SUNBURY AMERICAN.

AND SHAMOKIN JOURNAL.

Absolute acquiescence in the decisions of the majority, the vital principle of Republics, from which there is no appeal but to force, the vital principle and immediate parent of despotism.—JEFFERSON.

By Masser & Eisely. | Sunbury, Northumberland Co. Pa. Saturday, Dec. 18, 1847. | Vol. 8--No. 13--Whole No. 377

TERMS OF THE "AMERICAN."

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H. B. MASSER, Editor.

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H. B. MASSER,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
SUNBURY, PA.

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N. B. A large assortment of Goods at Private Sale. Jan. 16, 1847.—1y

CHEAP WATCHES.
The Cheapest Gold and Silver Watches
IN PHILADELPHIA.

GOLD Levers, full Jewelled,	$45 00
Silver do. do.	23 00
Gold Lepines, Jewelled,	30 00
Silver do. do.	15 00
Silver Quartiers, fine quality,	10 00
Gold Watches, plain,	15 00
Silver Spectacles,	1 75
Gold Pencils,	2 00
Gold Bracelets,	4 00

Also, on hand, a large assortment of Gold and Hair Bracelets, finger rings, breast pins, hoop earrings, gold pens, silver spoons, sugar tongs, thimbles, gold neck, curb and fob chains, guard keys and jewellery of every description, at equally low prices. All I want is a call to convince customers.

All kinds of Watches and Clocks repaired and warranted to keep good time for one year; old gold or silver bought or taken in exchange.

For sale, eight day and thirty hour brass clocks,

LEWIS LADOMUS'
Watch, Clock and Jewellery Store, No. 413½ Market street, above Eleventh, north side, Philadelphia.

☞ I have some Gold and Silver Levers, still much cheaper than the above prices.

Philadelphia, Dec. 26, 1846.—1y

To The I. O. of O. F.
J. W. & E. D. STOKES,
Manufacturers of Premium Odd Fellows' Regalia,
No. 194 Market Street, PHILADELPHIA,
First Clothing Store below 6th Street.

THE subscribers having taken the premium at Franklin Institute, at the last exhibition, for the best Regalia, they invite the attention of the order to their establishment, where they will find a splendid assortment of P. G. and Encampment Regalia. They also make to order for Lodges and Encampments, Regalia, Sashes, Costumes and Robes, and furnish every thing requisite for the convenience of new Lodges or Encampments.

J. W. STOKES,
E. D. STOKES.

Philadelphia, Dec. 19, 1846.—1y

NEW
AUCTION STORE,
No. 6 North 3d st., third door above Market Street,
PHILADELPHIA.

SALE EVERY EVENING, of a general assortment of Foreign and Domestic Hardware, Table and Pocket Cutlery, Trunks, Locks, Latchets, Bolts, Saws, Saddlery, Whips, Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps, Guns, Pistols, Trimmings, Clothing and Fancy Goods.

The attention of city and country dealers is invited. The Goods are fresh, and will be warranted equal to the representations that may be made of them. BAYLIS & BROOKER, *Auctioneers,* No. 6 North Third st.

N. B. Purchasers can have their Goods packed. Several invoices of Goods have been received to be sold at private sale.

Philadelphia, Dec. 19th, 1846.—1y

Counterfeiters'
DEATH BLOW.

The public will please observe that no Brandreth Pills are genuine, unless the box has three labels upon it, (the top, the side and the bottom) each containing a fac-simile signature of my handwriting, thus—B. BRANDRETH, M. D.—These labels are engraved on steel, beautifully designed, and done at an expense of over $2,000.—Therefore it will be seen that the only thing necessary to procure the medicine in its purity, is to observe these labels.

Remember the top, the side, and the bottom. The following respective persons are duly authorized, and hold

CERTIFICATES OF AGENCY
For the sale of *Brandreth's Vegetable Universal Pills.*

Northumberland county: Milton—Mackey & Chamberlin. Sunbury—H. B. Masser. M'Ewensville—Ireland & Meixell. Northumberland—Wm. Forsyth. Georgetown—J. & J. Walls.

