

ditions. "Ragging and Boneing" is another popular vocation. The capital invested in this business varies from a dilapidated butter kettle to a push cart; and the field of operations is extended from a circuit of half a dozen squares, to as many miles. Some gather merely enough to buy a meal, a glass of whiskey, and a night's lodging; others, more enterprising, will hire a push-cart, and extend their researches far into the country; after an absence of eight or ten days the collector returns to his old haunts, and disposes of his stock in trade, for five or ten dollars. Then comes a time of high revelry, the dance houses are visited, and the old black fiddler behind the stove, reaps a ripe harvest of sixpences. The policy vender is not forgotten, and a good portion of the hard earned money is invested in efforts to win the favors of fortune. But the greatest luxury of all in which the "flush" "Ragger and Boner" indulges, is litigation: the law must be brought to bear on somebody; actions and cross actions for defamation and assault and battery—the suits often encouraged by unscrupulous magistrates—are freely entered into, until, between the rum sellers and the Aldermen, and the dance houses, the poor shorn dupe starts forth on another collecting tour without a cent of capital in his pocket.

Policy dealers relieve the poor wretches of a large portion of their funds; these villainous swindling devices can be purchased at prices from three cents upwards. Dreams are construed to prophecy certain lucky numbers, and this delusion is encouraged by interested parties.

There are eating shops in this district where a meal may be bought for a cent. The contents of the baskets of the beggars for cold victuals, who haunt the back gates of dwellings, are sold at these eating establishments, or traded for rum. The vilest garbage is gathered in the markets, and stews and fries are got up at remarkably low prices.

The junk shops form an important feature of the subject we are describing. These are the great receptacles for stolen goods, and they are generally the first places searched by police officers who are in quest of missing silver spoons or mantle ornaments.

We have now given our readers an idea of the great plague spot of our city—a district of narrow streets, courts and alleys, crowded with the victims of poverty and vice. The problem of how all this misery is to be remedied is certainly worthy of consideration. Poverty and infamy, blended together, exist in all great cities, and have been considered by many as the unavoidable results of the present organization of society. These wretches are a curse to the community and to themselves. The Alms-House is overflowing, and the county prison is crowded. The gifts of the charitable are traded away for rum, and made a curse rather than a blessing; punishment fails of its object, and persuasion and remonstrance are useless. We can conceive but one effectual plan to check the evil, and that is the total abolition of the grogeries. Rum is at the root of the troubles strike there and the battle is half won.

April 13 1853.
SALES OF REAL ESTATE, STOCKS, &c.—M.
Thomas & Sons, Auctioneers, sold last evening, at the Philadelphia Exchange, the following properties, &c.
A Certificate for \$250, Medical Department Pennsylvania College. 6 per cent. Principal due 1870—\$37.
1 share Philadelphia Library—\$20.
2 shares Mercantile Library—\$7 75.
1750 shares Siskowit Mining Company of Michigan—\$1 75 to \$2 37.
Valuable Sugar House and Dwelling, Shippen street between Delaware Second and Third sts, Southwark; lot 91 feet front—\$7775.
Valuable Business Stand, No. 237 Arch st—\$9150.
Valuable Property, S W corner Brown street and Washington Avenue, N. Liberties; Brick Store and Dwelling, and three three story Brick Dwellings adjoining on Brown street—\$4975.
Handsome Modern Residence, with side office, &c., Broad street, fourth house north of Locust, having a Stable and Coach House in the rear; lot 33 feet front—\$11 900.
Valuable Business Stand, Store and Dwelling, No. 13 N Second street near Market—\$10,000.
Large Lot, Ashton street—\$3400.
Also, one adjoining the above—\$3000.
Three Story Brick Dwelling, Delaware Fifth street below Oxford, Kensington; lot 42 front—\$675.
Three story Brick Dwelling, No. 7 Clover street, between 12th and 13th and Market and Chesnut sts—\$2660.
A lot of 3 1/2 acres, fronting on the river Delaware, three miles from Bristol—\$300 an acre.
A lot of 12 acres, adjoining the above—\$300 an acre

PHILADELPHIA MARKETS.—The produce markets, yesterday morning, were well stocked. The truck farms in the vicinity of the city are represented as in the most flourishing condition, while vegetation never presented a more encouraging appearance. Poultry continues scarce, and prices for capons, turkeys, chickens, and squabs, remain as last week. Spring chickens, small in size, sold at 87 1/2 cents the pair. Beef, choice cuts, may be quoted at 14 a 16 cents per pound; Lamb, \$3 50 each; Veal, 8 a 12 1/2 cents; Ham, sliced, 16 a 20 cents; Butter, a good article, 28 a 37 1/2 cents; Eggs, 14 cents the dozen; Tomatoes, 25 cents per quart; Asparagus, in great abundance, 8 a 20 cents the bunch; new Potatoes, from Bermuda, 4 cents the pound; Salad, 2 a 8 cents the bunch; Rhubarb plant, 4 a 12 cents the bunch; Lima Beans, 10 cents the quart; Radishes, 1 a 3 cents the bunch. Green Peas, very fine, made their appearance this morning from Norfolk, and sold at \$1 the peck. Strawberries, also from Norfolk, commanded \$1 the quart. There is no change in Shad, selling at \$18 a \$25 the hundred, from boats.

