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PHILADELPHIA TO THE AMERICAS. Advertisements and Subscriptions to the North American and United States Gazette, Philadelphia, received and forwarded from this office.

COMMERCIAL LIST AND PHILADELPHIA PRICE CURRENT. Subscriptions to this valuable paper will be received and forwarded from this office.

NEW YORK EXPRESS. We will receive and forward free of expense, advertisements and subscriptions for this paper.

See next page for Telegraphic News. For Local Matters see next page.

THE GOLD EXCITEMENT.

What a wonderful era we have fallen upon!—The year 1848 is more remarkable for momentous and stirring events than any year, probably, in the world's entire history. The movements of ages seem to be crowded together, and event follows event with such amazing rapidity as to bewilder the imagination, and paralyze the faculties. Any single one of the great events which have transpired in Europe, within the last ten months, would have made any year, or quarter of a century memorable; but the aggregation of remarkable incidents has destroyed the effects upon the mind which any single one was calculated to produce.

Not the least remarkable of the strange events of the year, is the discovery of the vast deposits of Gold in California; and probably the ultimate effects of no event of the year will be more important and lasting upon the whole civilized world. The accumulating evidence crowding upon us appears to leave no room for doubt as to the vast quantity, and pure quality of the gold deposites in the valley of the Sacramento; and these deposites seem to point to the original mines in the rocky fastnesses of the Sierra Nevada, as the prolific fountain whence all these riches have come, and where probably inexhaustible supplies of the precious dust have been hidden from the avaricious gaze of man for ages.

What effect this vast addition to the standard of value will have upon the world, can only be left to conjecture. The editor of the New York Tribune estimates that *one hundred millions* of dollars, in value, of gold, will be taken from the California mines, within the next four years. Another writer says that an intelligent officer of the Navy, who has been recently over the gold region of California, for the purpose of examining the matter thoroughly, stated that by the month of March we shall be receiving from California *three millions per month in gold*. This officer himself has a considerable quantity of the gold, which has reached N. Orleans, and other large amounts he knows to be on the way. The Mazatlan correspondent of Messrs. Howland & Aspinwall, writes that $100,000 worth of gold has been received there, which has been assayed and proved to be 22 to 23¼ carats fine, which is as near as may be pure gold, too pure for coining or mechanical purposes.

One effect of this great increase of gold will certainly be a decided change in the standard of value. Gold will go down, or in other words, real estate, and the various productions of human industry, will go up. It will take more gold than before to purchase a day's labor, or a bushel of wheat, but that it will add any thing to the general stock of happiness, moral or physical, is very much to be doubted.

A considerable increase in the metals which represent the standard of value, are probably desirable. There has been for some time a lack of coin for the increasing demands of commerce, and if the deposites in California should not more than produce enough to keep the supply up to a healthy medium, the discovery may prove a blessing.—The great danger is, that men, hasting to be rich, will neglect the sober and certain pursuits of life for wild speculations; and that habits of extravagance, idleness, and dissipation will be engendered.

Our great distance from California, and difficulties of communication, may prevent much of the evil which would otherwise fall upon us: but for California itself we look upon these discoveries as a great misfortune. The spirit of time improvement and enterprise will be checked for years, and a miserable population of miners, money diggers, and speculators, will take the place of that hardy yeomanry, which, in the pursuits of agriculture, the mechanic arts, and commerce, can only make any country truly great and permanently wealthy.

Two singular facts accompany this discovery—one is, its immediately succeeding its cession to the United States. The other, the establishment of a line of steamers to Chagres, on the Isthmus of Darien, in connection with the Pacific line from Panama to San Francisco. By this route it is said the journey can be made in thirty days. The gold will thus rapidly find its way to the Atlantic States.

GENERAL TAYLOR.

The New Orleans Bee, announcing the departure of Gen. Taylor from that city, to his home at Baton Rouge, has the following remarks:

"Among his friends and intimate associates Gen. Taylor does not avoid touching upon the subject of politics, although his observations are discreet and distinguished by self diffidence. He expresses the belief that *the people desire a change of men and measures* in the administration of the Government, and that they elevated him to office with a view to *political reform*. Mr. Polk has once he has declared unaffectedly, and honestly that he would have preferred the election of any other good, substantial Whig. He is filled with emotions of gratitude at the vote has received, and he never speaks of Louisiana, but with a kindling eye and a face suffused with pleasure. Of Millard Fillmore, he speaks in terms of high admiration and respect, and regards him as a sound and trustworthy conservative statesmen."

We infer from this, that there is small chance for those office holders who are consoling themselves with the idea that Gen. Taylor will make no removals. If 'Old Zack' believes that the people design a *change of men and measures*, and that they elected him for that purpose, he is the very man who will carry out in good faith the expressed will of his vast constituency.

The Delta gives a sprightly little speech of the old General's in reply to a remark that he must be much annoyed with applications for office.

