CITY INTELLIGENCE.

COMMERCIAL EXCHANGE.

A History of the Association—The New Building on Second Street—Its Exterior and Interior—Preparations for the Dedication on Monday Next.

That "history repeats itself" is a trite yet worthy adage. Its truth is manifested not only in the recurrence of similar national events, but also in the recurrence of events which, by their very nature, refer to the more intimate and private life and business of the people as distinguished from the Government. The customs of the ancient, the middle, and modern ages are all unlike—unlike in the main, and still every age witnesses the return of something—a fashion, a project, an association—which had preceded it in years long past. With a direct relation to the business—the trade of the world—for instance, mediæval times had their powerful guilds of merchants, and modern times have redeveloped them in "Boards of Trade," "Chambers of Commerce," and the like. Modern Philadelphia has not been behind other modern cities in the organization of such associations. We have here in our midst brotherhoods of workmen and brotherhoods of merchants, numerous, powerful, and influential. Though "great" may be the appellation many of them can n. w justly claim, such a claim, but a very few years since, in the case of not a few, would have been matter of ridicule and laughter.

History of the Association.

Take the "Corn Exchange," for example, or, as it is now called, the "Commercial Exchange Association." What is its history? It has had an existence of less than a score of years, for in January, 1854, it was started on its course by the resolve made in a small and informal gathering of gentlemen interested in the flour and grain business, that an association of persons engaged in their special trade should be formed, for the double purpose of advancing the interests of that trade and fostering kindly relations among those who carried it on. From that meagre beginning grew the present large and influential "Commercial Exchange." The meeting to which we have adverted was held in the house of Henry Budd, Esq., and there were present at it Messrs. B. M. Bunker, George L. Buzby, James Perot, William James, James Steel, John Wright, Samuel L. Ward, Samuel L. Witmer, and Henry Budd.

But a day or two following this rather impromptu meeting, a general one of the members of the trade, for the purpose of organization, was convened in an apartment of the Merchants' Exchange, at which a previously appointed committee (Messrs. Budd, Thomas, James and Lea) reported with regard to the matter under consideration. The report was adopted, and on the 4th of February the association met to elect its first board of managers. It chose Messrs. W. Godwin, James Barrett, Sr., Henry Budd, W. B. Thomas, A. McHenry, Wm. Jas. A. Derbyshire, B. M. Bunker, S. L. Witmer, A. Pesky, and F. A. Goodwin. The managers then elected the following officers:—President, William B. Thomas; Secretary, Samuel L. Witmer; Treasurer, John Derbyshire.

The list of Presidents from the date of organization until the present time is as follows:—

1854—Wm. B. Thomas.	1862—C. J. Hoffman,
1855—Wm. B. Thomas.	1863—Archibald Getty.
1856—Henry Budd.	1864—Henry Wilson.
1857—Hon. A. G. Cattell.	1865—Charles Knecht.
1858—George L. Buzby.	1866—H. Hinchman.
1859—J. Barrett, Sr.	1867—Chas. Cummings.
1860—James Steel.	1868—E. H. Jeffries.
1861—A. J. Derbyshire.	1869—J. H Michener.

Its Good Works.

The "Corn Exchange," since its formation, has run along on the "even tenor of its way," its progress unmarked by any striking incidents. But it was not idle, as its success gives full evidence, and the nation at large, in more ways than one, has reaped advantages from its existence. To aid in suppressing the Rebellion it raised a regiment which reflected credit upon all concerned, either in organization or command. Nor, while responding to the calls of war, did the association neglect the appeal of the sufferer, as its many contributions to charitable objects bear abundant witness. When the great Sanitary Fair was held in this city the Corn Exchange was represented by a table, presided over by a committee of ladies who, with the aid of the Exchange, made a very handsome donation to the cause on account of which the Fair was held.

And foreign countries have received kind aid from the association—for when famine stalked among the starving operatives of one of the most populous nations of the Old World, its members sent abundant succor. When a great part of the town of Portland was laid in ashes its inhabitants were not neglected by our good old city, and the Corn Exchange was not behind hand. But the noblest charity of the institution was the Relief Fund, the committee having charge of which distributed among the wives and families of our brave men at the front about $30,000. Their expenditures on the regiments in the field, and for their families, exceeded $100,000.

Turning now from these actions and benevolences, apart from the peculiar purpose of its organization, let us see what the association has done in its own legitimate sphere.

Before its formation the trade it represents in this city was utterly demoralized, petty strife prevailed between merchants, bitter jealousy, amounting in some instances almost to hatred, competition carried to such an extent that the compensation received by the trader fell far short of the services rendered. This sad state of affairs was completely changed by the influence of the "Exchange."

Strife ceased and gave place to good fellowship, jealousy was supplanted by a generous confidence, charges were so regulated as to compensate more fairly the merchant for his time, labor, and capital expended, and that without making any unreasonable exactions.

