

**THE SPY & COLUMBIAN.**  
SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 17, 1847.

**AGENCIES.**

V. B. PALMER, North West corner of Third and Chestnut streets, Philadelphia, Tribune Buildings, (opposite City Hall), N. York. South East corner of Baltimore and Calvert streets, Baltimore, and No. 12 State street, Boston.

JACOB M. WESTHAVER, Lancaster city.

WILLIAM A. PIERCE, Travelling Agent.

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Address, Post paid, EDITOR COLUMBIA SPY, Columbia, Pa.

**DAILY PAPER IN READING.**—Mr. J. Lawrence Getz, of the Reading Gazette, has commenced the publication of a daily in Reading, Pa. The number before us presents a neat appearance. It is published at ten cents a week, or two cents for single copies. It is an enterprise worthy of support, and we wish the enterprising publisher the success he merits.

We strolled up to the Basin on Wednesday, and were agreeably surprised to find business still so brisk in that neighborhood. The general dullness complained of elsewhere, and which is the more sensibly felt from the recent extraordinary activity, has not yet extended to this place. We suppose, however, that we must take our turn with the rest, for a time at least.

Hearing the busy rat-tat of mechanics' tools, we crossed over to FRALEY'S BOAT YARD, where we found a staunch-looking Section Boat in progress, which promises to be one of 'em, when completed. A new and substantial bridge has been thrown over the canal, where the rickety old affair stood when we were there last. At SIMPSON'S BOAT YARD we also found a Section Boat nearly completed. We believe these are the only boats of the kind that have been built here this season; and we are gratified to be able to say, on the opinion of better judges than ourself, that they will compare favorably with any that have been built elsewhere.

"WALNUT FRONT!"—We observe that our enterprising friend, Mr. Philip Schroiner, has completed the repairs of the property recently purchased by him on Front street, and the building now presents a handsome appearance. A row of four shops has been fitted up with tasteful fronts, one of which Mr. S. occupies for his Jewelry Store.

Speaking of Front street,—whoever passes along the vicinity of Capt. Pretzman's clothing store, will be struck with the alteration that has been made—in the store—not in the Captain—he presents the same front as of yore. But the store has been clothed in a new architectural dress, which adds to the beauty of Front street, and speaks favorably of the thrift and enterprise of the Captain.

**PROGRESSING RAPIDLY.**—The large brick building which is being erected on the north-west corner of Front and Locust street, by Peter Haldeman, is progressing rapidly to completion. The appearance of that part of the town will be vastly benefitted by this improvement.

**IMPORTANT TELEGRAPHIC IMPROVEMENT.**—Mr. J. D. Reid, the indefatigable Superintendent of the Atlantic and Ohio Telegraphic Company has invented an improvement in telegraphing which will prove to be a great importance. It is known to all who have business transactions, through the agency of the Magnetic Telegraph, that when the air is surcharged with electricity, it has been impossible to work the instruments, and that the magnets have been seriously deranged and often destroyed by the lightning. These occurrences have directed the attention of Mr. Reid to some remedy. He has succeeded by means of a lightning rod, which is connected with the magnet in such a way as to carry off the superabundance of electricity. It worked well during the storm of last Tuesday.—Mr. Reid is about to secure a patent for the invention.

**DREADFUL ACCIDENT.**—We learn from the Lancaster Intelligencer that on Thursday last a most distressing casualty happened to Mr. H. G. Guetter, of Bethlehem, in this state, as he was proceeding in his carriage, with his wife and daughter, on the road towards Lititz. By some incus the horse taking flight, the carriage was overturned, and the unfortunate inmates bruised and mangled in a most shocking manner. Mr. Guetter died on Friday evening, from the wounds received. His daughter is still living at Mr. Kauffman's hotel, it being impossible to remove her on account of the severity of her injuries. His remains were taken to Bethlehem on Saturday morning; his wife, who was the least injured of the three, accompanied them.

**GOT HIS FOOT IN IT.**—As some boys were bathing in the Miami Canal, under the Twelfth st. bridge recently, one of them got his foot into a nest of silver and other kinds of watches. Several of them had been valuable, and one contained a diamond, though most of them had been stripped of their cases. One boy got twenty-one watches, another eighteen, and none less than a watch apiece. The canal has not been wholly drawn off for about a year, on this level, and the watches must have been dropped in within that time.

