of Michael White, residing at Mount Laffe in this county, came to a shocking death on Friday last. She was discovered about noon dead in a neighboring porter house, wither, it is alledged, she had gone to bring her husband home. Considerable noise was heard in this porter house about 11 o'clock [illegible] night, and her body bore unmistakable evidences of foul play. She was badly bruised, and her skull was fractuted. The proprietress of this shop kept it closed during Friday morning which accounts for the lateness of the discovery of Mrs. White's death. In the meantime White had disappeared. There are other facts concerning this horrible affair, which we believe it would be unwise to publish at present.—White is still at large. The deceased was a sister of our esteemed friend, Thomas H. Howard, of St. Clair.—*Pottsville Record.*

SUDDEN DEATH OF A STRANGER.—On Thursday afternoon, about five o'clock, a man was found lying dead upon the floor of his room at the Girard House. He engaged lodgings on Tuesday night and registered his name as "E. Pope, New York." He was seen a[illegible] o'clock on Thursday afternoon walking about. The Coroner held an inquest, when it appeared that he died from natural causes. As the initials "J. A. M." were marked upon the arm of the deceased, it is believed that the name of Pope was an assumed one. His trunk and wearing apparel are marked with the initials given above.

The trunk of the deceased, was examined yesterday morning by the Coroner. From papers found in it, it is believed that his proper name is Moosier and that he was a captain on a lake Erie steamboat. There was a bill dated July, 1858, made out in the name of Captain Moosier, for board, at the City Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio. There was also a bill of freight, on the New York and Erie Railroad, from Dunkirk to New York. The deceased was a large man. He had no money in his possession, and when his body was found [illegible] pockets of his pantaloons was turned out.—*Pennsylvanian.*

LIQUOR LAW IN GEORGIA.—The legislature of Georgia has passed a law authorizing the appointment of a liquor inspector, whose duty it shall be to examine and thoroughly test the poisonous ingredients contained in liquors and should they find any strychnine or other poisonous drug in any liquor, the poisonous drug in any liquor, the person selling the same is to ordered to take it out of the State; and if he sells any drugged liquor, knowing it to be such or after inspection, he is to pay a fine of one hundred dollars for the first offence; two hundred dollars for the second offence; four hundred dollars for the third, and onne thousand for the fourth.

MORE ABOUT THE COMET.—A visitor which excites as much attention as the comet, cannot expect to escape without a due share of newspaper celebrity. We have done our share in recording its illustrious movements, but must give it yet one notice On Saturday last, 7th inst., it was nearest the earth, and was about three times as brilliant as on the 23d of September. Nevertheless, it was 52,000,000 of miles distant, quite a comfortable assurance to those who fear a collision between the planet and our sublumary sphere

For the Star of the North.

COLUMBIA COUNTY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

The second semi-annual meeting of the Association is held in Bloomsburg.

The meeting is called to order by the President, W. Burgess, Esq., at 10½ o'clock, a. m. Persons in attendance from other counties, are invited to take part in the exercises. Mr. A. P. Young, reads an Essay on the "Evils of irregular attendance at School." Following this, is discussion on it, by several of the members. Messrs. T M. Potts and A. P. Young, and Miss M. A. Rich are authorized to solicit members.

An Essay on the Teacher and Teacher's Institutes is read by T. M. Potts, Esq. An able discussion of the merits and topics suggested by the Essay, follows. The Association, by vote, endorse the Essay.

A letter from James Stokes, Esq., setting forth his wishes for the welfare of the Association, and his willingness to endorse its doing, is read by the Secretary.

Prof. H. D. Walker, of the Luzerne county Normal District, being present, on behalf of the managers of the Teacher's Institute, to be held at Columbus, on the 18th instant, invites the members of the Association to attend.

A committee of Resolutions, Messrs. T. M. Potts, B. F. Eaton, J. W. Swartz, A. McHenry and Mrs. E. W. Wynkoop, is appointed. The Secretary here reads the constitution. The Association adjourns to meet in the afternoon.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The meeting on being called to order, listens to an address from the County Superintendent, on "The Mission of the True Teacher.

Prof. H. D. Walker delivers an address of an hour's length, on the "Relation of Normal Schools to Common Schools"

The ex. committeeis authorized to solicit both of the Superintendents and of Prof. Walker their addresses for publication in the papers.

The Association decides to hold a "Teacher's Institute," through the week, beginning Monday, December 27th 1858, at Bloomsburg.