In addition to this benign result, it has been the means of greatly assisting the general trade of our city, its sphere has been enlarged, other trades have enrolled themselves under its banner, thus rendering necessary that change of name which has lately been effected. From an institution whose roll of membership displayed less than a dozen names, it has become one embracing hundreds of firms; its hall became too small for it, and it is now about entering upon the occupancy of the main room of the large and elegant building recently erected at the corner of Second and Gothic streets.

The Chamber of Commerce.

The first preliminary meeting for the purpose of organizing the Chamber of Commerce was held September 28, 1865. On December 21, 1865, the following were appointed corporators:—Henry Budd, Hon. Alex. G. Cattell, Howard Hinchman, Jas. A. Wright, Nathan Brooke, Jos. S. Perot, John H. Michener, Wm. Bumm, Edward Siter, Samuel Hartranft, Louis D. Baugh, Henry Winsor, John Mason, Jr., Seneca E. Malone, Theodore Wilson, George L. Buzby, Conrad S. Grove, Charles H. Cummings, Christian J. Hoffman, and Samuel L. Ward.

On December 30 the following named were appointed to represent the whole committee:—Messrs. Hinchman, Budd, Perot, Buzby, and Grove.

On April 14, 1866, the following committee was appointed to open the books and receive subscriptions:—Hinchman, Perot, Cummings, Brooks, and Buzby.

A meeting of stockholders was held April 25, 1866, when the following officers were elected:—President, Joseph S. Perot; Treasurer and Secretary, Samuel L. Ward; Managers, Alexander G. Cattell, Charles H. Cummings, James A. Wright, Howard Hinchman, Chas. Knecht, Seneca E. Malone, Nathan Brooke, John H. Michener, Charles Knecht.

April 25, 1867, the following officers were re-elected:—President, Joseph S. Perot; Treasurer, Samuel L. Ward; Managers, Alexander G. Cattell, James A. Wright, Howard Hinchman, Charles H. Cummings, Seneca E. Malone, Nathan Brooke, John H. Michener, Charles Knecht.

Preliminaries of the New Building.

On June 3, 1867, a meeting was held, at which a report was made that the deeds of the property were executed in favor of the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce.

On June 24, 1867, a proposal from Mr. J. Crump for the erection of the building was accepted, and the following-named gentlemen were appointed as a Finance and Building Committee:—Messrs. Hinchman, Cummings, Malone, Knecht, and Brooke.

On October 14, 1867, the corner stone was laid with appropriate ceremonies, the Hon. A. G. Cattell being the orator selected for the occasion.

On August 12, 1867, the contract was awarded.

On April 25, 1868, the old officers were re-elected.

On December 12, 1868, the building was transferred by the contractor to the officers of the association, to allow them to have the walls frescoed and rooms furnished.

On the same day the Tradesmen's Bank also took possession of the room on the first floor.

Description of the Edifice.

The size of the building is 92 feet front on Second street by 150 feet deep on Gothic street, inclusive of the tower. The height from the pavement to the top of the cornice, or eaves of the roof, is 60 feet, and to the top of the tower 80 feet. It is designed as a two story building; with a half story, the latter containing 10 offices, 19 by 34 feet in dimensions. The main entrance is on Second street, which opens into a spacious hall 18 feet wide, floored with marble, and running through the centre of the building to the back street. This hall is flanked on both sides with offices—18 in number—of spacious dimensions, and intended for rental and as a source of revenue. Each of these rooms has ample ventilation and light. The two principal offices have their main entrance on Second street, and in dimensions are 35 feet wide, 38 feet long, and 25 feet high, with doors communicating to other rooms for greater accommodation, if necessary. The large office on the southwest corner, with two others, are already occupied by the Tradesmen's Bank, and the corresponding one on the northwest corner is intended for a large insurance office, but not yet occupied. Thus the entire space on the first floor is divided into a hall and 22 offices. The height of story is 24 feet in the clear.

A grand staircase of solid black walnut, of massive design, leads from the first floor to the "Chamber of Commerce." This staircase is built in circular form in the centre of the building. The rotunda thus devoted is thirty-two feet in diameter, and is capped by a dome skylight of stained glass. The ceiling of this dome is seventy-two feet from the floor of the main entrance.

Appearance of the "Chamber."

The "Chamber of Commerce," is one hundred and thirty feet long by eighty-eight feet wide and thirty-five feet high. It occupies the whole of this, the second story.