**A LONG-WIENDED ORATION.**—Abby Folsom preached a Fourth of July Oration, of two days' length, from her chamber window in Boston—commencing on Sunday and getting through on Monday night. The Mail says "she preached enough during the two days from her window, to wear out the lungs of a lion, and make an elephant hoarse. Her physical powers are tremendous, and her love of the freedom of speech stronger than death."

**CAP, THE CALCULATOR.**—This prodigy is a negro, and one of the greatest wonders of the age. He can calculate with ease, and without the use of a slate, any amount of numbers. He knows scarcely anything else; seems almost destitute of every faculty of mind; divides and adds numbers, from one to a million, apparently without an effort. He has been exhibited at Cincinnati lately.

**MAGNETIC BALLOON.**—The Philadelphia Sun publishes a well written communication, entitled, "Brief account of some novel experiments upon Gravity, and also a narrative of two Voyages into empty space, by Orrin Lindsay." This Mr. Lindsay professes to have discovered a means of ascending into the air, to any desired height, by intercepting or destroying the attraction of gravitation. He says "Without following step by step, the course and order of my experiments, suffice it at present to say: that I found well prepared steel, after being superficially amalgamated with quicksilver, and then strongly magnetized, to possess the quality of an impervious screen, to the influence of gravitation. In preparing steel for this purpose, the difficulty consists in combining it properly with the quicksilver; the true mode of accomplishing which I do not intend to reveal until I shall have properly secured my rights as an inventor, in England and France, as well as in my native country, the United States. He constructed a box, one foot square, covered with steel plate thus prepared, which he found to possess buoyancy enough to overcome the atmospheric pressure. This carried up anything which it would contain.

The first relevant experiment which I made worth while here to relate, was by confining a young bull terrier dog, weighing about fifteen pounds, in the square box before mentioned, attaching a twine to the box, and allowing it to ascend in the air. The dog did not seem to relish this compulsory mode of making him contribute to the cause of science; but up he went, box, twine and all, near two hundred feet high, to the length of the twine. I pulled him down and let him ascend slowly for several times. I had all along kept a tight string upon the box, so as to moderate the velocity of ascent; but, wishing to observe the velocity which it might attain, uninhibited, I gave it at last a slack twine. Starting slowly at first, it gradually increased its rate of ascent (on the same principle as the ascent of a vertical ash pole, sunk deep in the water and then let go), until it came to the length of the string, of which I kept hold, by which time, it had acquired such momentum as to snap the twine. It continued to ascend with still accelerated velocity, its course modified a little by the winds, until it finally entered a fleecy cloud, and was forever lost to my sight."

Delighted with the success of this experiment, the inventor set to work to devise the kind of machine, upon this principle, in which he might venture to make an aerial voyage, and to assist him in carrying his plan into execution, he employed Mr. Abner Josslin, a skilful philosophical instrument maker of Cincinnati. The machine was constructed, and on the 15th of February, Mr. Orrin Lindsay cut loose from the earth near Natches and "went up" until he attained an altitude of five miles.

"The day was fine, with very few clouds and little air stirring below, but I perceived that I had got into an invisible current, bearing me at the rate of near five miles an hour towards the north-east. The prospect was grand, beyond my power to delineate. The deep blue sky, as far above me as ever, still bent over me its hemispherical vault, like an enormous soap bubble. The surface of the earth seemed hollowed out into a corresponding hemispher, in form like the sky, turned bottom side up. The whole country, with its rivers, lakes, fields, forests, towns, &c. lay spread out before me, like an immense concave map. The scenery seemed to rise in the distance, appearing less and less distinct, more and more blue, until in my horizon, it shaded off all around, imperceptibly, into the murky, smoky blue of the lower sky. I ventured to ascend still higher, and the higher I went, the colder it became, at the rate of about one degree Fahr. for every 352 feet. I could all along, approximate closely to my height, by observing the volume occupied by a small portion of air, confined by mercury, in a graduated glass tube, called an air gauge: it being well understood, that at the height of 3½ miles, the air has half its normal density or twice its volume at the level of the sea; at 7 miles high, one-fourth the density, or 4 times the volume, and so in the same ratio. Indeed if the whole atmosphere were of the uniform density which it has at the level of the sea, it would only extend the height of 26,056 feet, almost equal to five miles. The higher I ascended the deeper became the blue of the sky, until, at my greatest altitude, it became almost black; from which it may be inferred, that the blue tint of the sky is solely due to the earth's atmosphere; and had the earth no atmosphere, the sky would appear black."