'No' replied the old gentleman, with that pleasant smile which lights up his features when he is playing the amiable, "I am not annoyed by them because they were to be expected. Let them all send in their applications, and in proper time they will be duly considered. Some will have to be appointed and some *disappointed*, and those that are disappointed will be no worse off than they were before. As for myself, I would give them all office if I had them, for the offices belong to the people, whose servant I am. But' he added 'they will all have to be patient, and wait till I am President before I can act upon their applications. In February I shall pay a visit to my old friend, Gov. Crittenden, thence to Washington, where I shall be happy to see all of you whenever you visit the capital." The *bonhomie* of this little speech produced a greater effect than the most cunningly noncommittal discourse of the most skillful politician.

YORK AND CUMBERLAND RAILROAD.—This contemplated improvement, designed to connect Baltimore with the Pennsylvania Railroad, we learn from the Baltimore Patriot, meets with great favor. About one fourth of the necessary means is already subscribed, and the prospects of securing the remainder are highly flattering, the Patriot says:—Last evening two gentlemen of known ability, neither of them owing a brick in our city offered such a subscription of $5000—in case eighteen others could be found to join in the proposition, and that a third party has gone to work to raise the requisite number. We now feel satisfied that this work will be built, and we hail with pleasure this evidence of the resuscitation of the public spirit of our city.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.—The first four miles of this important work, from Harrisburgh west being complete, the enterprising contractors, Messrs. Comrose and Quigly, yesterday placed a locomotive and five large cars on the section and took a trip over the four miles and back. The cars were filled to excess, by the members of the Electoral College, strangers and citizens to the number of several hundreds, who were present by invitation of the contractors. We have not room now to speak in detail of the importance of this great work, and the merits of this particular section, but can only say that in our opinion, and in the opinion of all who participated in the ride, as far as we heard an opinion expressed, the work has been admirably done, and if the whole road is completed in the same manner, it will compare very favorably with any in the country. The four miles on our return, were run in about ten minutes.

We shall probably have more to say on the subject hereafter.—*Penn. Intelligencer.*

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

"Again it" says, "representatives shall be chosen annually by the citizens of each county respectively. This certainly seems to forbid any election by a city alone." Extract from Truth's article of yesterday

Now, Mr. Editor, I would ask, if it is unconstitutional to make Hamilton County two election districts, is it constitutional to make two counties one representative district, as it is in the case of Adams and Pike and several other counties in Ohio!

PITT.

*The constitution of Ohio.

HO! FOR CALIFORNIA.—We understand two emigrating parties are already formed in this city, for the California Gold region. They expect to start in a fortnight or two months.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Washington as Occasional Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11, 1848.

The first week of the session of Congress is over,—both houses adjourned over to this day. So far, nothing of interest has been done in either branch, and I take it for granted it will be several weeks, before the proceedings will possess any importance.

The city has, so far presented an unusually animated appearance; the number of members in attendance being quite full, and all, or at least with very few exceptions, seeming to be in the enjoyment of good health and spirits.

The congratulations of each other, by the Whig members, on the favorable result of the Presidential election, as you may well imagine, have been most hearty; and unless I am very much mistaken, the delight of the masses of the people, from the same cause, all over the country, is equally great. I have, for a number of years, been an observer of the effect produced here, by the result of important elections, and I assure you, on no previous occasion, have I witnessed more satisfaction at, or a more general acquiescence in an event of this sort, than now. Gen. Taylor will enter upon his new sphere of duties, with the good wishes, not only of the majority of the people who supported him, but also, I am sure, of many who did not vote for him but who are disposed readily to yield to the popular verdict, and to do justice to his Administration.

The President's message does not command much attention, except from those whose business it is, to glorify all his acts, and whose party prejudices are so great as to let them see nothing but perfection in all that emanates from their own party, and nothing but evil in what is done by their opponents. It is very evident Polk intended to make an impression upon the country, at the close of his official career, and has labored hard to give his message an imposing character. In this he has totally failed. The fact is, he is a small man, a third rate politician, with much more of the cunning of the demagogue, than of the originality and grasp of mind of the true statesman. Hence the impossibility of putting forth anything in the shape of a message, however much he might labor to do so, that would command the attention of the nation, and inspire any degree of respect for his talents and political wisdom.

I doubt whether much general legislation will be done at the present session. The slavery question no doubt will come up again, in connexion with the subject of establishing Territorial Governments in California and New Mexico. The general wish seems to be, that bills providing for such governments, should be passed, and that the slavery question, should be speedily and finally settled.