The top of the grand staircase, which opens on the centre of the room, is surrounded by eight columns of the Corinthian order reaching to the base of the dome, the intervals being filled by a balustrade. The walls are handsomely finished, with pilasters and caps, at intervals, supporting rich stucco cornices and a highly ornate ceiling. Both walls and ceiling are painted in fresco, executed with great taste and skill, by Messrs. Walter & Boleg. The entire floor is lighted by windows on all the four sides, and by one dome skylight. The front of the "Chamber" opens into a small room in the tower, over which is another of equal dimensions, both of which are designed for the exclusive use of Committees. The spaces on either side of the tower are fenced off with massive walnut railings, and furnished with tables and racks of the same material, the inclosures thus made being intended for reading-rooms and the transaction of business. The north and southwest walls are supplied with washstands with marble tops and well-arranged fixtures, and the east end is relieved by a magnificent rostrum, with circular staircase at each end.

The material of this as well as the entire furniture, is solid walnut. The requisite artificial light for the principal chamber will be supplied by 26 four-light brackets on the pilasters and 6 pedestal fixtures of 7 lights each, attached to the top of the railing and between the Corinthian columns. The walls, offices and cellars on the other floors will be supplied with gas from 60 jets, with appropriate fixtures. The entire building is heated by steam apparatus diffused by registers in different parts of the commercial room and offices. The ventilation is provided for by 22 shafts placed in the outer walls, in addition to which is an arrangement for the escape of foul air in the ceiling.

The cellars run under the entire structure. They are separated by arches and piers into twelve sections, each of which has an entrance door in the side of the building. They are 10 feet high in the clear.

The exterior of the building presents an appearance simple, chaste, yet imposing. It has a granite front throughout, with a brown-stone elevation. The front on Second street has a line of columns, with pedestals, fourteen in number, supporting the main cornice above. Between these columns are large circle-headed windows and doorways, surrounded with brown-stone dressings, all designed in the Roman-Doric order of architecture.

The entire outlay of the association upon the structure has been about $200,000, including cost of ground. In addition to which some $15,000 has been expended on furniture, heating and lighting apparatus. Its revenue from the rental of offices, cellars, etc., cannot be accurately estimated, but it will not be less than $30,000 per annum.

On Monday next, at 12 M., the formal dedication of the new structure takes place. The programme consists of a prayer by the Rev. George Bringhurst, an address by John H. Michener, Esq., President of the association, an address by E. Harper Jeffries, Esq., and an oration by George L. Buzby, Esq.

BOARD OF HEALTH.

The Clerk of the Board of Health, Mr. William P. Troth, Esq., has prepared his annual report for the year 1868. It contains much valuable information.

The Vaccine Physicians report that they have vaccinated the following number of persons:

Dist.	Total.	Dist.	Total.
First	401	Seventh	112
Second	108	Eighth	1019
Third	478	Ninth	88
Fourth	375	Tenth	842
Fifth	821		
Sixth	963	Cases	5207

Report of vessels visited during the year by Port Physician:—Ships, 25; steamers, 21; brigs, 193; barques, 118; schooners, 181; total, 538; foreign passengers, 472.

By Lazaretto Physician:—Ships, 16; steamers, 13; brigs, 119; barques, 82; schooners, 148; total, 378; foreign passengers, 915.

Grand total visited, 916; grand total of passengers, 1417.

Outside channel visited, 327.

Permits issued during the year to clean cesspools:—

January	299	July	284
February	235	August	169
March	559	September	101
April	914	October	408
May	1816	November	316
June	300	December	223
Total			5644

To remove dead bodies:—

January	57	July	22
February	37	August	31
March	55	September	131
April	202	October	388
May	260	November	199
June	49	December	106
Total			1488

To unload fish, hides, and vegetables:—

June	41	August	45
July	58	September	25
Total			169

Amount of liens during the year 1868, $2207·03

Receipts During the Year 1868.

Permits to clean privy wells	$6,072·50
Permits to remove dead bodies	744 00
Permits to unload fish, hides, and vegetables	84 50
License to clean privy wells	2,350 00
Foreign fees	5,543 00
Coasting fees	338·00
Examination of passengers	780·00
Outside channel visits	1,650 00
Repayment of costs for removal of nuisances	3,344 01
Board of patients	72 43
Miscellaneous	212 50
	$21,110 94
Amount appropriated for the year 1868	63,140 00
Amount expended	53,747·71
Amount merged	$9,292 29

During the entire quarantine season, commencing the 1st of May and closing the 1st of October, the board met every day, and never upon a single occasion was there less than a quorum in attendance.

LARCENY CASE.—Two young men, named Joseph McDevitt and Alexander Stevens, were caught in the Spruce and Pine Streets Passenger Railway depot yesterday, in the act of carrying off wheel boxes. They will have a hearing before Alderman Kerr, at the Central Police Station, this afternoon. The above company have been annoyed of late by the sudden disappearance of property in the depot.

VIOLATING ORDINANCES.—Matthew Murphy was arrested in the Seventh district yesterday, by Officer Myers, for violating the ordinance prohibiting close driving. He was fined by Alderman Toland.

