

filled the world with wonder. Yes! though his spirit has long since taken its heavenly flight, his voice is heard no more, yet his noble deeds and words of wisdom will never die. For a moment you forget yourself, as you gaze on the features of those great spirits who figured in our early history, and stand in the presence of those daring men, who writhing under the wrongs inflicted by those who should have been their protectors, formed that memorable instrument which dismayed the Nations of the "Old World;" that noble declaration of men, gaded with wrongs, and surrounded on every side with the glittering bayonets of a powerful foe. But they did not humble! their homes had been assailed, the blood of innocents called aloud for revenge, and the mandate went forth.

No wonder you gaze on that old bell with almost the devotion of a Heathen for his Deity, for it was that same old bell that proclaimed to anxious thousands, aye! to the whole civilized world, a nation's independence! thus fulfilling its high mission as foreshadowed in that remarkable inscription with which it is inscribed:—

"Proclaim Liberty throughout the Land,  
Unto the Inhabitants thereof."

Another hour you spend contemplating that hallowed spot. You still linger, recalling the virtues and noble sacrifices of the silent occupants. The time for closing arrives, and with extreme reluctance you retire, but with a renewed love for your native country. Let any man, who has ever desired a dissolution of this glorious Union, visit that old hall, and if he does not leave it a wiser and a better man, he is not as good an American as he should be.

— April 21-57 —

## EVENING BULLETIN.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 1857.

### SIGNS.

We know of nothing that is more peculiarly a feature of a large city than its signs—those painted and gilt informants of who and what are to be found in-doors. "It takes all kinds of people to make a world," an old adage says, and the same rule applies to signs in their relation to cities. In a great city there are all sorts of men and women, whose tastes are as various as their persons, their habitations and their pursuits, and these tastes are amply illustrated by their business signs. The quiet, unobtrusive teacher of music, or the manufacturer of ladies' dresses, will generally be found in some slow street, where grass sprouts up along the sidewalks, and where omnibuses and noisy boys are unknown. The modest tin sign—six inches by eight in dimensions—bearing the simple inscription, "Mrs. —, Ladies' dress-maker," or "Monsieur —, Teacher of Music and the French Language," tells the whole story, and no experienced person would suspect either Mrs. Dash or Monsieur Blank of being at all on the high pressure principle in their business-pushing qualities. Upon the other hand, a building covered with signs, on which the gilder has been profuse in the use of the precious metal, and upon which the carver has exhausted his skill, is just as surely indicative of a restless, pushing, thorough-going man of business.

There is often in signs, as in men, vastly more of energy than good taste displayed. Some proprietors of stores will bedizen off the fronts of their establishments, from the pavement to the roof, with great uncouth signs that are only remarkable for ill painting and bad taste. Generally these sign fanciers also extend their painted advertisements as far from their immediate premises as the law will permit. The awning-wings spread abroad the merits of the goods sold within; show-cases, lettered to within an inch of their lives, run out upon the side-walks, and even the awning-posts are enveloped in perpendicular signs, which require the observer to twist his head half off to read them.

Then there are those who display vastly more taste, and who set forth their names and their calling at once boldly and elegantly. These are the store keepers who place upon their buildings skeleton letters handsomely wrought and brightly gilt, which neither offend good taste nor spoil the architecture of a fine facade by plastering it up with painted wood. We know, too, of more than one sign in Philadelphia which is a genuine work of art, that is not only well adapted to the position in which it is placed, but that displays artistic skill on the part of the carver and the painter who made and adorned it.

Some people are not content with anything short of the broad side of a house for a sign-board. They display you letters a story and a half in

height, and demand your attention and your patronage in acres of painted surface. Sometimes some single idea is run through a variety of changes by the sign-painter's art, and some one thing will be made the burthen of fifty signs upon a single building. We were lately greatly edified at an illustration of this phase of sign displaying. The business followed was pawnbroking, or "advancing money on collaterals," as several of the signs ingeniously set forth. The building occupied by the loaner of money on collateral security was completely hemmed in with signs. Shutters to the upper windows were eschewed for want of space, and even the windows themselves were scarcely allowed blinking room among the multitude of showy signs. The glass in the bulks was lettered inside, the bricks were painted over with words, or covered with sign boards, and the great prevailing idea throughout was MONEY. We counted this word lettered more or less prominently in thirty different parts of the front of this one building. We inferred that the heart of the proprietor must be devotedly set upon the acquisition of the commodity he deals in.