Union County: New Berlin—Bogar & Winter. Selinsgrove—George Gundrum. Middleburg—Isaac Smith. Beavertown—David Hubler. Adamsburg—Wm. J. May. Mifflinsburg—Mensch & Ray. Hartleton—Daniel Long. Freeburg—G. & F. C. Moyer. Lewisburg—Walls & Green.

Columbia county: Danville—E. B. Reynolds & Co. Berwick—Shuman & Rittenhouse. Catawissa—C. G. Brobts. Bloomsburg—John R. Moyer. Jersey Town—Levi Bisel. Washington Robt. McCay. Limestone—Ballist & McNinch.

Observe that each Agent has an Engraved Certificate of Agency, containing a representation of Dr BRANDRETH'S Manufactory at Sing Sing, and upon which will also be seen exact copies of the *new labels now used upon the Brandreth Pill Boxes.*

Philadelphia, office No. 8, North 8th street.
B BRANDRETH, M. D.

June 24th, 1843.

The Calamity on Lake Michigan.

TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIVE PERSONS LOST.

The Western papers come to us filled with accounts of the destruction on Lake Michigan of the Propeller Phœnix. The following particulars are given by the captain of the Delaware, who assisted in saving the few passengers who escaped:

The Phœnix was first discovered on fire from the deck of the propeller Delaware at a quarter of four o'clock in the morning of the 21st, off about 18 miles, bearing about north by east.

The Delaware was at once got under weigh, and headed for the burning propeller, and drove with all possible speed for two hours, when arriving within fifty rods of the wreck, they heard a voice calling loudly for assistance.

One boat was immediately lowered down and sent in pursuit of the suffering man. It succeeded in picking him up directly and bringing him safe to the Delaware, when he was at once divested of his clothing and dry garments given him instead. After rubbing him severely he became quite comfortable. He proved to be the first engineer. While this man was being picked up the propellor proceeded to the wreck, where the other boat was lowered down and the clerk was found, together with one passenger, clinging to the rudder. This boat picked them up and brought them on board, where, after the same means were used as before, they were both revived and made comfortable.

Both boats were then sent in pursuit of more bodies, while the Delaware was made fast to the wreck and succeeded in towing her to Sheboygan, where she sunk in eight feet water. Soon after the arrival of the wreck at Sheboygan, the boats came up, one with five dead bodies, and the other with baggage and furniture.

At this time one of the Phœnix's boats came up from the shore where the two boats had gone from the burning vessel, taking with them forty-two of the crew and passengers. The boat that now came up contained the captain, very ill, and the first mate, together with some of the crew—the passengers being left on the beach, about 12 miles below. From the clerk, Mr. Domboe, we learned that there were on board 175 Hollanders, large and small, and about 100 other passengers and 25 of the crew, making in all 300 persons—45 in all saved, 255 lost.

The Delaware soon left on her downward passage, and in passing in the track where the burning vessel was found, fell in with many floating bodies, to the number of about 100.—Some of them were standing upright in the water, some of the women were lying on the sides, some—the children generally—on their faces. Some of the passengers were in full dress, some in undress, and others entirely naked—all with their heads to the northward.

They were within four miles of the land, and the wind was fast driving them ashore, so it was not deemed advisable to pick them up, as plenty of boats had been sent from Sheboygen for that purpose, and all not picked up by the boats would drift ashore by the following morning.

From a long account in the Detroit Advertiser, we select the following:

In a hurried intercourse with Mr. M. W. House, 1st engineer of the Phœnix, who came down on the Delaware, we gathered the following particulars:

Mr. House who was then on duty, as the engineer, discovered the fire about 4 A. M., when to all appearances the fire covered but a very small space. It spread however along the underside of the deck with the rapidity of a powder train, and notwithstanding three pumps and several lines of water buckets were put in operation immediately, it was found impossible to check the flames.

The clerk and an Irishman were saved by taking to the rudder-chains, and were rescued from their perilous situation after the arrival of the Delaware, by the small boats. When taken on board they were almost entirely helpless, and could not, in any probability, have remained in the position they were in much longer. The perseverance and fortitude of the clerk, and the advice and encouragement which he endeavored to instil into his companion, while occupying their dangerous position, gave them both fresh hopes, and, no doubt, were the means of saving their lives.