On motion, B. F. Eaton, Dr. J. Ramsey, E. Hicks, J. W. Swartz and L. L. Sharpless, are constituted a committee of arrangements to superintend the Institute.

The County Superintendent is authorized to appoint a committee of one member from each township in the county to solicit funds to pay the expenses of the Institute, the said appointments to be publicly announced by the first of November next.

The thanks of the Association are tendered to Prof. Walker for his kindness in meeting with and addressing us; and the Treasurer is authorized to pay his expenses.

The committee on Resolutions read the following report, which is adopted:—

Resolved, That it is the duty of all teachers to urge upon their pupils the necessity of regular attendance in school, and also to point out to parents the great disadvantage of their children being detained at home, and that we, as teachers, do all in our power to make our schools attractive to our pupils so that they may not need urging then.

Resolved, That our thanks are due to Prof H. D. Walker for his able, interesting and instructive address, giving a full and clear exposition of the objects and distinctive features of the Normal School.

Resolved, That we express our approval of the Normal School system, and urge upon all teachers and candidates for the business of teachers, to encourage them whenever it is practicable.

Resolved, That it is the duty of all teachers to attend all meetings called for their benefit and for the elevation of their profession, and that those who do not avail themselves of such meetings are not entitled to an honorable position in the profession.

Resolved, That we recognize in the County Superintendency an able and efficient aid to the cause of popular education, and that we do all in our power to make its advantages known and appropriated by the people at large.

Resolved, That we look with suspicious eye upon all Legislative interference with the office of Superintendent, although in many counties, its efficiency has not been fairly tested.

Resolved, That we feel grateful to the Editors of the local press for their interest manifested in noticing our meetings and hope they will continue to show similar favors.

Resolved, That a synopsis of the proceedings of this meeting be offered for publication in the county papers. The Association adjourned.

Eighty teachers are present at the meeting. The Association numbers sixty-one members.

WM. BURGESS, *Prest.*
B. F. EATON, *Sec'y.*

Bloomsburg, Oct. 9, 1858.

MURDER OF A WIFE.—A man named Saunders a citizen of Southampton county, Va., and well known in Murfreesboro', N. C., has been arrested and lodged in Southampton jail, charged with the murder of his wife.—The Murfreesboro' *Citizen* says:—

Ordinarly, Saunders is a well disposed man in his family, but under the influence of liquor was a demon. On the night of the 1st instant, he entered his house in a state of intoxication. Mrs. S. was in bed, when he raised his gun and shot her, the load taking effect in the side of the head, neck and breast. The unfortunate woman, is supposed, was killed outright Saunders, it is said has confessed the horrid deed.

SPORTING INTELLIGENCE.—We understand that a match for $1000 a side, $500 forfeit, has been made between A. E Dalton's famous horse Broker and New England Boy, owned at Boston, to come off over the Hartford track on Saturday, November 2d. The trot is to be five miles, to wagon of 250 pounds weight, carrying 160 pounds. This match will excite a good degree of interest among sporting men.

☞ The County ticket will no doubt be elected. By the vote as far as heard from is very close. The District ticket we are not able to give any decided conclusion as to the result. The principal towns in the District as far as we can learn have gone against the Democratic nominee for Congress.

☞ COL PRESTON, of Louisville, Kentucky, has accepted the nomination of minister to Spain. A good appointment, and well deserved.

A Scene on the Gallows.

EXECUTION OF AN EX-CLERGYMAN.—We have already briefly mentioned that P. S. Turley, formerly a clergyman, was executed on Friday week, in Kanawha county, Va., for the murder of his wife. On the gallows he made a speech, attributing the commission of the crime to his intemperance. The Kanawha Star says:

After speaking, he requested that "Jerusalem, my happy home," might be sung; he said that many present had sung it with him on more happy occasions. He started the tune himself. While singing, he called his aged father on the platform, threw himself upon his neck, interupted his singing only long enough to say "farewell," and then continued to take the lead. His mother, with his little daughter came forward at his request, and he shook hands with her, and took his little one in his arms, kissed it and all without seeming to be interrupted. So also with a brother. They all left the ground before he fell. He also, while singing, shook hands with some twenty others.—Among them two of the brothers of his murdered wife. He had a smile on his face most of the time. There were but few dry eyes on the ground during the scene. When they ceased singing, he turned about and said, "Sheriff, I am ready to die," and soon after the rope was cut, and the unfortunate man launched into eternity.

NEW PATENTS.—We take the following from the list of patents issued from the United States Patent Office for the week ending October 5, 1858, each bearing that date:—

Jacob D Custer, of Norriston, Pa.—For improvement in fog signal machines.