The Tariff question will of course be agitated. Your able representative, Mr. Hampton, has already moved in the matter. On the third day of the session he rose in his place, for the purpose of giving notice of his intention to introduce a bill, at some subsequent day, to repeal the Tariff of '46 and to restore the tariff of '42. The notice, however, was not entertained, on account of its being objected to by some fastidious member, who contended that the rules did not allow the notice to be given at that early period of the session. I doubt very much whether such a bill can be carried through Congress; for to say nothing of the obstacles it would meet with in the House, the Senate as now constituted would hardly pass it. Be the prospects however, what they may, of effecting an immediate change in the present Tariff law, you may rest assured, that your representative and other Whig members from your State, will spare no efforts to bring about a modification of the present system. There is no doubt also, that if the main features of the Tariff of '42 are not re-enacted at the present session, it will be done ultimately, and thus the interests of Pennsylvania, and the welfare of the whole country duly cared for.

The people of your region are fortunate in having Mr. Hampton as their representative in the present emergency, whose vigilance, zeal and ability will enable him to effect as much as it is possible for any one to do, under the same circumstances. Having alluded to him in this connexion, I cannot forbear to say further of him, that as a member of Congress, he is a credit to the constituency that elected him, and an honor to the body in which he occupies a seat. He possesses qualities and abilities which eminently fit him for the station he fills. The fact is, few members combine in themselves, to the same extent as himself, the essentials of an efficient and useful representative. Fine talents, the feeling and bearing of a gentleman, great energy and industry are his prominent characteristics, and they give him a popularity and weight here, surpassed I assure you, in very few instances.

The business of cabinet making continues to be prosecuted here, with a great deal of vigor, by the politicians. Speculations are indulged in on all hands, and every one almost, is ready to give Gen. Taylor advice on the subject. He is not likely, however to give much weight to their counsel. It seems to be conceded, that glorious old Pennsylvania is entitled to a cabinet office, and though not a citizen of that State, I say she is entitled to any thing she may ask for. It affords me pleasure to see so strong a feeling manifesting itself, not only here, but in various other quarters of the country, in favor of the Hon. Andrew Stewart, of your State, for the Treasury department. Mr. S. may be emphatically styled the *wheel horse* of Taylorism, and having contributed as much, if not more, than any other individual to the success of the Taylor cause, his appointment would not only be just in itself, but would, without doubt, give great satisfaction to the masses who supported the old Chief. I hope, therefore, to see him taken into the Cabinet, not only on account of his services in the cause, but also because his eminence and ability as a Statesman, would make him a good officer, and enable him to contribute essentially to the success and popularity of Gen. Taylor's administration.

UNCLE SAM.

GOLD! GOLD!! GOLD!!!

Every paper we open, teems with accounts of the wonderful discoveries in California. Gold, Gold is the burden of every article, of every letter, and of every conversation. If the accounts are not greatly exaggerated, the immense quantities discovered must effect the price of the article as a standard of value, and gold will become as cheap as in the days of Spanish glory. In addition to the extract we gave yesterday from the report of Col. Mason, we present the following extract of a letter to the North American, dated.

MONTEREY, ALTA CALIFORNIA, August 29, 1848.

"MESSRS. EDITORS:—New and important discoveries are made every day in the gold region.—Instead of being confined to one stream, as was at first supposed, it has already been found on the banks of five, and in many dry ravines, where the water flows only during the rainy season. These streams take their rise in the chain of mountains which runs North and South through California, and are tributaries of the Sacramento. The discoveries extend already two hundred miles North and South, and some seventy East and West.—The strong probability is, that the entire chain—at least five hundred miles of it—is richly impregnated with gold. The ore has been found in the valleys and on the highest hills—at the bottom of mountain streams and on mountain cliffs, where only the eagle has been accustomed to pay his visits. It is inexhaustible. As an evidence of this, one fact will be sufficient. Seven men, with their Indians, working on Feather river, took from a space measuring two hundred yards by twenty, two hundred and seventy-five pounds of gold.

It is difficult to ascertain with much precision what the gold hunters average a day per man. But I can state this fact. I have met a great many of them, and not with one whose daily average was as low as twenty dollars; and some, it is well known, have averaged, for a week or month, over a hundred dollars a day, and this without employing any Indians or engaging in traffic. When a man finds he is gathering only his eighteen or twenty dollars a day, he changes his locality and looks up a richer spot. From all the facts I can gather on the subject, I must believe that the white men now at work in the mines average each about forty dollars a day.

A man who has done considerable team work for me, went to the mines engaged in drawing sand for others from a dry spot to the stream, where the gold might be washed out; he received sixteen dollars the load, and drew five loads a day, quit it, and went to working on his own hook and more than doubled his earnings. I know a little boy, who is twelve years of age, who has been at the mines for the last two months, and who has made his twenty dollars a day during that time, with no other machinery than a little wooden bowl. I know a woman, who took her teastray, went to the mines, squatted down on one of the streams, and in six days worked out her two hundred dollars of gold. She said she should have worked out more, but she spent so much of her time in thinking about her children."