A lad, about fourteen years of age, one of the porters of the boat, who, in company with another boy, had worked incessantly from the commencement of the fire until their pump gave out, after getting near the bow of the boat, formed a determination, with his comrade, to jump overboard, and try to save themselves by swimming. The little hero, after watching one of the deck hands, who had fortunately got hold of a plank, and made a plunge for the water, mustered up his resolution, and followed, taking another course entirely from the hand, and, by swimming about ten rods, was picked up by the boat in charge of his brother, the mate, by those in the boat passing the end of the oar to within his grasp.

He was completely chilled, when taken in, and says he could not have survived a great while longer, if he had not been picked up.—His comrade remained on the propellor, and no doubt perished in the flames, but this little fellow said he had made up his mind if he remained on the boat he should be burned, and he had rather run his chance of being picked up or drowning, than the former.

As to the origin of the fire, it was impossible to ascertain, as each of the survivors with whom we conversed, had different opinions. The most probable conclusion is, that it took from fire near the boilers, as the first that was discovered of it, the flames were rushing out of the ventilators, used for carrying off the hot air, situate directly over or near the boilers.

While the Phœnix was yet on fire she was taken in tow by the Delaware, and when near the harbor of Sheboygan, the bow of the vessel burning, let the anchor drop, while they were obliged to cut the chain, and she went ashore on the beach. It is thought a large amount of the sugar, molasses, and other heavy stuffs that were in the bottom of the hold will be saved.—The Phœnix was owned by Messrs. Pease & Allen, of Cleveland, and we understand was insured for $12,000.

The loss of life is the largest, we believe, which ever occurred on the lakes, and the property lost is immense. It is supposed that those 150 Hollanders had considerable money with them, as they were seeking a location in the west. But how uncertain is life! It is indeed mournful to record this sad catastrophe.

Those who were eye witnesses of this dreadful scene, say that language is inadequate to give even a poor description of it; all was confusion and tumult—the cries and screams of the poor Hollanders, collected together in crowds on the bow of the boat, were enough to make the most resolute heart falter, and impress on the minds of those fortunate enough to escape, recollections of that awful hour, that time can never obliterate.

Young and old—the vigorous and decrepid—women and children, were all huddled together perfectly frantic at the horrible doom that awaited them—the still small hope that the Delaware would arrive to render them assistance, served only to prolong the sufferings of those who clung to the boat to perish by the devouring element.

At one time the rigging of the vessel was completely crowded by those who sought refuge from the flames and smoke; the fire spreading rapidly, upon reaching the rigging the whole was in one instant a perfect blaze, and those who still clung to their last hopes, dropped like the seared and yellow leaves before the chill blast of winter. This was the saddest sight of all; sickening even to contemplate.

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.—The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore American gives the following statistics from it:

Revenue received during the year,	$3,945,893
Expenditures during the year,	3,979,570
Excess of receipts this year over the last, (or 13 15-1000 per cent.,)	458,693
Deficiencies of the year,	33,677
Letter postage received during the year,	3,254,512
Number of letters passing through the mail,	52,173,480
Free letters annually,	5,000,000
Newspapers annually,	55,000,000
Pamphlets, "	2,000,000
Dead letters, "	1,800,000
Post routes, "	183,818
Annual transportation, miles,	38,087,898
Receipts by mail for two years,	7,360,000

Of the amount due in this time, the delinquencies are only $21,948, and the delinquents 154 postmasters, of an aggregate number of fifteen thousand one hundred and forty-six. The postmasters changed during the year number 3450.

The Postmaster General, in the course of his report, recommends that newspapers be taxed by weight, and enters upon a grave argument in defence of this position.

An attempt was made in the House yesterday to revive that section of the law of 1845, which allowed newspapers to be circulated within thirty miles of the place of publication without charge. The present law, according to the Postmaster's own showing, will leave a surplus in the treasury next year, notwithstanding the estimates of the year are for $4,092,206, and more than a quarter million of this sum for the mail steamers.

The New Orleans Picayune has heard it stated by several of our most distinguished officers, just arrived from Mexico, that one prominent impediment to the conclusion of the war is, that the better order of Mexicans fear that upon the withdrawal of the United States troops, the country will be overrun and pillaged by their own soldiery.

One hundred barrels of magnificent pippin apples, from the Pelham farm, Ulster county, were lately shipped from Boston to China, the first shipment to the Celestial Empire.