Godfrey Connelly, for fast driving, was arrested at St. John and Beaver streets yesterday. He was fined by Alderman Eggleton.

HOMER, COLLADAY & CO.

A Description of their Palatial New Store.

On Monday next the beautiful marble store on Chesnut street, west of Broad, erected for the Messrs. Homer, Colladay & Co., will be opened to the public. It is needless to say anything in eulogy of the matchless exterior appearance of the building, of its perfect interior arrangements, for from the time the first foundation stone was laid the progress of its erection was under the eye of the city, and its increasing magnificence, as it rose from story to story, made a town's talk. Nevertheless, some little account of the history of the firm which enters it—of the character and extent of their business—and then a description of the structure itself may not prove uninteresting.

In the year 1842 the dry goods house of Evans & Guillou had its origin. It at once took a place in the foremost rank of firms in that business, and its store made the depository in which Philadelphia fashionables sought for the richest of imported fabrics. From that time until the present—the year 1869—the firm as then constituted has but little changed; for, with the exception of the retirement of Mr. Guillou and the admission of some juniors, the concern, so far as regards its partners, remains as it was. Upon the retirement of Mr. Guillou the firm style was Thomas W. Evans & Co. Though the title now is Homer, Colladay & Co., the same gentlemen who founded the fortunes of the house, and by their enterprise and probity raised it to its present impregnable position, are still included in the organization of the partnership.

Shortly after the formation of the house it made connections with many of the great manufacturers of Paris, Lyons, Belfast, etc., and all the European centres producing silks, linens, gloves, hosiery, and the endless variety of textiles that go to make the stock of a great distributing emporium in a metropolitan city. The object of the firm was to obtain exclusive styles of goods, so far as possible, and to their success in this direction is to be attributed, in no small degree, the prosperity that, step by step, followed the rapid increase of their business. Another element which conduced and largely conduced to this success, was their constant endeavor to procure goods to suit—both in quality and price—all classes of customers. While upon the counters of the store could be found fabrics tall enough in price to reach to the bottom of the longest purse, yet the most shrivelled and limp purse could safely venture to them, and from amid the mass of more dainty textures find some, pretty enough, good enough, but so cheap in price that its few pennies would not all be taken in the purchase. Rich and poor were alike certain of discovering goods to suit them. In their new store as in their old, the firm will again make this endeavor to accommodate all.

The name "Homer, Colladay & Co." became long ago a sort of household word, not only with ladies throughout the city, but throughout the South and West. The firm found that from their retail department customers were literally crowded away by people seeking to make wholesale purchases. A season afterwards they created a separate and distinct department in their business. This gave relief alike to the troops of fashionable ladies who made the store a general mart and rendezvous, and to the proprietors of first-class dry goods stores in other localities who came to Philadelphia to select that grade of goods of which the smallest dealer keeps at least the show of a supply for the better class of his trade. We have already visited and inspected the new place, to be thrown open to the general public on Monday next. Every Philadelphian will, of course, visit it. The former premises of the firm, No. 820 Chesnut street, were handsome, but nothing to compare with the new building. It is just the difference between 1842 and 1869. Times change, and Homer, Colladay & Co.'s store changes with them. In the firm itself there is no change, nor is there any in their connections with their original correspondents in Europe. They buy for gold all the silks, the velvets, the merinoes, the lawns, the hosiery, and all the various articles of merchandise that they import, and retain unbroken connections with the proprietors of the same looms with whose productions they supplied the ladies of Philadelphia in the quiet days of 1842.

Before entering upon a description of the new edifice of the firm, it may be proper to mention that they give employment to some four hundred hands, about three hundred being kept busy in the workrooms, and the remaining one hundred in the salesrooms. Quite a little community of persons. The features of the new store are several; what is more, they are noteworthy to everybody. Each department is separate and distinct, under the charge of a trusty chief. There is one department devoted to gloves of all the various kinds; another is filled with hosiery and knitted underwear—a furnishing store in itself. The silk department is something calculated to cause the pupil of a tasteful eye to dilate with admiration; the linen and housekeeping goods department is another consoling study. The woollen and cloth departments are separated like the rest, while a long line of counters is devoted to dress goods of various fabrics.

To our notion the best idea of the whole thing is the department of *lingerie*. "Lingerie" is a good idea. It means that ladies or misses in want of apparel already made, needn't linger any length of time in being supplied with it. In the handsomely furnished parlors, separated from the main body of the store, ladies cannot only be supplied with every article of underwear, and travelling or street dresses, but can order any garment constituting their costume to be made to order. Dressmakers, who learned their art in the most renowned establishments, supervise this particular branch of the business. A family of girls, from a single one to as many as will fill a seminary, can be fitted out in the lingerie department of Homer, Colladay & Co., with entire wardrobes. If any one wants to know why it is that the firm have so many exclusive styles in dress goods, and the many articles of merchandise that fill their shelves, the answer is that one member of the firm spends, among the manufacturers of the European continent, not less than eight months in the year.

