

NEWS SUMMARY.

City Affairs. - Francis Coyle, aged twenty-eight years, who was struck on the head with a brick on Thursday evening, while standing in the door of his home, died at the Pennsylvania Hospital yesterday morning about 4 o'clock. His brother-in-law, James Carr, the alleged perpetrator of the act, is still at large. - John McAleer, aged twenty-one years, residing at Twenty-first and Summer streets, was admitted to the Pennsylvania Hospital yesterday morning about 4 o'clock, suffering with a serious wound in his side. He alleges that the stab was inflicted by a man named John Davis, in an open saloon at Thirty-first and Market streets. McAleer is not expected to live. - By reason of developments recently made, the police of the Second district have arrested William Pratt, on the charge of having been accessory to the shooting of the brothers Christopher and Edward Brannan at the site of the State election. Alderman Fitzgibbon held him to await the action of the District Attorney. - Officer Hale, on Saturday night, about 12 o'clock, attempted to arrest a man engaged in a fight at Fourth and Coates streets, when the pugilist pulled out a knife and stabbed the officer in the side, inflicting a dangerous wound. The desperado made his escape, and Officer Hale was removed to the residence. The officer fired two shots at his assailant. - The following vessels cleared from this port during the past week with petroleum: - Barque Ann and Alice, for Bolton, with 31,000 gallons; brig Van Horn, for Annapolis, with 11,500 do.; and brig W. H. Bowler, for Cork, with 87,264 do., making a total of 233,073 gallons. There are now loading and chartered in the same trade ten barques. - On Friday evening, about eight o'clock, an old gentleman, named S. M. Burdell, was waylaid in Ninth street, below Bond, and felled to the ground by being struck under the left ear. His assailant succeeded in getting his guard-chain, and while attempting to obtain possession of his watch, was frightened off by the injured man crying murder. Mr. Burdell has since been confined to his bed from the injuries inflicted on him. - An adjourned meeting of the committee to make arrangements for the semi-centennial anniversary of the introduction of Old Fellowship in the United States was held on Saturday evening, in the hall, North 8th street, P. G. Master John W. Stokes presided, and announced the various committees, to whom the charge of making all preliminary arrangements will be referred. Messrs. John White, A. Taylor, and W. W. Mayberry, of the Special Committee on Music, made a report which they recommended that the committee be authorized to employ music for the parade. The request was granted, and the committee instructed not to pay more than \$175 per band. The following gentlemen were added to the committee: - C. J. Fries, Frank H. Bayard, James Sholes, Daniel Jones, and Mr. E. H. Jones. - Reserve Officers Hess and Jones, on Saturday, arrested James Haggerty, who was concerned, as alleged, in the assault on Policeman Hill, when he was shot and severely wounded, and about two months ago. Haggerty was charged with being concerned in the attempt to kill George Brotherton, and with an assault on Patrick McDonough. He was placed in one of the cells at the Central Station, and about 4 o'clock yesterday morning, a few minutes after being visited by several of his friends to release him. They climbed the wall on Fifth street, and after getting into the yard began, with drills, a joint chisel, and a jimmy, to remove the brick work from around the window frame, intending to take it out and then force the bars. Fortunately, they were heard by night officers Warnock and Burns, who made an attempt to arrest them, in which they were not successful. They scaled the wall, and were seen a few minutes after standing at Fifth and Walnut streets. Haggerty was then removed to another cell. - The annual meeting of the contributors to the Children's Hospital was held, a few days since, at the home of the building, at second street, above Locust. The institution was founded November 23, 1855, and at that time was situated in Bright street, above Lombard. Since its opening a large number of children have been received, as in-door patients, and for the use of medicine given. The average number of children in the institution during the past year was 53. 5473 have been treated at the Dispensary. There were three deaths among the children. The Treasurer reported an expenditure amounting to \$4572.72, and a balance of \$21.89. The following are the officers and managers of the institution: - President, George W. Norris, M. D.; Vice-President, George A. Wood; Treasurer, E. Mortimer Lewis; Secretary, Edward S. Claver; Managers, George W. Norris, M. D., George B. Wood, M. D., William B. Lejeune, George A. Wood, W. Hayward Drayton, Morton P. Henry, Edward S. Clarke, Richard Wood, Robert M. Lewis, Henry Winsor, F. Mortimer Lewis, and Atherton Bight.