DR. CHALMERS never preached longer than three-quarters of an hour, though a great orator.

Synopsis of the Report of the Secretary of War.

It appears by this document, which is of great length, that the whole military force at present employed under the government, numbers—

Of regulars,	21,509	
Of volunteers,	22,027	
		43,576
With General Scott—		
At Tampico, now on route, and on the line from Vera Cruz to headquarters,	32,156	
With General Taylor,	6,727	
In Santa Fe, on the Oregon and Santa Fe routes and Indian territory,	3,634	
In California and on route thither,	1,019	
		43,576

The actual strength, it appears, is much less than this amount, but the number not in active service cannot be precisely ascertained. The Secretary advises that the present organization be completed by enlistments. An enlistment of 7381 is necessary to complete the regular organization, and to complete that of the volunteer force, an enlistment of 12,500, to serve during the war. There appears to be now in service a numerical force of 23 regiments, 7 battalions, and 33 companies not organized into regiments or battalions.

The most important action recommended is the immediate organization of ten additional regiments of regulars, to serve during the war; and he also asks authority to accept, in case of exigency, the services of a volunteer force of not less than 20,000. The Secretary states he has no means of ascertaining the amount of revenue that can be collected in Mexico.

The total amount already collected in Mexican ports, amounts to	$530,810 46
Of this sum, there has been handed over to the Commissary Department,	448,722 33
Remaining	$92,088 13

His further recommendations are as follows:

Payment of expenses of States for organizing, transporting and subsisting volunteers. (He specifies the claim of Texas to such compensation.)

The formation of a retired list.

An appropriation for repair, &c., of the public defences along the seaboard and northern line.

An increase in the engineer force.

The appointment of six additional hospital surgeons.

An appropriation for the payment of additional clerks employed by the department to furnish discharged soldiers with scrip and certificates of location.

A pension for the widows and children of those dying by disease while in active service, (no such provision now exists by law.)

Such a modification of the pension law as to place the widows and children of officers and soldiers of the regular army on the same footing with those of volunteers, with regard to pension.

The Secretary reports on the present condition of the indian tribes, and their relation towards the United States. The following list of papers accompany the report:—

Report of the Adjutant General.

Reports of the various battles since Buena Vista, inclusive.

Orders and instructions regulating contributions in Mexican ports.

Reports of Commissary General, Paymaster General, Chief Engineer, Chief of Topographical Engineers, Chief of Ordnance, Commissioner of Pensions, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and second and third Auditors.—*N. Y. Herald.*

AMOUNT OF DONATIONS TO IRELAND.—From a statement in the American Almanac, it appears that the amount of donations sent from the United States for the relief of the destitute in Ireland, is considerably beyond a million of dollars. The ports from which the contributions were shipped, and the amounts, are stated to be as follows: Boston, $174,847 00; Philadelphia, $80,284 28; New York, $182,450 13; Baltimore, $21,090 00; Washington, $10,300 00; Richmond, $15,000 00; New Orleans, $30,385 00; Providence, R. I. $3,377 00; Salem, Mass, $3,438 70, New Bedford, Mass. $3,847 60; Nantucket, Mass. $2,180 69; Vigo county, Indiana, $1,431 65;—total, $591,313 29. Add the contributions transmitted from Pittsburg and Charleston, not included in the above, $60,398 80—total, $651,612 09. The returns are not yet complete. The whole amount is exclusive of the private remittances from the United States, which, from our Irish citizens alone, reached the aggregate of $536,056, between November 1, 1846, and October 1, 1847. Including all the donations, in kind and money, private and public, for the year, the total value cannot fall short of a million and a half of dollars.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT FROM SPIRIT GAS.—The wife of one of the New York Pilots, Capt. Mason, came to her death at New London, in a distressing manner, a few days since. Her daughters had been at an evening meeting, and on their return found the house enveloped in flames, and their mother lying dead in the hall, with the fragments of a spirit gas lamp around her.

SANTA ANNA.

From the last accounts from Mexico, Santa Anna would appear to be, at length, completely fallen,—no longer a military chief at the head of armies,—no longer a President and virtual dictator, the ruling spirit and master of his country,—no longer even a fugitive, contending with dignity and courage against fate,—but a helpless hopeless, submissive victim and prisoner, patiently yielding to arrest, and patiently expecting the ignominy of a trial, in which he is to be arraigned for military incompetency and, we are even told, peculation or robbery of the public treasury.