The lot on which this store stands, and by which it is entirely covered, measures 54 feet front on Chesnut street. It runs back 232 feet to Sansom street. The building consists of three principal divisions, a three-story front building, 60 feet deep, a four story building, 40 feet deep, and between them a one-story part, 132 feet deep, the roof being pierced by seven large skylights, each 4 feet high and 22 feet wide, giving a pure north light. In order to keep the first floor entirely unobstructed by columns, the rear wall of the two high buildings are supported by two immense cast iron girders, each with two four-inch wrought iron straining rods, and each girder weighing 10 tons, while the floor joists are suspended by strong iron rods from the roof trusses.

The first floor, being the retail salesroom, is subdivided into two parts by a large arched division, the front part devoted to the sales of silks, dress goods, etc.; the division containing on one side the "dark room" for the display of evening goods; on the other side a retiring room for lady customers.

Back of the division is the large room for the sale of mantillas and dresses, and following this, at the extreme end, and at the sides of the large passage leading to Sansom street, are the cutting and fitting rooms for ladies, stairs to upper rooms, and large fire-proof.

The second and third stories of the Chesnut street building are prepared for the wholesale department, while the Sansom street building contains in each of the three upper stories a room 40 by 42 feet, finely lighted and ventilated. This part is devoted to the manufacture of cloaks, dresses, and ladies' underwear. It gives luxurious room for 250 operators, and is provided with every modern convenience and improvement.

The basement is used for receiving goods; has a hydraulic elevator which distributes them into the different departments. It also contains dressing-rooms for the employes in the establishment, which, like the others, is supplied with all appliances for health and comfort. Here are also four large furnaces by which the rooms throughout are heated.

The front of the building is of the finest white Vermont marble, in the Italian renaissance style, the first story with quoins, pilasters, and columns, with semi-circular arches in five openings, two doors and three windows, the centre one rising above the others, and presenting a glass surface of 10 feet 6 inches in width by 25 feet in height. The upper stories are ornamented by pilaster-coupled windows, a large circular opening in middle of second story, a solid marble principal cornice, with heavy ornamental blocking course.

The front on Sansom street is constructed of brick, with granite mountings.

Taken altogether, in their new place the Messrs. Homer, Colladay & Co. have unquestionably one of the finest store edifices in the city.

CAUGHT IN THE ACT.—Charles Grongh went into a skin-dressing establishment at Canal street and Germantown avenue, yesterday, and was helping himself to some skins when discovered. Charles was arrested, and committed by Alderman Eggleton.

MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF TEMPERANCE.—An interesting meeting of the friends of temperance was held last evening in the lecture-room of the Second Reformed Church, Seventh street, above Brown. The exercises were opened by the singing of an anthem, and prayer by Rev. Spencer Kennard, of the Tenth Baptist Church, who also made an address favoring the movement in behalf of total abstinence from intoxicating drinks. The following letter was received from the pastor of the church, and was read:—

"I regret that engagements previously made have hindered my attendance at the temperance meetings in my church. I want it to be known that I am in full sympathy with this effort to rouse public opinion against the evils of drunkenness. Let the Church of God show her colors in this movement. While I do not believe that temperance principles of themselves can take a man to heaven, I do not believe a man can get into heaven without temperance principles. It is high time that we marshal our forces to meet the enemy and come down on their front and rear, doubling up their right wing and falling on their left. Success to the temperance men, defeat and consternation to all the grog shops. Respectfully,

"T. DEWITT TALMAGE."

Addresses were then made by Lowell Dodge, Hiram Ward, L. Pollock, and others. A number of signatures were obtained to the total abstinence pledge.

LEGAL INTELLIGENCE.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT—Judge Cadwalader.—The United States vs. Fifteen Barrels of Whisky, claimed by James Maguire. An information for forfeiture. Before reported. Verdict for the United States.

The United States vs. Twenty-five Barrels of Whisky claimed by David B. Taylor and John Denan. An information for the forfeiture of liquor seized on the ground that it was raw and fraudulently marked rectified. On trial.

SUPREME COURT IN BANC—Chief Justice Thompson and Judges Read, Agnew, Sharswood, and Williams.—The Vulcan Oil case from the city list was argued to-day.

DISTRICT COURT, No. 1—Judge Hare. W. & H. R. Raiguel vs. Magee, Hicks & Co., garnishees of Mary A. McEvatt. An attachment execution. On trial.

DISTRICT COURT No. 2—Judge Stroud.—Block et al. vs. Bonda, Keller & Nutting. An action to recover damages for a breach of a contract to employ plaintiff's schooner, which was brought on here under an agreement to ship coal to Boston in her. Verdict for plaintiffs, $312·50.