VIA.—"What is the cause of the irregularity in the width of Cherry street in this city?" Cherry street was not a public street until within a few years. As originally laid out, it only extended from Third to Fourth streets. It is not a street laid down upon the regular plan of the city. From Fourth to Fifth streets it was only an alley at one time, and is called, in old deeds, Cherry tree alley. So narrow was it, that to widen it to the present breadth, near Fifth street, it was necessary to cut through the Lutheran church yard of St. Michael's, which, at one time, extended from the present northern wall of the building to the line which is now the northern boundary of Horstmann's factory. When the street was laid out by the owners of property between Fifth and Sixth streets, they agreed to make it of the width which is now seen there. This was not ratified by those between Sixth and Seventh streets, who made the street narrow. As late as 1810, Cherry street stopped at Ninth street—in that year it was cut through to Tenth street. Hanover Square, which, at one time, say a hundred years ago, was Shubart's Garden, (in 1811 it was Fogel's place,) stopped it for many years, and beginning at Eleventh street again, the street was continued out towards Schuylkill. It is only within two years that an order for carrying Cherry street through to Schuylkill was obtained. It was resisted, for a long time, by those owning property between Schuylkill Third and Fourth streets, on the plea that the street was not laid down in the city plan, and that if it was carried through to Schuylkill, they were entitled to damages from the county. We believe they finally gained them.

THE MARCH OF IMPROVEMENT.—Workmen are now busily engaged in removing the ruins of the two houses in Second street, below Little Dock, which were mostly destroyed by fire a few months since. We understand that it is designed to erect handsome stores on the site about being cleared. The buildings which were burnt were very old, and the erection of new stores in their place will be a decided improvement to that thrifty neighborhood.

When modern stores are erected upon this spot the peculiarly ancient appearance of the "Loxley House," which adjoins on the north, will be greatly heightened by the contrast. We would like to see some measures taken to preserve this relic of by-gone days; it has already fallen greatly from its high estate, and will doubtless soon be sacrificed to the utilitarian spirit of the age. These architectural survivors of the early days of Philadelphia are rapidly disappearing, and we fear in a few years no trace will be left of them.

The "Loxley House" is one of the most interesting among the few ancient buildings still existing in the city. Many pleasant associations cluster about the old edifice, and its vicinity is almost classic ground. We have no positive data from which to ascertain the exact period at which the Loxley Mansion was erected. We know, however, that it stood in 1740; for about that time the celebrated Whitfield preached from the balcony of the old building, while the crowds who had assembled to listen to the eloquent divine were gathered upon the amphitheatre formed by the rising ground which surrounded the spring upon the other side of the road. A stream of water passed across Second street, at that point, and a bridge spanned it in front of the old Mansion. The majority of Whitfield's auditors were thus thrown some considerable distance from the speaker, but with his stentorian lungs the intervening space was a matter of trifling importance.

"Loxley House" was originally built "out on Society Hill" for a country seat. It was located near the banks of Dock Creek, and at the base of a pleasant hill upon which flowers bloomed and grape vines trailed. In 1756, a scion of the Loxley stem which had sprouted at the family seat, was a Lieutenant in the army, and served under the unfortunate Braddock at the time he was compelled to beat a hasty retreat from the banks of the Monongahela.

"Loxley House" bore a conspicuous part in an event which occurred in after years. Most of our readers are familiar with the story of Lydia Darrach, who lived in the old mansion at that time, and had some British officers quartered upon her during the period the English had possession of Philadelphia. Lydia, it will be remembered, overheard the officers laying a plan of attack upon Washington, who was at that time encamped at Whitemarsh. Lydia was of the true revolutionary stamp, and set out on foot to forewarn the General of the impending danger. The battle of Germantown was the result. We have seen an old Philadelphia newspaper which contains the advertisement of the removal of Mrs. Darrach "from Norris's alley to the old brew house opposite General Cadwallader's house." From this it would seem that the Loxley mansion had at one time been used as a brewery. Lydia Darrach was in her day one of the most famous nurses in the city.