The life of Santa Anna illustrates in an extraordinary degree the vicissitudes of that fortune, which, in the ancient times of superstition and fable, was worshipped as a controlling divinity; though it resembles less the career of a democratic chief and military demagogue of our own era and hemisphere, than the history of the slave of an oriental monarch,—a Narces, or Belisarius, or some palace menial, raised by the caprice of fortune, or the purple, from the lowest obscurity up, through all intermediate posts and dignities, to the glory of military command, and triumph, and mastership—only, by a similar caprice, to be suddenly pulled down and degraded even below the depths of former insignificance. Or,—if we must find for the Mexican ex President a more dignified parallel, he can be compared to Demetrius, the Destroyer of Cities, the very football of fortune; who—with more valor, the advantage of royal lineage, and a character as infamous for debauchery as Santa Anna's has been for blood,—ran through every adventure of fortune, to rise and fall,—to be exiled and recalled,—to win thrones and be driven from them,—to fight and conquer, and be conquered,—and, finally, to end the drama of ambition in unutterable wretchedness and degradation, and in chains.

It is now twenty-six years since *Colonel* Santa Anna rose from obscurity, a partisan of Iturbide; under whose auspices he drove the Spaniards out of Vera Cruz, and was appointed governor of that city in 1821. He was the faithful slave of the usurper, his imperial master; but having incurred the displeasure of that caricature of royalty, and being threatened with the loss of his commission, he seduced his regiment to revolt, invited the old revolutionary chief Victoria from his mountain concealment to head the rebellion, and thus had the merit of dethroning the emperor and restoring the republic. But the republic not rewarding that merit in a degree equal to his expectations, Santa Anna revolted again, and against *it*, marching in 1823, with a corps of six hundred fellow traitors from Tampico to San Luis Potosi; where he spread his flag, modestly proclaiming himself Protector of the Republic. This patriotic speculation entirely failed: the rebel was captured and dismissed to retirement on his Xalapa estate for five years. In 1825 he was partially restored to favor; and in 1828, after the presidential election of that year, he again got up a rebellion for the purpose of deposing Pedraza, the President elect, and substituting Guerrero, the defeated candidate. This enterprise happened to be successful; and Santa Anna was rewarded with the posts of Secretary of War and Commander-in chief of the Army, early in 1829. It was in the same year that Spain sent her last invading army, under Barredas, who landed at Tampico, to be beaten and captured with his whole force by Santa Anna. Yellow fever, and the incompetency of Barradas, were powerful auxiliaries; but this was the most glorious exploit of Santa Anna's life.

From that moment, until he took the reins himself, the standing occupation of Santa Anna consisted in making and unmaking Presidents. He dethroned Guerrero, and put Bustamente in his place—taking care to have Guerrero shot for treason—in 1831. Next year, Santa Anna turned against Bustamente, and actually had Pedraza, his former victim, brought back from exile, to finish some two or three months of his unexpired Presidential term. In 1833, Santa Anna was elected President himself, put down several insurrections, refused the Dictatorship, offered by the army, as Cæsar did the crown; and, in 1836, destroyed the federal constitution and system of independent States, (similar to our own,) substituting the central system, by which the sovereignty of the States was merged in a consolidated central government. Elated with the success of his schemes, and still at the head of affairs, Santa Anna marched into Texas, to commit the butcheries of the Alamo, and suffer, at San Jacinto, the retribution of an overthrow more disgraceful than was ever, perhaps, suffered by any general, great or small, before his time.

In 1838, he rose again from the contempt into which that disgrace had thrown him, and distinguished himself by suppressing the Federal insurrection of Mexia, and ordering that unlucky patriot, or adventurer, to be shot on the field of battle. Then came, within the same year, the attack of the French admiral, Baudin, on the castle of San Juan de Ulloa, which gave the Mexican hero the opportunity to repel the descent of the Prince de Joinville, and lose a leg in the service of his country. This was next to the capture of Barradas, the most glorious of his feats, and gained him the title of *Benemerito*, or the Well-deserving, of his country,—to which his whole life has proved he has but a very equivocal claim.

