advertising, which through a system of "cutting" had fallen below a reasonable point, were gradually brought up to a fair living standard; thus enabling all the city press to share in the benefits. It was freely admitted by other newspaper proprietors that advertising had raised, in a large degree, in lifting the business up and making it profitable. The paper seemed to have awakened new interest in all quarters; and while it was building up, year after year, the other papers did a largely increased business. The Commercial has always exerted a marked influence in its discussion of social, political, and other questions; and, as leader of public opinion, and an exponent of popular sentiment, it ranks among the oldest papers of the country. It has a large circulation among those engaged in banking, merchandising, manufacturing, mining, steamboating, shipping, and other branches of trade.

The professional classes—ministers, attorneys, physicians, teachers—largely prefer it; and many of these are occasional contributors to its columns. The daily paper is widely disseminated on all the lines of railway leading east, west, north, and south, through Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia; and the weekly issue finds its way to the homes of thousands of farmers, mechanics, and laboring men.

The paper, since the 1st of April, 1876, has been issued from the fine new iron-front building, No. 70 Fifth Avenue. The office is the most complete in its details in any of the city. The paper contains thirty-six columns, and is printed on a four-cylinder Hoe press. (See out of building in this work.)

THE PITTSBURGH LEADER.

The rise and progress of the Sunday Leader from a comparatively humble beginning until it has reached its present influential position in the newspaper world, forms one of the most interesting chapters in the history of journalism that could be written. Not a few will remember the appearance of the first issue on December 11, 1864, by John W. Pittock, when it started out as the pioneer Sunday sheet of this vicinity. It was indeed a looking-sorry affair in comparison with the neatly-printed journal of the present. At that time it was determined to establish the Leader, if perseverance could by any possibility accomplish it. Many people were decidedly opposed to it, and considered their moral sensibilities outrageously by the innovation. So much had this feeling taken hold of them, that regard for their prejudices led the proprietor to date his paper "Saturday at midnight" instead of Sunday, as is now done. Those good folk being unappreciated regarding the less and cuts of printing-office, did not know that the work on Monday morning papers was is principally done in the twelve hours succeeding Sunday at noon, while that on the Leader was almost wholly accomplished before the bells had done sounding the departure of the last day of the week. The fact became gradually understood in the community, and the opposition in time thinned down to such an extent that it is now hardly perceptible; indeed, the necessity of a Sunday paper has now become admitted by all classes, as the increased circulation of the Leader—now larger than any secular paper in the State, outside of Philadelphia—isably testifies. Yet it will hardly be believed that less than seven years ago the newspaper always made arrangements to dispose of their stock before the church-bells announced the turning out on the streets of the straight-line portion of the population.

The early issues were attended with nothing but encouragement to the indefatigable proprietor; but satirical labor, methodically applied, in time—though not without disheartening struggles—overcame all obstacles. The receipts of the office for the first number were forty-five dollars, and the expenditures two hundred and sixteen dollars, while the second brought an income of only eight dollars and forty-three cents, with an unrenewed outlook. This is a fair sample of the difficulties and trials which the Leader’s infancy entailed on its proprietor. As years passed, however, it gave evidence of a healthy bringing-up, and grew steadily and sturdily in the affections of its readers until finally it was able not only to stand alone, but to kick vigorously and effectually against the abuses of the old style.

The success of the Leader was not attained without creating rivalry from time to time, but none of the several Sunday papers which endeavored to build on the solid foundation discovered by the Leader had more than an ephemeral existence. The Republic’s penny slip flickered finally into utter darkness; the Dispatch’s gas was of inferior quality, and, after having shed its dingy rays for a short season, was shut off suddenly and without warning; the World succumbed before it was generally known that such a sheet was being issued; the Mirror, shining of its prospects, changed its date to Saturday early while the latest venture—the Call—was finally ushered into that state where its predecessors led the way through the medium of the sheriff’s officers. And as the Leader now stands alone in the meal-tried field, stronger by opposition and with shinings touching every day whetens to meet the future.

In May, 1859, after an examination of the fastest printing machines in the country, it was concluded to contract for a Balloock press. Although the price of

THE EVENING LEADER.

The first number of the Evening Leader was placed before the public for their approval October 18, 1870. A want long felt and admitted was the necessity for an evening paper, which should be free from the charge of sensationalism that could be published, and with the determination of giving the people a journal that would combine those qualities in its most attractive form, Messrs. Pittock, Nevins & Co. founded the Leader. The result realized all their expectations to the utmost. The new paper went off like wild-fire, and among all classes of the population it was received from the start with an enthusiasm which surprised the staid, old-fashioned newspaper men in the city. This rush was not merely the evanescent curiosity usually displayed on the issue of a new paper, but continued to increase in extent until the present writing, when it has advanced the Evening Leader far beyond its contemporaries, both in shaping the course of local, and indirectly State and National affairs, but as an advertising medium which the business public has not been slow to appreciate. That quality so essential to the entering newspaper of the present day—spiciness—has been maintained in its columns with unabated vigor, and will continue to be the leading feature in its management. One of the specialties from its inception has been those pointed gems of brilliancy published under the headings of "Personal" and "All Sorts." These have been immensely popular, and in consequence have met with many vain attempts at imitation in the columns of numerous home papers, under the name of "Brevitism," etc. It is hardly necessary to state how signal a failure has been made in this; a glance at them will be convincing to any doubters, should there be such, that the Leader is very far ahead of its rivals in that, as it is in other details, in giving the daily history of the world. The position it deserves, and has been assigned by the reading public, is indicated by its upward progress since its birth. This has been the result of its independent and fearless treatment of every public person or subject that has been brought into notice, coupled with a sincerity and truthfulness in all it says, which none will deny.

THE DOLLAR WEEKLY LEADER.

The Dollar Weekly Leader contains a full history of the events of every week, with market reports very carefully compiled and strictly reliable, and which alone cannot fail to repay the reader tenfold the price of his subscription. It is the newest, liveliest weekly sheet published in the State, and will always be found full to overflowing of such interesting news as will keep its subscribers thoroughly posted in everything of importance that is going on in the world.

THE PITTSBURGH FREEMEY FRIEND.

The Pittsburgh Freemeys Friend was founded in the year 1834, in Chambersburg, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, by Mr. Henry Ruby. Mr. Victor Scriba was the first editor. It was issued weekly, the subscription price being one dollar and fifty cents per annum. In 1835, Mr. Scriba purchased Mr. Ruby’s interest, and became sole proprietor and editor. In 1836 the present proprietors, Louis and William Neib, who were then boys, became apprentices in the office, where they learned the business of newspaper and book and job printing. Upon the invitation of a number of the most prominent and influential German citizens of Pittsburgh, Mr. Scriba concluded, in 1837, to remove his establishment to the latter city, and issue the Freemeys Freund there. All the office material and hand-presses, by which means the paper was