There are many trades where a gaudy sign would be fatal to the prosperity of those who follow them. What dentist would flourish with a pair of colossal gilt forceps, and a gigantic "grinder" with ensanguined fangs, displayed in front of his house? Who would patronise the lawyer who would be so rash as to ornament the front of his office with a great gilt sign, emblazoned with the ancient legend of the two oyster shells which fall to the share of the clients? Nobody. The dentist must set forth his calling on a neat silver plate elaborately engraved, or he may venture upon a modest tin sign; while the tin sign is the only wear for the attorney who would have practise. If the sign be rusty and shabby, and the name of its proprietor be scarcely legible, so much the better. It tells a story of hoary age and sage experience on the part of the owner, which we regret to say is not always carried out by the facts. These rusty and dusty signs form, in sooth, one of those pleasant fictions the profession of law so abounds in.

There is a description of signs again, which, like a dumb man, often tell a good deal without saying a word. The three gilt balls enlighten the hard-up fraternity as to where an "Uncle" who has means can be found; a Pompey, i.e. an Indian or an African, carved in wood and extravagantly painted answers the tobaccoist's purpose as well as though he should exhaust the alphabet in announcing his wares; a huge lantern, a red curtain, a basket of oyster shells or the claw of a huge lobster painted to resemble the physiognomy of Mr. Punch, tells of meat and drink to be found inside, and the effigy of King Gambrinus in his royal robes, with a foaming goblet in his dexter paw, is sufficiently indicative of lager beer, pretzels and Schweitzer cheese.

The business streets all display a great variety of pleasant devices. The druggist puts out a pestle and mortar; the hatter displays a tin "tile" that would almost answer for an extinguisher for a town meeting; while the boot maker exhibits a shoe which, so far as size is concerned, might, with the introduction of some of the modern improvements, afford ample accommodations for the famous old lady who had so many children she didn't know what to do, and who sent them to bed after a light supper of spanks all around.

In old times, before the numbering of houses was introduced into Philadelphia, almost every store had its peculiar sign, leaving the modern readers of old newspapers to conclude that our forefathers were a sad set of tipplers to require so many taverns to allay their thirst. Thus, Mr. Snooks would advertise that he could be found at the sign of the Black Boy; Mr.

Concluded on page 42—



REAL ESTATE SALE.—The following properties were disposed of last evening, by Messrs. M. Thomas & Sons:

\$35 Del. Mutnal Safety Ins. Co., 40 per cent.; 1 share  
Mercantile Library, \$8,75; 5 do Philadelphia Ins. Co.,  
\$18; 285 do Carbon Run Impt. Co., \$3; \$1000 Erie City  
6's (Sunbury and Erie RR.) 75 per cent; an interest (one  
seventh) in a house and lot S. E. corner Second and Cal-  
lowhill streets, 16x60 feet—subject pro rata to the dowers  
of two widows, and to a ground rent of 32s. sterling,  
\$1000; lot of ground on Market above Fifth street, 24x  
140 feet, \$34,000; house and lot S. E. corner Summit  
street and Prospect Avenue, Chestnut Hill, 100x253 3/4  
feet, \$7400; lot of 10 acres, fronting 300 feet on Market  
and Chestnut streets, Twenty-fourth Ward, \$16,000; lot  
on Elm near Thirty-ninth street, 78 1/2 x 160 feet, \$650;  
lot, fronting 259 1/2 feet on Market street, 524 1/2 on Fish-  
er's avenue, and 250 1/2 on Tioga street, Twenty-fourth  
Ward, \$3000; lot, N. E. corner Broad and Parrish streets,  
20x118 feet, \$3400; lot, Broad above Parrish street, 20x  
121 feet, 2900; house and lot, north west corner of  
Parrish and Ontario streets, 20 1/2 x 73 1/2 feet, \$3300;  
house and lot adjoining the above on Parrish street, 24 1/2  
x 77 1/2 feet, \$4300; building lot, Callowhill street, near  
Logan Square, 20x100 feet, \$1050; 2 building lots, ad-  
joining the above on the West, each 20x100 feet, \$1000;  
building lot West of the preceding, 19x46 1/2 feet, \$1125;  
building lot next Westward, 19x141 feet, \$1000; 3 build-  
ing lots West of the above, each 16x134 feet, \$1025; lot  
Callowhill street and Middle Alley, 18x134 feet, \$1025;  
house and lot, Federal below Thirteenth street, 16x88  
feet, \$810; house and lot adjoining, same description,  
\$900; house and lot next the preceding, same dimensions,  
\$900; house and lot also adjoining, same dimensions,  
\$880; building lot next the above, 18x90 feet, ground  
rent \$54, \$50; lot, Thirteenth below Federal street, 98  
x 880 feet, \$3050; lot of six acres in Marietta, Lancaster  
county, Pennsylvania, \$4400; lot of two acres, with log  
house thereon, in Marietta, \$500; house and lot No. 15  
Cresson's alley, 16 1/2 x 50 feet, with brick dwelling in the  
rear, \$1150; house and lot, Warren above Green street,  
14 1/2 x 103 feet, \$450.