The Baltimore American is indebted to a friend, at present residing at San Francisco, in California, for a copy of the "Polynesian," published at Honolulu, the capital of the Sandwich Islands, which contains some interesting items respecting the gold mines of California. We copy from it the following account of a trip to the mines made by one of the seekers after golden treasure:

"From San Francisco, our road lay through the valley of the Pueblo to San Jose, a distance of about 60 miles. A lovelier country eye of man never gazed on—the level prairies completely matted with flowers of every hue, traversed here and there with streams, together with the "cattle on the thousand hills," presented a beautiful picture. All that was wanting in my mind to heighten the effect, and indeed without which I thought it incomplete, was a number of snug New England farm-houses scattered along the valley, and embosomed in the trees near the road, the "village church" should pierce the clouds with its glistening spire; instead of which a short time in the road brought us in sight of the dingy tile covered mission of Saint Clara. The road leads from this to San Joaquin, which we forded and passed on to Sutter's Fort, through a country of great richness, and apparently capable of supporting an immense population. But not a human being was to be seen; ranchers and all had been deserted, and Americans, Californians and Indians had all gone to the "gold diggings." On arriving at Sutter's, however, we found at the Fort a young Manchester. The blacksmith, the turner, the carpenter, and indeed mechanics of every trade, are actively engaged at their various callings, and all aiming at one grand object, viz: the means of washing the gold at the mines, which are some 40 miles above the Fort.

After leaving the Fort we passed along the banks of the "American Fork," as this branch of the Sacramento is called, and soon commenced ascending the hills which stretch out from the base of the great Sierra Nevada. About noon we stopped to prepare a cup of coffee and partake of a lunch, and while the fire was being kindled, one of our party dipped up a tin cup full of the sand from the bed of the little brook which ran gurgling past, washed it, and at the bottom found some four or five pieces of gold. This was our first attempt at gold digging. About sunset we arrived at the saw mills of Capt Sutter, where the gold was first discovered while digging the mill race. We had ridden over gold, silver, platina and iron mines some 25 or 30 miles, and over a road too, where a city coach could travel with ease and perfect safety, and through a country blooming in flowers and sparkling with springs.

Should I relate to you all that I have been told in regard to the mines since I arrived (but a few hours) I am fearful you would think the savor fishy. As near as I can ascertain, there are about one thousand white men engaged in gold digging thus far. The term "white man" is used in contradistinction to "Mormon." These last named fanatics, with the sly Brannan at their head, are quite numerous, having laid claim to a large proportion of the gold region, demanding 30 per cent. of the ore from all persons digging thereon. This fact will undoubtedly lead to trouble and perhaps bloodshed. Those of the "white men" who have last arrived from the sea coast have stated their determination not to pay any per centage, and swear that whatever has already been paid shall be "choked out" of Brannan. This disinterested man, when last at San Francisco, arranged all his affairs and passed receipts with every one with whom he had business, stating with a very lengthened phiz, that perhaps he should not survive to return, as the miners had threatened to shoot him, but that duty urged him onward.

Thus far the gold has been obtained in the most primitive manner, by washing the earth in tin pans, Wooden bowels, Indian baskets, &c. The average I am told has been $16 per day for each man engaged, and the deeper the soil is dug the richer it becomes. One man obtained over $50 in one washing—say 15 minutes. I was told by an old miner that more than one half of the gold is secured in the present rude careless way of working. With a proper machine and the use of quicksilver, double the amount could be taken from the same soil. The largest amount taken by one person in one day was $200. The pieces are of extraordinary size, the largest weighing half an ounce. The mountains have been explored on every side and gold found on every creek. It is the opinion of all, that 30 or 40,000 persons could be profitably employed on the ground now explored. Nor is gold the only mineral discovered here. Platina has been found in one place in some considerable quantity, and very extensive mines of silver ore have recently been discovered with in five miles of the saw mill, and are said to be very rich. Iron is also abundant, and will pay about $5 per cent.

The richness of the soil in the immediate neighborhood of the mines is most astonishing. Farms can be made in every direction that will feed all the miners that can be employed. The climate is found to be very healthy and free from the chilly winds that howl around the sea coast. The grandeur of the mountains is said to be equal to the celebrated Quincy, and a beautiful quarry of marble has been discovered on the Consumnay river. Specimens of which will before many years adorn the front of public buildings in your flourishing city.

"The cry is still they come." While writing this, two men have just arrived from a valley some five or six miles distant bringing with them two hundred and fifty dollars worth of gold obtained in five days.