After exploring the upper regions to his own satisfaction, he prepared for a descent, which was done by opening one or more of the valves under the balloon so as to allow the attraction of the earth a chance to exercise its power. Upon descending below the clouds he found himself in a moderate current of air, moving to the south, some ten miles north-east of Natches. He says:—"By judiciously opening an attraction in a direction of lake Concordia, I soon had the satisfaction of finding the balloon moving, despite the wind, in the direction of the Devil's Punch-bowls, at the rate of about 15 miles an hour. Moderating my gait, in due time I caused the balloon to subside gently, and safely, into the big Punch-Bowl; landing at 3 P.M., not ten feet from where I had started five hours before, to the great joy of Josslin, who, losing sight of me in the clouds, had given me up for lost."

A second voyage was made on the last day of February, with two persons in the balloon—Lindsay, and Josslin, the instrument maker, which was attended with like results, only this time they made the circuit of the moon, and were up six days. The story is told with all the seriousness of sober truth, yet we must confess that such an altitude attained by such means, must be owing to the influence of the moon, or perhaps the moon's story.

**SPURIOUS NOTES.**—We saw yesterday two one dollar notes of the Merchants' Bank of Baltimore which had been altered to tens, and so ingeniously was it done as to require close scrutiny to detect the fraud. The notes of the denomination of one and two dollars issued by the Bank are in the form of certificates of deposit, and all those of a higher denomination are in the usual form of bank notes. A recollection of this fact will be sufficient to detect the imposition. From the circumstance of two notes of this false character being offered at the Bank yesterday it is inferred that a number are in circulation;—*Balt. American.*

**POLICE AFFAIRS.**

*Before Justice Speaks.*

**Jacob Mourer** was arrested on complaint of Jos. Lundy, charged with abandoning his wife and children in March last, and enticing Mary Lundy to abscond with him. She was only 15 years of age, and is a niece of complainant. Defendant took the girl in the night when the parents were from home visiting some sick friend. It appeared that Mourer and the girl have been living together in Pittsburgh, she assuming the character of a house keeper. All parties resided in Barb township, Lancaster county, and the girl's parents are respectable people, as appeared by the testimony. The justice committed Mourer, and will hand him over to Judge Lewis for a further hearing.

**George Taylor**, on complaint made by a number of citizens, was convicted of vagrancy and sentenced to twenty days' imprisonment at hard labor.

**Martin Stoner**, a boat captain, arrested for maliciously breaking and injuring Capt. William Powell's boat. Parties settled by defendant paying damages.

**Elizabeth Noller**, charged by Mary Markly with maliciously breaking the windows of her house by throwing stones. She stated that her residence was in Westmoreland county—that she came to Columbia with some boatmen, and was an inmate in the family of Mr. Daniel Miller in the day time.

After examining a number of witnesses, she was committed as a disorderly vagrant, and sentenced to 30 days' imprisonment at hard labor. Whilst on her way to Lancaster, she made a violent assault on the constable, but *nix kum rous*.

**Mary Winebrenner**, assaulting and threatening Cornelia Davis. Held to bail to keep the peace.

**Adam Kline**, obtaining goods under false pretences, with a fraudulent intention, from A. B. Landis, a merchant in Washington, to the amount of \$27.76. Defendant paid part of the money, and further proceedings were suspended for the present.

**John Jolling**, attempting to defraud A. Seiver out of \$18, by using artful devices to avoid payment, being fully able to pay. After a hearing defendant paid the amount and was discharged.

**CANAL TOLLS.**—The subjoined statement of tolls received on the public works up to the 1st inst., shows a handsome increase over last year for the month of June, being \$1,774 06, and a total increase up to July 1st, of \$20,261 82.

**STATEMENT of the amount of Tolls received on the lines of Canal and Railroads of the Commonwealth, as per reports of the several Collectors, for the fiscal year commencing the 30th of Nov. 1846, to the 1st day of July, 1847.**