On the West side of Second street, opposite the old mansion, there was a spring of water which was known far and wide for its excellence. In the early days of the town the good house wives used to make up little picnic parties to visit the spot, and regale themselves with a cup of tea brewed with the aid of the famous spring water. An eccentric maiden lady, named Bathsheba Bowers, built a small house near the spring, and furnished it with a table, a cup, and some books. This retreat was free to all comers, and many a weary pilgrim from the city was afforded an opportunity to "—drink and pray.

"For the kind soul who built this cot and well."
"Bathsheba's Bath and Bower," as the provincialists called the place, was subsequently demolished to make room for Cadwallader's great house, which stood upon the site of the houses, belonging to the Girard estate, on the west side of Second street, below Spruce.

The Cadwallader alluded to shared the common fate of the Cadwallader family, that is, he became a General. While but a simple captain, he commanded a corps known as the Silk Stocking Company. These gentlemen soldiers were frequently drilled upon the field in the rear of the Cadwallader mansion.

The following are from the Pennsylvania Gazette, Franklin's paper,
"October 16, 1729.—And sometime last week, we are informed that one Pills, a fiddler, with his wife, was overset in a canoe, near Newtown Creek. The good man, 'tis said, prudently secured his fiddle, and let his wife go the bottom."

"February 16, 1731-3.—We hear from the Jersey side, that a man near Snabaskan, being disordered in his senses, protested to his wife that he would kill her immediately if she did not put her tongue into his mouth. She through fear, complying, he bit off a large piece of it; and taking it between his fingers, threw it into the fire, with these words: "Let this be for a burnt offering."

"January 11, 1733.—Yesterday being market-day, Watt, who was concerned in the counterfeit money, as mentioned in one of our late papers, received part of his punishment, being whipt, pilloried, and cropt. He behaved so as to move the compassion of the mob, and they did not fling at him, as was expected—neither snow balls nor anything else."

"April 17, 1735.—We hear from Chester County, that last week at a vendue there, a man being uncommonly abusive to his wife, upon some trifling occasion, the women formed themselves into a Court, ordered him to be apprehended by their officers and brought to trial; being found guilty, he was condemned to be ducked three times in a neighboring pond, and to have one-half cut off his hair and beard, (which it seems he wore at full length;) and the sentence was accordingly executed to the great diversion of the spectators."

"April 24, 1735.—From Paris—A woman at Rheims, having had nine husbands and bred up twenty-six children, died there lately, at the age of 102. She was attended to the grave by 153 sons, grand-sons, and great-grandsons; many of the former going upon crutches, or led along blind, and borne down with the weight of old age. She had herself 8 brother and 13 sisters, all of whom made such good use of their time, that the old woman was aunt and grand-aunt to upwards of one thousand people."

"September 30, 1736—Thursday last, Wm. Allen, Esq., mayor of this city for the year past, made a feast for his citizens at the State House, to which all the strangers in town of note were also invited. Those who are judges of such things say, that, considering the delicacy of the viands, the variety and excellency of the wines, the great number of guests, and yet the easiness and order with which the whole was conducted, it was the most grand and the most elegant entertainment that has been in these parts of America."

To Readers and Anxious Inquirers.
W. W.—Joanna Clew was indicted in April, 1831, for the murder of her husband, in the Court of Oyer and Terminer of this county. She was accused of poisoning him with arsenic mixed with molasses. After the case was given to the jury they withdrew on Saturday evening at half-past ten o'clock, and were kept without meat or drink, fire or candle, until Monday morning at ten o'clock. After they had been out twenty-four hours, the Court ordered food to be supplied to them, by the assent of the counsel for the Commonwealth and the prisoner, provided that the jury-men would consent to receive it. This the majority of them refused to do. On Monday morning, Spencer Ferguson and Andrew Hooten, two of the jurors, declared that if they were longer confined their lives would be placed in danger. Ferguson stated that he was seventy-six years old, that his health had been impaired by previous illness, and that he could not walk without assistance, and he declared that if he was kept in the state of privation and restriction in which he then was, that his life would be placed in danger. Hooten declared that he was ill and feeble from the effects of a previous bilious fever. Dr. Joseph Klapp was ordered to attend the jurors, and he reported that if they were much longer kept in privation and restriction, their lives would be in danger. In consequence of this the jury was discharged by Judge King, at twelve o'clock on Monday morning. In December, 1831, Joanna Clew was again put upon trial. She pleaded a former acquittal, and insisted that her life had been put in jeopardy by the proceedings in the first instance, and that she could not be tried again. The Supreme Court sitting at Oyer and Terminer ratified these views, and decided that there must be an overruling necessity to justify the discharge of a jury in a criminal case, and that no such necessity had arisen in the case referred to, as all that the jurors required was meat and drink, which should have been allowed them. This decision exploded the old English common law doctrine that jurors ought to be starved into giving verdicts—a very absurd and vicious notion. Joanna Clew was then discharged and escaped punishment.

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