The San Francisco Star, alluding to the excitement produced by the gold fever, says—

Every seaport as far south as San Diego, and every interior town, and nearly every rancho, from the base of the mountains in which the gold has been found, to the Mission of San Luis south, has become suddenly drained of human beings.—Americans, Californians, Indians and Sandwich Islanders, men, women and children, indiscriminately. Should there be that success which has repaid the efforts of those employed for the last month, during the present and next, as many are sanguine in their expectation, and we confess to unhesitatingly believe probable, not only will it witness the depopulation of every town, the desertion of every rancho, and the desolation of the once promising crops of the country, but it will also draw largely upon adjacent territories—we who more, and call down upon us, despite her Indian battles, a great many of the good people of Oregon.

We have, by every launch from the embarcadero of New Helvetia returns of enthusiastic gold seekers—heads of families, to effect the transportation of their households to the scene of their successful labors, or others, merely return to more fully equip themselves for a protracted, or perhaps, permanent stay. Spades, shovels, picks, wooden bowls, indian baskets, for washing, &c., find ready purchasers, and are very frequently disposed of at exorbitant prices.

The gold region, so called, thus far explored, is about one hundred miles in length and twenty in width. These imperfect explorations contribute to establish the certainty of the placers extending much farther South, probably three or four hundred miles, as we have before stated, where it is believed to terminate above a league North of the point at which it was first discovered.

There is an area explored within which a body of 50,000 men can advantageously labor without maliciously interfering with each other.

In another place it is said—

The Mormons have laid claim to a large portion of the territory and demand a per centage of the ore taken therefrom. An express has been sent to the Salt Lake settlement, where about 10,000 Mormons are located. There is a rumor that equally rich mines have been discovered in that region, and that the Mormons encamped there are engaged in mining operations. If this be not true the whole Mormon force will probably muster and come to the Sacramento for the purpose of digging gold.

The Washington Intelligencer says—

The following letter, received at this office, of later date and of no less authenticity than any letter which has yet met our eye on the subject, is enough to shake, but not entirely remove, our incredulity as to the brilliancy of the prospects of the gold hunters in California:

ALTA CALIFORNIA,
MONTEREY, Aug. 29, 1848.

Messrs. GALES & SEATON The gold excitement has precipitated all California on the mines. The discoveries that are made, and the quantity of gold taken out, throw fiction into shade; and cast Aladdin's lamp into darkness. There are now about three thousand persons, whites and Indians, at work in the mines. They get out, at the lowest computation, over a million in gold per month, and this quantity will, in all probability, be doubled by the time this letter reaches you; for Oregon, the Sandwich Islands, and the new emigration will be down upon us.

In the meantime we have very little coined money in California, and this gold is sold at an immense sacrifice to keep it from circulation.—The gold has been thoroughly assayed, and proved to be over twenty three and a half carats fine, and yet many who get it out are forced to part with it at ten dollars the ounce, heavy weight—a loss to them of nearly one half their earnings. Nor is this all. This grain gold must find a mint and a market, and goes for this purpose by hundreds of thousands to Mexico, Peru, and Chili, where it is coined, and where it is lost to the metallic basis of our own national currency. This evil can be remedied only in one way, and that is by sending us out a United States Mint; and this should be done with as little delay as possible.

The Washington Union says—

Among the specimens of the mineral wealth of California which were brought to Washington on Thursday, by Lieut. Loeser, were some grains of metal supposed to be platina, one of the heaviest of metals; and also a rich specimen of cinnabar, or the ore of quicksilver; (very heavy.) They are transmitted to the mint, with the gold of California also to be submitted to analysis. Some suppose that the quicksilver mine of California may prove more valuable even than its placers of gold.

The New York Tribune says:

A very intelligent officer of the Navy, who has been recently over the entire gold region of California, for the purpose of examining the matter thoroughly, stated to day, that by the month of March we shall be receiving from California three millions per month in gold. This officer himself has a considerable quantity of the gold, which has reached New Orleans, and other large amounts he knows to be on the way. The Mazatlan correspondent of Messrs. Howland & Aspinwall, writes that $100,000 worth of gold has been received there, which has been assayed and proved to be 22 to 23¼ carats fine, which is as near as may be pure gold, too pure for coining or mechanical purposes. This fact sets at rest the doubts about the genuineness of the metal.

The specimens of gold sent by the War department to the Mint at Philadelphia, are pronounced to be "genuine."

An assay of California gold, made in New York proved it to be 21¼ carats fine.

In connection with this subject we take the following summary of vessels advertised and landing at New York and other ports, or that have sailed for the coast of California within the last six weeks from the Commercial Advertiser. We may mention that several of these vessels have been chartered by Government to take out troops, stores, &c.

SHIPS SAILED.

STEAMERS.—California, Forbes, about Oct. 7; Panama, Crawford, Dec. 1, Oregon, Pearson, Dec. 8.

SHIPS.—John W. Carter, Hart, about Oct. 19; Lewis, Deming, Nov. 7; Fanny Forrester, Sweetlin, Nov. 14; Henry Nesmith, Ulner, Nov. 17; Silvia de Grasse, Rich, 19th; Pendleton, [barque] Curtis, do; Whiton, (barque) Gelston, Nov. 20; and some half dozen vessels from Boston, Salem and Baltimore.