John Fritz, of Johnstown, Pa—For improvement in rolling railway iron.

Henry Meaule, of Philadelphia, Pa.—For improvement in the mode of transmitting magnetic signals on railroads.

David A. Morris of Pittsburgh, Pa.—for improved trip hammer and anvil.

David A. Morris, of Pittsburgh, Pa.—for improvement in rolls for making sheet iron.

Matthias Reazer of Reading, Pa.—For improvement in hay rakes.

Andrew C. Taggart and Alex. Gray, of Allegheny, Pa.—For improvement in apparatus for tanning.

Re-issues—Wm. F. Ladd, New York city, and Morris L. Kees, of Philadelphia, Pa., assignees of Charles Watt and Hugh Burgess of London, England.—For improvement in manufacture of paper from wood. Patent dated July 18, 1854. Ante-dated August 10, 1858.

J. George Lefler, of Philadelphia, Pa.—for improved wear iron for carriages. Dated Sept. 8, 1857.

ERIE COUNTY.—The *Observer* gives the following account of the Congressional and Senatorial nominations made by the Opposition:—

The Republican Conferees, for the third time, met at Edinboro on Wednesday, and after much labor, a good deal of swearing, some cheating, and a little drinking, several fights, *almost* succeeded, somewhere in the small hours of Thursday morning in nominating, or rather half nominating Elijah Babbitt, for Congress, and fully nominating D. A. Finney, for the Senate. In brief, the thing was accomplished thus: after the Crawford Conferees had voted for Dick forty or fifty times, and walker as many times, they declared their determination to let Erie take the responsibility of Babbitt's nomination, to effect this one of them withdrew, and the vote then stood 5 for Babbitt, and 4 for Dick—a motion was then made to make the nomination unanimous, for which the 4 delegates from Erie voted, and the 5 from Crawford refused to vote. Now the question is, was Babbitt nominated or was'nt he?

In regard to the Senate nomination it was effected in this wise. The Senatorial Conferees from Erie, disgusted with the nomination of Babbitt, which put an end to all hopes of the nomination of Lowry, withdrew from the conference, and substituted the Congressional conferees, who went into session, and voted for Finney. The gentlemen who effected this "dodge" were Jos. M. Sterrett, C. W. Kelso, John Eagle, and one other, whose name we have not learned.

MIRACULOUS ESCAPE.—One of the narrowest and most singular escapes of death on record occurred on Thursday night last, on the Hudson River Railroad. It appears that the night express was rushing on at the rate of thirty-five miles an hour, and the night being very dark, the engineer could only command the view of a few yards ahead of the engine, and in those few yards he discovered, to his horror, a man standing directly in the centre of the track, apparently determined either to throw the train, or the train to throw him from the track. In an instant the engineer reversed the engine, and seizing the bell-rope, applied the patent brakes but too late, as the engine struck him while running at the above rate, and the unfortunate man thrown high in the air. In a few minutes more the train had stopped and backed with the intention of picking up his remains and carry them to the next station, when; to the astonishment of all, no remains were seen, as the man was found whole, and more wonderful to relate still, uninjured. He was taken into the baggage car, and conveyed to the next station, but before arriving there he became very impudent and abusive. As might be expected, he *was drunk*

The State Fair.

PITTSBURGH, Sept. 30.—The State Fair grounds were crowded to-day. Twenty-five thousand persons are supposed to have been present at one time. The display of equestrianism by several young ladies, was very fine. The Fair will continue during the remainder of the week. On Saturday a contest will come off between the Pittsburgh Cricket Club and others. The weather is beautiful.

PITTSBURGH, Oct. 1.—The crowd at the State Fair to-day was enormous. William A. Stokes, of Westmoreland, delivered the annual address, which was a production of extraordinary power and eloquence and is the subject of great praise by all who heard it. About fifty thousand persons attended the Fair to-day.

From the Sunbury American.

The Public Works.

Argument before the Supreme Court on the constitutionality of the sale of the Canals to the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company.