Lydia Ellson, executrix, vs. William Shields. An action on a bond. Defense alleged payment. On trial.

The Byrnes Homicide.

COURT OF OYER AND TERMINER—Judges Ludlow and Brewster.—Yesterday the arguments of counsel having been made and the charge of the Court delivered, in the case of Samuel Holt, tried for the murder of Edward Byrnes, the jury retired to deliberate upon their verdict. After several hours, absence from the court-room, they returned and stated to the Judges that the pistol presented to them as the one taken from the prisoner at his arrest, they had found broken in twain, and a question had arisen among them as to whether this could have been his condition on the night of the murder; and upon this point they requested instructions from the Court. The foreman exhibited the weapon, and in truth the barrel was removed from the stock. The judges refused to say anything upon the subject because there was no legal evidence of it before them. The jury returned to their room and in a few moments rendered a verdict of not guilty and the prisoner was thereupon discharged.

This pistol was one with a revolving barrel, containing three chambers, and a self-cocker. The barrel was fastened to the stock by a rod iron that connected with the machinery of the trigger, and caused the barrel to revolve. Had the weapon been broken throughout the trial, as when produced by the jury, it is reasonable to suppose, indeed it is almost certain that it would have been discovered, for it was repeatedly handled by the two District Attorneys, by the prisoner's counsel by whom it probably was inspected carefully and scrupulously, and by the judges themselves, and assuredly the breach would have been found. Moreover, it underwent the same manipulation at the former trial of Holt for the murder of Christopher Byrnes without such disclosure. This morning an investigation of the pistol itself proves that the rod of iron at the point of the fracture is of a light color and brittle, having all the appearance of a clean, new break, and that a spring projecting from the stock against the barrel prevents the two parts from remaining together without the aid of the rod, which is broken. The fact that this was never discovered until the weapon had been given to the jurors, and was first brought to light by them and the fracture being apparently very recent, are, to say the least, peculiar.

The McKieve Homicide.

The trial of the boy George Young, for the murder of William McKieve, in West Philadelphia, on Sunday, November 15th last, was next before the Court. The defendant was indicted jointly with seven others, most of whom have been tried, and their cases fully reported. The facts in all are alike, except that in this case it was testified by a witness for the Commonwealth that the deceased had left the scene of the murder before the fatal affray had fairly begun. At the close of their testimony the District Attorneys abandoned the prosecution as not being sustained by the evidence, and a verdict of not guilty was rendered. E. M. Whitesides and Christian Kneas, Esqs., represented the accused.

Grand Jury Presentment.

This morning the Grand Jury, having completed their labors, made a final presentment to the court setting forth that during the term they have acted upon 850 bills of indictment, of 223 were returned true bills and 157 ignored.

TO ALDERMEN.

In the presentment the Grand Inquest bitterly complain of the frequency of frivolous prosecutions instituted by parties from no higher motive apparently than the gratification of petty spleen and private malice, and in express terms they condemn the course of our committing magistrates in entertaining such cases and thereby filling up the Court, thereby needlessly expending public time and money and vexing those who are thus without cause accused.

An instance is given in which one Joseph Miller appeared before Alderman Dallas, and charged James Burnside with the larceny of three pickets, valued at two cents each, "altogether amounting to the value of six cents." The Alderman held Burnside in $400 bail to answer at Court, and in default of this bail he would have been compelled to remain in prison awaiting the action of the Grand Jury.

This is one explanation of the crowded condition of the prison. Of course the indictment was ignored, and had it been in the power of the Grand Jury, they would have imposed the costs upon the alderman, and many others in similar cases. They request the Court to give expression to the law and common sense that should govern committing magistrates in the exercise of their functions.

MOYAMENSING.

The usual visit was paid to the County Prison which was found neat and well kept so far as the keeper and immediate managers were concerned, but is a sad state otherwise. In the untried department were 195 cells containing 350 persons—two and three in a cell. This is regarded as a gross injustice to untried prisoners, whom the law presume to be innocent and not subject to punishment until proven guilty, and as leading to gross immorality.

In the department of convicts were found 190 cells and 398 prisoners. This is a fearful state of affairs, and when connected with the practice of keeping the outside door of each cell closely barred thereby rendering the ventilation imperfect and the air impure, becomes a cause of fear of epidemic and is disapproved by the Grand Jury. For the requirements of this large community 400 new cells are rendered necessary.

ALMSHOUSE.

This institution was visited, and is favorably mentioned. The population was found to number 880 souls, and it is suggested that these paupers might be organized into regular manufacturing force, so as to benefit their health and better to prepare them for out-door work and usefulness. The erection of a House of Correction was in this connection urged for relief of the Almshouse and County Prison.

PENITENTIARY.

This place met the approval of the Inquest in all respects except that too many persons are there confined, there being 670 persons to 540 cells.