The ship Sea Queen, Manson, for California, and the brig Sacramento, (late U. S. brich Strombolo,) Williams, are to sail to-day; the S. is partly loaded with Government stores, and the Sea Queen is to take out a detachment of two hundred and thirty men belonging to the U. S. infantry, under the command of Major Miller.

The barque John Benson, will sail to-day for Chagres. She takes out a number of passengers, who will go overland to Panama.

ADVERTISED TO SAIL.

Ships Albany, Sherman; Sutton, Ekerman; Massachusetts, Samson; Walpole, Cutter; Orpheus, Freeman; Florence, Bright; Cristoval Colon, Coffin, and brig Leverett, Elliot.

The barque John W. Coffin cleared at Boston, a few days ago, with a large assorted cargo valued at $30,000; her manifest was about two yards long; and we learn from the Boston Journal of last evening that three others are fitting out.

One of the vessels loading at Baltimore will take out nothing but flour.

From the Boston Traveller of last evening we copy the following:—

GOLD HUNTERS.—A meeting was held at the Hanover House, last evening, for the purpose of forming a company to dig gold in California. A large number of persons were present. Charles Brett was elected chairman, and W. B. Farwell, secretary, and a committee was chosen to report on the matter of organizing such an expedition, to an adjourned meeting to be held at the same place at 7 o'clock this evening. The plan of the originators of the meeting is that each member of the company shall furnish $500, and that a ship be chartered and stocked with the proper materials for mining, provisions, &c. The number wanted is one hundred.

The Plymouth Rock gives currency to a report that a band of adventurers are about to sail from that place.

In addition to the above, the steam ship Falcon, Capt Thompson, which left New York on the 1st of December, is to form one of the line to Chagres to connect with the Pacific line across the Isthmus of Darien; the consort of this vessel will leave this port about the 25th instant. She is called the Isthmus. We copy the following from a New York paper; it describes the most direct route to California:—

As the U. S. mail steamers will soon form a monthly line form New York to San Francisco via Chagres and Panama, we have made some inquiry in relation to the journey across the Isthmus. The whole distance is sixty miles, forty of which are the Chagres river, and is performed in canoes; the balance of twenty miles is done on mules; the whole journey takes about two days. We understand that the steamboat Orus has been purchased at this port, and will be placed permanently on the Chagres river in connection with the mail steamers, and thus will reduce the journey time across to sea to ten hours.

Anniversary of the Young Mens' Bible Society of Pittsburgh.

Was held in the First Presbyterian Church (Dr. Herron's) on Monday evening, November 27th.

R. E. Sellers, President of the Society, called the meeting to order.

Rev. J. F. McLaren commenced the exercises by reading the 55th chapter of Isaiah.

Rev. Samuel Fulton engaged in prayer.

The annual report, also the Treasurer's and Librarian's reports were read.

After the reading of the reports the meeting was favored with interesting addresses from Rev. Mr. Preston, Rev. Dr. Cook and Rev. Mr. Bonhomme, the converted Jew.

A collection was then taken up for the benefit of the Bible cause.

Benediction by Rev. Dr. Herron.

Annexed are the reports, list of managers, officers, &c., to which the Society direct the careful attention of the public.

ANNUAL REPORT.

On this occasion, the Board of Managers of the Young Men's Bible Society, offer their 31st annual report.

Thirty-one years have passed away since the Society was organised. During this period remarkable changes have taken place in the circumstances and condition of our population; the Pittsburgh of 1917 would appear as a small country town compared with the Pittsburgh of 1848. In the year 1817 this society was organised, and during all that length of time the object has been invariably the same. If there was destitution of the Bible then, how much greater must it be now! If there was need of effort then, how much greater is now required? We need not flatter ourselves with the reflection that the Bible Society increased its efforts as the city increased in population—this is not the case. We cannot say that moral darkness has been dispelled—that spiritual destitution has been supplied as soon as discovered. On the contrary, you, who compose this society, and we, the managers, must, when we review the past, acknowledge that we have not done our duty, that we have not increased in good works as our city increased in extent and population. The evil spirit is far in advance, we are far behind. The Prince of Darkness occupies a high ground and maintains his position with a powerful resistance. Do you ask why has he the advantage? The question is easily answered—sufficient interest has not been felt in the Bible cause.

The object of our organization is still a great and noble one; it contemplates all that is pure and benevolent. Its design is still to furnish immortal beings with a key that will open to them as they journey through this "vale of tears," and, by lightful view of the realms above—to point the sinner to Christ, the Saviour of mankind, showing him the way of salvation through his sacrifice.