In 1840 we find him at his old trick of revolutionizing a President out of his chair. Bustamente was again deposed. Santa Anna became dictator; and his leg was buried in the capital, at the church of San Paula, with more honor and pomp than will be, hereafter, perhaps, bestowed on his entire body. In 1844 Paredes made *his* first essay at a *pronunciamento*; and, in 1845, the *Benemerito* (his buried leg torn out of its grave by enraged leperos) was banished to Cuba; where he remained, until, by a surprising stroke, universally considered the very masterpiece, of American political intrigue, he was sent—or passed—back to Mexico, to be made President and Commander in Chief once more, and, as such, raise large armies to fight great battles with our own forces, and lose them. In the conflict with the Americans of the North, his genius and his fortune have always failed him. He never before showed half as much talent, courage, energy, or devotion to his country as he has displayed in the present war. All, however, has proved in vain. Every fight has been a defeat. His star and his reputation have sunk together. Power and popular appreciation have all been withdrawn. Friends and country abandon him alike: and now, an object apparently of equal contempt and hatred, the Benemerito submits to the commands and the arrest of Pena y Pena, a President appointed by himself, and awaits the result of a degrading trial, and perhaps an ignominious conviction.

This is a fair sketch of the career of Santa Anna, the Mexican patriot, the 'Napoleon of the South.' But whether the career be entirely closed, remains yet to be seen. Santa Anna has often fallen before—never, in degree, so deeply as now; but he has always risen again, stronger than ever. It is not impossible that he may flash up once more into importance. His countrymen are the most fickle of all people in the world; and Santa Anna, with all his faults, and the absence of all the qualities of genius that mark the great man, is by far the ablest one, both as a soldier and a statesman, in all Mexico.

THE PENNY POSTAGE SYSTEM is regarded in Great Britain as a source of much improvement—many thousands of the lower classes being induced to learn to read and write for the pleasure of friendly correspondence. The English Postmaster General has recently addressed a circular to the post-office authorities of all the countries of Europe, urging them to co-operate with England in introducing a system of universal penny postage. It is thought that the German Confederacy will be the first to adopt the plan of cheap postage, and when this is done, other countries cannot be long in following. Why should the United States be the last in this simple arrangement for the spread of knowledge and good feeling?—*N. Y. Post.*

GENERAL TAYLOR.—The following incident is narrated of Gen. Taylor by Mr. Reid:—"Calling on the commanding general soon after our recovery, to ascertain the chances of transportation, he remarked, after some pleasant conversation, that he was perfectly deluged with letters, and that much of his time was occupied in making replies. 'And, sir,' said General Taylor, smiling, as he handed us two letters, 'to show you the diversity of subjects that I am called upon to respond to, you may look at these.' One of the letters was from a boy, 14 years of age, giving a short history of himself and family, and who desired to enlist in the service, and had written to the General to ask his advice on the subject! The other was from an Irish woman, who wanted to know *if her son Mike was killed*, as she had not heard from him since the late battles. We feel certain that such letters would not have received attention at Washington, but both were answered by the general, carrying out the maxim that *nothing is beneath the attention of a great man*; and we left him, impressed with the great goodness of his heart."

A HARD CURRENCY.—A Vera Cruz letter writer says: 'In conversing with one of the officers from Perote, I was told that soap was used as a legal tender and indeed preferred to silver. The soap is made into cakes of the value of a cent and a half, and the cakes are stamped and pass freely—hence, no doubt, the expression, 'out of soap,' &c.

WHERE IS OLE BULL?—This great fiddler has not been heard of for more than a year past. Neither his wife nor his mother has received any intelligence from him.

MILTON wrote some of his miscellaneous poems before he was 20 years old. How many young men of the present day are distinguishing themselves as did Milton?

PRICES OF ADVERTISING.

1 square 1 insertion,	$0 $0
1 do 2 do	0 75
1 do 3 do	1 00
Every subsequent insertion,	0 25

Yearly Advertisements: one column, $25; half column, $18, three squares, $12; two squares, $9; one square, $5. Half-yearly: one column, $18; half column, $12; three squares, $8; two squares, $6; one square, $3 50.

Advertisements left without directions as to the length of time they are to be published, will be continued until ordered out, and charged accordingly.

☞ Sixteen lines or less make a square.