RAILROADS, BRIDGES, STREETS, TENEMENT-HOUSES, FACTORIES, AND JUNK-SHOPS.

These subjects are rarely found in such documents as this, but here some important suggestions are made. It is asked that it shall be included in the scope of grand jury duties to inspect county bridges, and see that they are kept in proper repair, securing the safety of travellers and facilitating transportation; also to visit our large factories, where hundreds, nay thousands, of hands are employed night and day, many of whom are children, and to see that these minors are properly treated and receive the three months' schooling in the year that they are entitled to, and prevent those impositions that some depraved employers practice upon those over whom they have so great an advantage.

Railway crossings should be watched, and where the necessary safeguards for the lives of the thousands that are continually passing them are not provided those whose duty it is to provide them should be presented as guilty of a crime that calls for severe punishment, and here it is mentioned that at Broad street and the Reading Railroad is a large and dangerous excavation, thirty feet deep and forty wide, that requires immediate attention and repair.

The present condition of the streets are spoken of as evidencing an offense against decency and the law, on the part of those whose duty it is to keep them clean, and who have neglected that duty. It is an outrage that the health of the whole community should be thus endangered by the so foul of the elements upon the accumulation of filth in the highways, merely because of street cleaners' indolence, and that official allowed to go unpunished.

The tenement houses in Bedford street and St. Mary Street are said to be nests of vice, and fit subjects for the supervision of the Grand Jury; and junk shops are classed as places for the encouragement of crime in the young, and it is suggested that when the proprietors of such establishments are convicted of receiving stolen goods, the full extent of the law shall be meted out to them.

The Court, having thanked the Grand Jurors for their prompt attention to business, discharged them from further attendance.

THIRD EDITION

HARRISBURG

Defeat of the Metropolitan Police Bill in the Senate—The Vote—Proceedings in the House.

Defeat of the Metropolitan Police Bill.

Special Despatch to The Evening Telegraph.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 26.—The Metropolitan Police bill has been beaten by a vote of 11 yeas to 20 nays. Senators Lowry, Fisher, Osterhout, Taylor, Stutzman, and Robinson, Republicans, voted in the negative.

THE STATE LEGISLATURE.

Senate.

THE METROPOLITAN POLICE BILL.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 26.—The bill creating a Metropolitan Police force in Philadelphia was taken up, and the first section being read, Mr. Wallace called for the yeas and nays. Before they were called Mr. Henzey made a speech in its favor, taking the ground that it was far more important than any legislation asked for by Philadelphia during the session. He felt it his duty not only to record his vote, but to raise his voice in support of its passage. The present police force was organized at the time of consolidation, and although it is constituted as efficiently as it can be made under the existing system, it is far inferior to the requirements, and so large that it is impossible for the Mayor to give it the necessary attention.

He then showed what were the essentials of a well-regulated police, and the importance of a total change. He did not advocate it from partisan motives, for a question which involved the safety and protection of the lives and property of a community should rise far above party considerations. An objection had been made to the bill that it would diminish the dignity of the Mayor, but if he understood the matter correctly, if through the efficiency of a police the city was protected from the outrages of murderers, burglars, and incendiaries, would it not elevate, ennoble, and add lustre to his administration? A cry for the passage of this bill came up from the graves of the murdered victims of the October election—men slaughtered by those who claim the right to control the city, and he adjured every Senator who was hesitating not to sell his birthright for a mess of pottage.

House of Representatives.

The special order was the consideration of the following House bill—That it shall and may be lawful for railroad and canal companies to aid corporations authorized by law to develop the coal, iron, lumber, and other material interests of the Commonwealth, by the purchase of their capital stock and bonds, or either of them, or by the guarantee of, or agreement to purchase the principal and interest, or either of such bonds.

Mr. Nice offered an amendment excluding the counties of Columbia, Northumberland, Schuylkill, and Dauphin from the operations of the bill, which amendment was agreed to.

The bill was recommitted to the Committee on Railroads.

Among the bills reported from the various committees, were the following:—

By Mr. Bunn, an act authorizing the trustees and congregation of the Second Baptist Church to sell their burial ground, without amendment.

Also, a Senate bill for the punishment of cruelty to animals.

Mr. Davis presented the memorial of the Philadelphia Board of Trade in favor of the repeal of the usury laws.

FROM MASSACHUSETTS.

Destructive Fire in Sandwich.

SANDWICH, Feb. 26.—A fire broke out this morning in Swift's block, on Jarvis street, and spread until all the buildings from Willow street to the store of Aivah Holway were destroyed. Among the sufferers are George P. Drew, loss, $5000—insured; W. F. Burbank, stoves, loss, $5000—insured; Swift's block, loss, $6000—insured; Charles S. Brooks, dry goods, loss, $4000—not insured; Charles E. Burges, clothing, loss, $3000—insured; Montezuma block, owned by John G. Miller, loss, $5000—insured. The total loss is estimated at $20,000 to $30,000.