Often has the object of the Young Mens' Bible Society been presented to Christian audiences. Often has the Christian community been invited, nay, entreated to come up to "the work of the Lord against the mighty," and not altogether in vain, for many have come, but there are thousands in this city who have not. Once more then, we desire to lay before you the objects of this Society. It is the "distribution of the Sacred Scriptures in Pittsburgh and in some portions of Western Pennsylvania as are unable to supply themselves with the word of God." The object is simple and easily understood. The command comes to us all. Let no one in this community or the western counties of Pennsylvania be without a Bible. Furnish it at a price so small that the poor may be able to buy—bestow it cheerfully without price to any who cannot purchase. Let the whole community be without excuse, but especially let the religious community and the Young Men's Bible Society be without reproach. Here is the substance of the whole matter—for this purpose the Young Men's Bible Society was organized—for this purpose it now exists.

Before proceeding to details we ask your attention to our mode of operation. Every person contributing annually to the funds of the Society becomes a member. Any person contributing at one time $10 becomes a life member, and a contributing of $25 becomes a director. The Board of Managers is composed of two representatives from each church represented. No church is excluded—all are invited. 21 churches and 11 denominations are represented in this Board. The Managers confine their collections to their several churches. They call on their own members and depend for a generous support of the Bible cause. Should any one forget that they are members of the Young Men's Bible Society and contribute to another, they cannot expect their Managers to give a favorable report from the church to which they belong. It is the duty of the members of all the churches interested in the Young Men's Bible Society to call upon their Managers make their annual visit. If you do this, then your Bible Society will receive that support which it so richly deserves. Then will it show a sum collected worthy of the cause. Then will your Board of Managers feel that they have been rewarded for their gratuitous labors.

We now invite your earnest attention to what the Young Men's Bible Society have been doing during the past year.

In the month of July it was determined on to explore the city, to seek out the destitute, and to place a Bible in the hands of all who could read, and who were willing to buy or receive one as a gift. For this purpose, Mr. James A. Irvin, one of the Managers of this Board, was appointed as the agent of the Society. The necessity for this exploration was known to be great, and Mr. Irvin's report shows that it was not over estimated, but on the contrary, that the work is much more important than we at first gave it weight of.

Mr. Irvin's report will show you that this is a great work in which we have been engaged, and may we not hope for great results?

The number of families visited,	7,309
" " " Bibles sold,	512
" " " Testaments sold,	565
" " " Bibles bestowed,	398
" " " Testaments "	174
Whole number of Bibles and Testaments sold and given away,	1639
Number of families destitute of the Bible,	401
Supplied of this number by sales,	71
" " " gratuitously,	339

In addition to the above, three families were found without the Bible, too poor to buy one, and unwilling to receive it as a gift.

Amount of cash received from sales by Mr. Irvin, $513 11

By referring to this report of our persevering agent we discover that there is much destitution of the Bible in our very midst; that there are hundreds who are too poor to buy a Bible, and that there are many glad to purchase it when it is offered. Were you to hear Mr. Irvin describe some of the scenes which he witnessed, and in which he himself was an actor, you could not help thinking in your heart—perhaps it would be the expression of your lips—that the Bible cause is a glorious one, and worthy of a liberal support.

The steamboats have been supplied by Mr. Cuthbert, who has been laboring in this particular sphere for some years.

The canal boats have also been furnished with the word of life.

From the report of the Librarian, you will observe that 2160 Bibles and Testaments have been sold and distributed gratuitously. The Treasurer's report shows that the Society is in a prosperous condition. The amount raised this year by contributions and sales was $1328 74, exceeding last year's efforts by $608 45. Much more, however, is wanted—we have only commenced to work.

Our city, whose Christian reputation is exceedingly good, is nevertheless a fruitful field of wicked odious. Here every form of vice flourishes—it needs no culture—it grows up spontaneously—its fruit is painfully abundant—it has no autumn when it may be gathered and destroyed. "It has all season for its own," and needs the most vigorous, determined and unceasing efforts to prevent it spreading like the pestilence through every nook and corner of the land. The main object, then, should be to send laborers into this field. Send them with the Bible; let its precious truths be read by all who can read. The circulation and reading of God's book by this community would fill every church with pious members; every sabbath school with attentive and diligent scholars, and our city with good morals. The crying sins of the present day are Sabbath desecration and drunkenness. The Bible can furnish the only remedy for these evils. Is it God speaks forth in tones of thunder to the careless and wicked. When his spirit moves on the troubled waters the angry waves are still.

Your Board of Managers have closed their yearly service, but they have not finished the work; much is yet to be done. On the new Board devolves our duties; and feeling confident that God will bless the efforts of the Young Men's Bible Society, we cheerfully surrender our trust.

Financial Report of Young Mens' Bible Society, for the Year ending Nov. 27th, 1848.