The question of the constitutionality of the sale of the canals to the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company, came up before the Supreme Court, holding its session at this place, on Wednesday last. The Judges were all present, viz.: Chief Justice Lowrie and Justice Woodward, Strong, Thompson and Porter. The question to test the constitutionality of the sale was brought before the Court in the nature of a case to enforce specie performances of contract Mr. Cooper had agreed to purchase $100,000 worth of the bonds of the company, which he refused to take until this question was decided. Chas. Gibbons, Esq., St. George Tucker Campbell, Esq., of Philadelphia, and Judge Knox, Attorney General of Pennsylvania, appeared for the Sunbury and Erie Company. Judge Black, Attorney General of the United States, and W. L Hirst, of Philadelphia, were the counsel opposed to the sale. The case was opened by Mr Gibbons in a strong argument justifying the sale—contending that the price was fully equal to the value of the public works in the hands of the State, and that the proper time to object, if objection could be made, had gone by.

Mr. Gibbons was followed by Mr McCalmont, who appeared in behalf of Judge Black, who could not leave Washington, and asked permission to read the written argument of the learned Judge to the Court, which was granted.

The Judge's argument was a spicy, well written document, interspersed with sarcasms, quotations and oddities, lacking somewhat in dignity and also in respect to the co-ordinate branches of the government so much so that Chief Justice Lowrie took occasion to say, when Judge Knox replied, that he would not have permitted it to be read, had he known its contents. The Judge stated, among other things, that many members of the Legislature were, no doubt, ignorant of the character of the bill, others, he was constrained to say, were dishonest.

Wm. L. Hirst, Esq, followed on the same side. His speech was able and ingenious. The point on which he principally relied, was the subscription of $500,000 to the stock of the Allegheny Valley road, which he contended was a worthless corporation, and was a clog in the sale of the works, lessening the price of that amount.

Judge Knox concluded the argument on the part of the commonwealth, contending for the validity and constitutionality of the sale. His argument was able and convincing. He met, as he thought, most successfully, the points of objection raised by the opposite counsel. Mr. Campbell took no part in the discussion. He was suffering from an injury to his eye, caused by a spark from a locomotive, coming to this place.—The case is held under advisement.

STILL ANOTHER FIRE—LOSS NEARLY $1500.—About 3 o'clock yesterday morning a fire broke out in a stable and carriage house belonging William Mortimer, Jr., Esqr., situated immediately in the rear of his store, corner of Centre and Norwegian streets. The flames spread rapidly and the whole building was speedily enveloped in the devouring element. The Hose and Engine companies soon reached the spot and managed the fire in a most masterly manner. Indeed we have never observed in Pottsville any instance where firemen worked with so perfect and immediate success. The fire was confined to the stable, although a vast number of frame buildings surrounded it on all sides. There was a good supply of water, a fact which we are happy record. A horse and two cows perished in the flames. The principal sufferer by the fire was Wm. Mortimer, Jr., who owned the building. This he valued at about $450. He also lost a sled worth $40; Harness &c. worth $50; a carriage worth $140; Hay worth $100; two cows worth $40 and a horse, whose real value would be hard to ascertain, but would at any time have sold for $400, making a total loss to this gentleman, of $1250. Mr. Michael Mortimer lost one carriage worth $175; and a sleigh worth $60. A sleigh valued at $80 the property of W. F. Smith was also burned. This fire, like that of Wednesday night and also those of last week, was evidently the work of incendiaries, who seem to be prowling about our Borough. The villian who thus in the dead hour of night applies the torch to property, endangering valuable lives, should be ferreted out and summinarily dealt with. Would it not be well to patrol the town. There are plenty of young men in each ward who would make the sacrifice of time and comfort for the cause.—Our night police do not afford sufficient protection, and we must have a silent watch.—Let there be a movement in the matter.—*Pottsville Record.*

LOTTERY GAMBLING.—The New York *Sun* says that a few days since, the Sheriff sold out the effects of a merchant who has been ruined by the purchase of lottery tickets.—He bought for years, but never gained a until a few weeks ago, and the lottery men refused to pay the only hit he made.

THE Springfield (Mass.) *Republican* publishes a table showing the amount of rain that has fallen at that place since January, 1848, together with the water from the melted snow. The entire quantity amounts to a depth of forty feet and two inches on a level. It is fortunate that it did not all fall at once.

EXTRAVAGANCE IN HIGH LIFE IN IRELAND.—The Limerick *Chronicle* mentions the following case of extravagance:

"A landed proprietor, who came of age two years ago, has been obliged to leave the country in consequence of his embarrassments. On attaining the age of twenty-one, he had £50,000 in bank, which he has got rid of, and accumulated debts since to the amount of £400,000. He kept open house for high and low."

DIED.

In Light Street, Columbia county, on Tuesday last, in the 62d year of his age, Mr. GEO. SLOAN, long time a valued citizen of that place, and an estimable Christian.