OFFICES.	For June,	Total since 30th Nov.
Easton,	19,624 16	55,567 89
New Hope,	999 05	3,489 44
Bristol,	3,110 21	10,575 11
Philadelphia,	29,532 39	180,341 18
Faith,	1,209 93	8,668 12
Parkesburg,	2,366 45	21,339 61
Lancaster,	4,436 87	42,295 45
Columbia,	33,097 64	137,569 73
Portsmouth,	1,670 34	5,273 15
Harrisburg,	2,507 07	12,100 30
Newport,	774 63	3,975 47
Lewistown,	1,858 79	11,562 14
Huntingdon,	1,812 68	9,319 97
Hollidaysburg,	20,216 10	74,225 41
Johnstown,	27,240 11	89,850 03
Blairsville,	2,199 94	7,222 56
Freeport,	843 36	2,164 38
Pittsburg,	25,849 60	78,422 09
Dunsmuir,	3,400 85	10,368 92
Williamsport,	1,514 63	5,712 40
Northumberland,	5,247 97	23,749 68
Berwick,	16,560 30	34,307 83
Liverpool,	1,575 58	5,814 16
Schuylkill Viaduct,	52 13	189 18
Poortsmouth Outlet Lock,	216 03	1,180 15
Swatara Aqueduct Bridge,	53 10	259 24
Duncans Island Bridge,	257 82	1,716 25
Total,	\$208,327 79	\$36,688 95
Same period, 1846,	166,553 73	566,427 13
Increase in 1847,	\$41,774 06	270,261 82

**A FEMALE SAILOR.**—A girl of about twenty years of age, named Julia Bickford, was examined at the Police Court, this forenoon, on the charge of being a vagrant, and, at her own request, was sent to the House of Correction for three months. This girl had been three or four voyages to sea in male attire, as a common sailor. According to her own statement, she first went a voyage with her uncle, in her proper character and attire, and, like the excitement of a sea-faring life, on her return purchased male attire, and shipped for a voyage to California, which voyage she performed without her sex being suspected. Since that time, she has been to the West Indies and to ports in the Southern States. She came to this city recently, and, dressed in female attire, but having no home, being discarded by her relatives for her misconduct, she wished to be sent to the House of Correction. Her looks are not masculine, other than her face is emblazoned from exposure, and her hands and arms are tough and hard as though they had frequently been dipped in a tar-bucket.—*Boston Journal, 8th.*

**THE LETHION.**—The Vera Cruz Eagle of the 23d ult., says:—"We had the pleasure of enjoying an invitation to be present on the occasion of an amputation of two legs, above the knee, on Saturday last, where that great assistant in surgical cases, the Lethion, was used. The subjects were two men who had been conveyed to the hospital of San Francisco, and the success was a triumph over physical pain. Dr. Barton administered the Lethion, and Dr. Porter and a young physician (whose name we are sorry we do not recollect) were the operators.

In one case the limb was removed in five minutes and a half from the commencement of the inhalation to the close of the amputation. In the other a few seconds over that time. Both declared that they had felt nothing during the operation. One of them rather playfully observed, on recovering consciousness, and perceiving that it was done, "that is the way you do it, is it?" This is surely a wonderful agent, and may be regarded as the most invaluable discovery in relieving suffering humanity, that has yet been revealed."

The Telegraphic wires were put up through Steubenville on the 29th ult., and the line is going ahead to completion to Cincinnati, to be completed, as is hoped, in the course of thirty or forty days. Mr. O'Reilly erects the line from Pittsburgh to Columbus, and from Columbus to Cincinnati. It will be extended by himself and others to Louisville. At Louisville a line will be formed to St. Louis.

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**FROM SANTA FE.**

**ANOTHER BATTLE.**—The St. Louis Republican of July 7 contains Santa Fe news of the 27th May.

Major Edmundson, when about 150 miles south of Santa Fe, with a force of 70 men, met some 400 Mexicans and Indians.

A battle ensued, and the Americans were compelled to retreat with the loss of two killed and three wounded, besides losing all the horses belonging to the party. The cause of this disaster was that the attack was made in an unfavorable position for our troops. Major E. was compelled to leave one wounded American on the battle field to the mercy of the Mexican opponents, and his fate is not known.

Another government train has been attacked by the Indians, and one hundred and fifty head of cattle taken. This train was commanded by Capt. Bell.

Col. W. H. Russell, bearer of despatches from Col. Fremont, at California, has reached St. Louis.

**ANOTHER LETTER FROM GEN. TAYLOR.**—The Troy Daily Post publishes the following letter from Gen. Taylor, addressed to a citizen of Lansingburg.

There is no room to doubt its genuineness, the editor of the Post having seen the original. It confirms the genuineness of the "Signal" letter:

**HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF OCCUPATION,** Camp near Monterey, May 29, 1847.

Dear Sir—it is with much pleasure that I acknowledge the receipt of your most interesting letter of the 1st inst., and to which I desire to reply in terms more expressive of my thanks to you for your kind consideration for myself, and yet more so of my high appreciation of the upright and patriotic sentiments which are the principal tenor of your letter;