Foreign Affairs. - PARIS, Jan. 10. - The conference for the settlement of the dispute between Greece and Turkey met yesterday. Their first session was a long one, commencing at 4 P. M. and terminating at 11 o'clock. The Greek and Turkish representatives both manifested a very conciliatory disposition, and a peaceful result is looked forward to with confidence. The next session takes place on Tuesday. - PARIS, Jan. 10. - The official journal says the Ambassadors of Chili receive every honor and attention, and declares that Mr. Bartingame's position in the Embassy is entirely satisfactory to the Emperor. The Ambassadors will have a formal audience with the Emperor at an early day. - MADRID, Jan. 9. - A grand banquet was given at Seville last evening. All the municipal officers of that city and many other notables were present. The discourse of the banquet was a complimentary telegram which was sent to Kaptanoglu, wherein the guests expressed their preference for him at the head of the State, whatever the decision of the Cortes may be relative to the future form of government. - ATHENS, Jan. 9. - The Greek "blue book" copies of which have been received here, contains a statement that General Ignatieff, the Russian Ambassador to the Sultan's court, had assured Mr. Delagange, the Greek Minister here, that the Sublime Porte would not repress any action of Greece in reference to Crete. - NEW YORK, Jan. 9. - A Port-au-Prince despatch of January 1 reports that Salvaire is in possession of Arago and six other towns along the coast, the inhabitants having joined with his troops in driving out the rebels. Aux Cayes had made a proposition to surrender, and it was thought these successes in the South would hasten the surrender of the rebel army. The Government has authorized the Government throughout the whole peninsula. The rebels in the North are still at St. Marks, and it is reported that they have received arms and ammunition from parties in Boston, who are in communication with the rebels. The Government monopoly on coffee was removed on Dec. 30. - HAVANA, Jan. 9. - News has been received here that Jeanru, the Curacao banker who went to Europe to contract a loan for President Schuyler, and who has returned unsuccessful, it is stated that he failed to obtain money which probably caused the downfall of Baze's administration. - SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 9. - Late Alaska advices state that a portion of the garrison buildings at the mouth of the Stikine river have been destroyed by fire. Captain Kenny, U. S. A., committed suicide at Sitka by shooting himself through the heart. The news from the Queen Charlotte Islands encouraging in respect to the depopulation, some three hundred people having left for St. Petersburg in December. - A letter from Colima, Mexico, gives an account of a terrible earthquake experienced in that city on the morning of December 20. The earthquake was preceded by the volcano of Colima, thirty miles from the city, had exhibited symptoms of internal commotion, sending forth smoke and steam, accompanied by rumbling and shakings of the earth. - On the morning of the 20th there was a gentle rocking of the earth, which gradually increased in violence until walls cracked and everything breakable in the houses was demolished. The vibrations were from northeast to southwest, and lasted nearly forty seconds. The cathedral, which had stood the shocks of earthquake and worms for over a century, was riven from top to bottom, and even the tiles of the roof were broken. Some eighteen or twenty persons were crushed by the falling wall of the American Hotel, and three persons were killed in the ruins of the warehouse of Wasserman & Co.

CELESTIAL ALCHEMY. - At a recent meeting of the Oriental Society, at the Rev. William A. P. Martin, of Pekin, read a paper on the "Study of Alchemy in China." After tracing briefly the connection between alchemy and chemistry, the paper proceeded to its main object, namely, to demonstrate that the origin of European alchemy was to be sought in China. In support of this view the following considerations were adduced, and illustrated by citations from Chinese and other works: - 1. The study of alchemy had been in full vigor in China for at least six centuries before it made its appearance in Europe. It did not appear in Europe until the fourth century, when intercourse with the far East had become somewhat frequent. It appeared first at Byzantium and Alexandria, where the commerce of the East chiefly centered, and was subsequently revived in Europe by the Saracens, whose most famous school of alchemy was at Bagdad, where intercourse with Eastern Asia was frequent. 2. The objects of pursuit in both schools were identical, and in either case twofold - immortality and gold. In Europe the former was the less prominent, because the people, being in the possession of Christianity, had a vivid faith in a future life, to satisfy their longings on that head. 3. In either school there were two elixirs, the greater and the less, and the properties ascribed to them closely correspond. 4. The principles underlying both systems are identical - the composite nature of the metals and their vegetation from a seminal germ. Indeed, the characters *tsing* for the germ, and *tsai* for the matrix, which constantly occur in the writings of Chinese alchemists, might be taken for the translation of terms in the vocabulary of the Western school, if the higher antiquity did not forbid the hypothesis. 5. The ends in view being the same, the means by which they were pursued were nearly identical - mercury and lead being as conspicuous in the laboratories of the East as mercury and sulphur were in those of the West. It is of less significance to add that many other substances were common to both schools than to note the remarkable coincidence that in Chinese as in European alchemy the names of the two principal reagents are given in a mystical sense. 6. Both schools, or at least individuals in both schools, held the doctrine of a cycle of changes, by which the metals, when the precious metals revert to their baser elements. 7. Both are closely interwoven with astrology. 8. Both led to the practice of magical arts and unbounded charlatanism. 9. Both deal in language of equal extravagance, and the style of European alchemists, so unlike the sobriety of thought characteristic of the Western school, would, if considered alone, give us no very uncertain indication of its origin in the terrific fancy of the Orient. - A Rocky Mountain paper publishes an obituary notice of the famous "Jim," chief of the Washe Indians, who died recently. Jim seems to have possessed many virtues. He is said to have been a good though very dirty red man. He possessed a well-balanced head of hair, and stomach enough for all he could get to eat. His regard for truth was notable - he never meddled with it. He left no will, and his estate, consisting of a pair of boots, will have to be settled by his heirs through the medium of a game of "old sledge." After life's final "fever and ague" Jim sleeps well.

STUDENTS' LARKS. - The Amusements of College Life. - General Daniel Pratt, Jr., the great American traveler, was in Andover last Wednesday afternoon, and started thence for Lawrence on foot, the distance being several miles. Not far from Lawrence on his journey, when two young men overtook him on the way and announced themselves as a committee of the academicians of Andover, deputed to invite him to make an address. They could not entertain him in the town hall, for it was engaged; none of the other public places could be had, since the faculty had control and would not allow them to be used for the lecture; but they would provide a place in the open air, where he could lecture on their hearing his words of wisdom. They promised him good fare and pecuniary profit. Accordingly he girded up his loins, turned in his tracks, and went with the young men to the beautiful hill of knowledge. Daniel Pratt had a glorious supper that night in company with a select trio, in an apartment of the Academy. Studiously he was kept out of the way of the "proctors," that the coming treat should not be prevented by the hand of academicial authority. The place and time appointed circulated among the students, *sub rosa*; and when eight o'clock came a large crowd of hopeful (?) young fellows was gathered before the dormitory building, in which General Pratt was an honored guest. A window of the corridor on the second floor was taken out, and there General Pratt appeared, and was received with hearty applause. 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