From Baltimore.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 26.—The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Northern Central Railroad yesterday elected the following Directors: J. D. Cameron and William Colder, of Harrisburg; A. E. Kapp, of Northumberland; Geary Small, B. F. Newcomer, and S. M. Shoemaker, of Baltimore; E. C. Biddle, John M. Kennedy, Jacob P. Jones, Wister Morris, and Edmund Smith (the latter in place of John A. Wright, absent in Europe), of Philadelphia; and Henry Welsh, of New York. The newly elected Directors subsequently met and elected John D. Cameron, Esq., President, and John W. Dubarry, Esq., Vice-President.

Markets by Telegraph.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—Stocks dull. Gold, 132¼. Exchange, 109; 5-20s, 1862, 116⅝; do, 1864, 115½; do, 1865, 114⅝; new, 111½; 1867, 111⅝; 10-40s, 109½; Virginia 6s, 61; Missouri 6s, 87½; Canton Company, 56; Cumberland preferred, 37; New York Central, 165½; Reading, 92½; Hudson River, 156½; Michigan Central, 138; Michigan Southern, 96⅝; Cleveland and Pittsburg, 91; Cleveland and Toledo, 105½; Illinois Central, 140; Chicago and Rock Island, 126¼.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—Cotton quiet; 200 bales sold at 35@35¾c. Flour declining; State, $7@7·50; Southern, $8·50@12; California, $6@8 for old, and $7·10@10·50 for new; sales of 28,000 bbls. Wheat dull and declined 1c; sales of 7500 bushels No 2 at $1·54. Corn firmer and advanced 1c.; sales of 32,000 bushels mixed Western at 91@92c.; yellow Western at 94c. Oats quiet. Pork quiet; new mess, $31·75@32·12½. Lard steady; steam, 19@19¼c. Whisky steady and unchanged.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 26.—Cotton quiet and weak nominally at 29c. Flour dull and irregular. Wheat dull and unchanged. Corn dull; white, 94@95; yellow, 88@90. Oats dull at 70@75. Rye dull and nominal at $1·30@1·35. Pork quiet at $33@33·50. Bacon quiet; rib sides, 17@16¾c; clear do., 18@18¼c; shoulders, 15@15¼c; hams, 20@21c. Lard quiet at 20¾c.

Stock Quotations by Telegraph—1 P. M.

Glendinning, Davis & Co. report through their New York house the following:—

N. Y. Cent. R.	164½	Western Union T.	37⅝
N. Y. and Erie R.	36¼	Cleveland and Tol.	105⅞
Phil. and Read. R.	92⅝	Tol. & Wabash R.	67½
Mich. S. and N. I. R.	97½	Mil. & St. P. com.	66
Cle. and Pitt. R.	91¼	Mil. & St. P. pref.	78¾
Chi. and N. W. com.	82⅞	Adam Express Co	59
Chic. and N. W. prf.	91	Wells, Fargo & Co.	30
Chi. and R. I. R.	126⅛	Tennessee 6s, new	65½
Pis. F. W. and Chi.	122⅝	Gold	132¼
Pa. M. Steam. Co.	101⅝		

Market steady.

PUBLIC SALE OF EXTRA VALUABLE REAL ESTATE.—Thomas & Sons will sell on Tuesday next, at the Exchange, the valuable livery stable and large lot, northeast corner of Seventeenth and Vine; stores, Nos. 930 and 921 Market street; mill property, Tasker street, east of Eighth; elegant residence, No. 1520 Spring Garden street; several desirable small dwellings; valuable stocks, loans, etc. See their pamphlet catalogues.

PASSING COUNTERFEIT MONEY.—Isaac Hink was arrested at No. 980 Market street, yesterday, for passing counterfeit twenty-five cent notes. He was taken into custody by Officer Hennard, and in his possession were found eight counterfeit twenty-five-cent notes. Isaac was held in $2000 bail to answer by Commissioner Smith.

CUTTING AFFAIR.—Peter Robinson (colored) had an altercation with Andrew Collins (colored) at Eighth and Emeline streets, yesterday afternoon. Robinson, it is said, drew a razor and cut Andrew over the face. The defendant had a hearing before Alderman Bonsall, and was held to answer.

PHILADELPHIA STOCK EXCHANGE SALES, FEB. 26

Reported by De Haven & Bro., No. 40 S. Third street

BETWEEN BOARDS.

$1500 Pa 6s, '79	95½	200 sh Read RR	46⅛
100 sh Read. RR	46⅛	200 do	46⅛
200 do	46⅛	500 do	46⅛
100 do	46⅛	200 do	46⅛

SECOND BOARD.

$1000