— April 29-57 —

### JAMES A. FREEMAN'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE.

—The following were the sales of Real Estate by James A. Freeman, at the Exchange, last evening:—

Three story brick house and lot of ground, Lombard  
street, west of 6th st., 16 feet front, 65 feet deep, sold  
for \$1500. The undivided one-ninth part of all of two  
lots of ground and frame messuages in Bedford st., be-  
tween 6th and 7th sts., 23 feet front and 60 feet deep,  
\$380. Five undivided one-ninth parts in a lot of ground  
and frame messuages, in Shippen street, between 6th  
and 7th sts., 23 feet front 60 feet deep, \$440. Five  
undivided one-ninth parts in a yearly ground rent of  
\$30—\$432. Five undivided one-ninth parts in a yearly  
ground rent of \$51—\$150. Four story frame house and  
lot of ground, Fourth and German sts., 19 1/2 feet front  
and 128 feet deep, subject to a ground rent of \$29 25—  
\$1200.

— April 30-57 —

A Grave Yard Exposed.—The opening of Frank-  
lin street from Poplar to Girard Avenue, has re-  
sulted in an unpleasant circumstance. A Grave  
Yard intervened and offered an obstacle to the im-  
provement. At length it was decided that the  
fences of the yard should be torn down, so as to  
carry out the idea at least of having the thorough-  
fare "open," although no carriages should be al-  
lowed to pass over it. Franklin street consequently,  
between Poplar and Girard Avenue, now exhibits  
tomb stones, half sunken mounds and gaping  
graves in its centre.

— April 25-57 —

### Reported for the Pennsylvania Inquirer.

Real Estate Sale.—James A. Freeman's sale at  
the Exchange, last evening, comprised the follow-  
ing properties:—

House and lot No. 449 North Second st, 17x86 ft \$3500  
House and lot No. 461, adjoining, 17x91 ft .....\$3600  
Lot with frame dwellings, &c., 18 1/2 x 105 ft, Ground  
rent \$42 .....\$525  
Lot of ground Tenth st, above Girard Avenue, 17x80  
feet .....\$480  
House and lot Germantown Road above Little Poplar  
st, 16 1/2 x 25 1/2 feet .....\$300  
House and lot Hancock near Munroe st, 8 1/2 x 105 feet,  
Ground rent \$38 1/2 .....\$240  
House and lot N. W. cor. Tenth and Thompson streets,  
16x100 feet, Ground rent \$56 .....\$880  
House and lot adjoining the above, 16x100 ft. Ground  
rent \$56 .....\$400  
Ground rent of \$240, property N. W. side of Dean near  
Prince street, 10 1/2 x 24 feet .....\$1050  
House and lot No. 79 North Front st, 12 1/2 x 18 1/2 ft \$2900

— April 23-57 —

Improvements.—A row of neat brick houses are  
in the process of erection on the Lancaster Pike,  
near the First Toll Gate,

— April 21-57 —