	Dr.	
To balance per last annual report,	26 71	
" " funds in New York,	51 55	
" " do Philadelphia,	728 63	
		816 89
Collection at last annual meeting,	15 36	
Contributions at do to make the speakers Life Directors,	40 00	
		55 36
Cash from the Managers representing the following Churches:		
1st Presbyterian,	140 00	
2d do	50 50	
3d do	69 00	
4th do	25 50	
5th do	17 25	
Cumberland do	31 90	
Liberty Street Methodist Episcopal,	135 84	
Smithfield st. do do	19 00	
Birmingham do do	28 02	
Fifth Street Methodist Protestant,	12 00	
English Lutheran,	30 00	
German do	5 00	
Associate Presbyterian,	18 15	
1st Asso. Ref'd do	51 50	
2d do do	17 00	
St. Andrews Episcopal,	50 00	
1st Reformed Presbyterian,	10 00	
Asbury Chapel,	6 50	
Wesley do	10 00	
		733 66
		55 36
		789 02
To Librarian for books sold,	599 79	
	816 89	
		1,346 68
		$2,135 63

Cr.

By cash expended in purchase of Bibles and Testaments per bills,	1,497 42	
Freight from Philadelphia,	28 52	
Exchange and discount,	10 55	
Appropriation to supply Cembra and Venango counties,	200 00	
	174 50	
Agent's salary for exploring the city,	2 40	
Minute Book,	11 00	
Sexton and Messenger,	60	
Postage,	12 50	
Printing and advertising,	1 00	
Note of broken Bank,	27 50	
	142 00	
Balance, cash on hand,	51 55	
" in New York,	50 00	
" in Philadelphia,	197 14	
	$2,135 63	
To balance in available means,		197 14

JAMES M. BROWNE, Treasurer.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

Account of Bibles and Testament, received, donated and sold, from Dec. 1847 to Dec. 1848

ON HAND FROM LAST REPORT.

Large English Bibles	10
Small do do	71
German do do	54
English Testaments	141
German, &c.,	128
	403

SINCE LAST REPORT.

	Rec'd	Donated	sold	On hand
English Bibles	2124		1035	1089
German do	202		84	118
Welsh do	31		14	17
English testament	2574		1001	1573
Welsh do	106		26	80
	5032	2160	2660	2887

R. A. CUNNINGHAM, Librarian.

Mr. J. A Irvin, agent of the Society, related some interesting facts connected with the exploration of the city.

☞ We invite the attention of our readers to the advertisement of Drs. Dresbach, Kuhn & Pryor's Dyspeptic Cordial, in to-day's paper. No medicine has been offered for sale in this community, the advertising of which has given us so much satisfaction as the one named. It is a most valuable preparation, as every one who has used it will testify. The Dyspeptic Cordial is recommended by some of the ablest physicians of this State as an article which should be kept in every family afflicted with Dyspepsia, Liver Complaint, Sick Headache, Nervous Affections, Extreme Debility, Emaciation and similar affections. Read the advertisement. dec14-wlt

Religious Notice.

An adjourned meeting of the Ladies of the Evangelical Churches of the cities of Allegheny and Pittsburgh will be held at the Third St. Presbyterian Church, of Dr. Riddle, this (Thursday) evening, Dec. 14th, at 7 o'clock, for the purpose of organizing a Ladies' Jews Society, for promoting Christianity among the Jews.

The Rev Mr. Bonhomme will deliver an address.

The ladies and gentlemen are respectfully invited to attend

It is very desirable that the Ministers of the different denominations would attend and favor the audience with their presence. They are respectfully solicited to attend dec14

ALLEGHENY WARD MEETING.—The Anti-masons and Whigs of Allegheny are requested to meet on Saturday evening, the 16th inst., at 6½ o'clock, at their usual places in each Ward, to elect two delegates to the Convention to meet on Wednesday evening following, at the Town House, to put in nomination a candidate for Mayor, and a candidate for Director of the Poor; and also to nominate candidates for city offices.

JAMES TASSEY,
dec14 Sec'y of last Convention.

THIRD WARD PRIMARY MEETING.—The Whig and Antimasonic citizens of the Third Ward, are requested to meet at the School House, on Saturday evening next, Dec. 16th, at 7 o'clock, P. M., for the purpose of nominating a suitable ticket to be supported at the coming Ward election.

By order of the Committee dec14

☞ Annual subscriptions will be received at the book store of Elliott & English, 75 Wood street, for the Jewish Chronicle, published by the American Society for meliorating the condition of the Jews, and edited by the Rev A H Wright, Pastor of the Associate Church, Jane street, New York. dec14

LECTURE ON ENGLISH GRAMMAR.—Mr. Covell will deliver another Lecture on English Grammar this (Thursday) evening, the 14th inst, at 6½ o'clock, before The Association of Pittsburgh and vicinity for promoting Education, in the Chapel of the University. The public are respectfully invited to attend.

M'LANE'S WORM VERMIFUGE.—The popularity which this medicine has acquired in Western P