

Advertisements to secure immediate insertion, must be handed in on or before Thursday evening of every week.

The News.

The movement in the Army of the Potomac was mainly a cavalry demonstration under General Custer and Kilpatrick.

General Custer made a reconnaissance in the direction of Gordonsville, and crossed the Rapidan and Rivanna rivers, capturing the Rebel pickets. He met the enemy four miles from Charlottesville, driving them back a considerable distance. A dash was made into a Rebel camp and their tents and six caissons burned. The enemy's infantry appearing in force our cavalry retreated. The pursuit of the enemy was successfully eluded, and our force returned to camp with fifty prisoners, a large number of negroes, and three hundred horses. Besides destroying a large quantity of Rebel stores.

Kilpatrick is within a few miles of Richmond, and as General Butler is co-operating with him, we may expect to hear of startling news from that quarter in a day or two.

The sudden retreat of Longstreet's forces from East Tennessee is regarded as mysterious at Knoxville, and there is much inquiry as to whether he has gone toward Lee or Johnston.

A Washington despatch gives the gratifying assurance that General Butler is likely soon to effect an exchange of prisoners.

Provost Marshal General Fry yesterday issued an order to the Boards of enrollment to commence the draft on March 10th in all sub-districts which had not filled their quotas before the 1st inst.

The U. S. Senate yesterday confirmed the nomination of Ulysses S. Grant, of Illinois, as Lieutenant General of the Armies of the United States. The bill in accordance with which the nomination was made passed the House February 20th and was signed by the President on the same day.

The Pennsylvania Senate was fully organized on Monday. Mr. St. Clair, the Union Senator elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Major White, was conducted to the Capitol by a procession, with flags and music.

Among the many places of amusement in the great city of New York is Barnum's American Museum; persons visiting the great metropolis will find "Barnum's" one of the most popular places of resort in the city.

A new and splendid drama is performed every afternoon and evening during the week, entitled "Miriam's Crime," a deeply interesting piece. Mr. W. B. Harrison, the impromptu singer, who appears at each performance, and the Tyrolean Whistler, who plays on three whistles at once, and executes a fantasia on the Tyrolean Family Coffee Pot. The three Giants and the Giants, the two Dwarfs, the What Is It, and the other innumerable curiosities are to be seen, as usual, at all hours, day and evening.

You can see more for your money here than any similar place in the United States—and the entertainment given are equal to anything ever given in this country.

We clip the following from the Philadelphia Sunday Morning Times. It shows the high appreciation in which our friend and former fellow townsman H. W. Gray, Esq., is held. It always gives us pleasure to make a note of the well doing of Columbians abroad. The "Times" in an editorial on the Philadelphia Councilmen, thus speaks of Mr Gray:

Mr. H. W. Gray is another of the prominent members of Common Council. He comes from the 15th Ward represented in Select Council by Henry Davis Esq. The high intelligence, respectability and culture of the Fifteenth Ward is happily exemplified in the representative it has sent to both branches of Councils. Mr. Gray is the financial partner in the largest piano manufacturing concern upon this continent. He is elected by the Union party. He is director of a bank, of one of the first of our insurance companies, and in no less than eight other institutions of various kinds. His financial accomplishments were recognized by the Chamber in the unsolicited appointment as the Chairman of the Committee on Finance of both Chambers. Mr. Gray, as the financial agent of the city of Philadelphia, therefore holds a position of great honor and responsibility. With the enormous expenditures now being made with bonds of the city above par, Councilman Gray is entitled, for the success of his stewardship, to the thanks of every citizen of Philadelphia. The bonds of the city are selling largely above par, a result by no small degree attributable to the confidence of the public in the Finance Committee. The material generally of the Finance Committee of Councils would do honor to any city.

Mr. Gray is the father of the bill that will give to the city an "unbroken" Fairmount Park, free from nuisances of any kind. At the risk of making enemies of an army of highway myrmidons, he urged the passage of the street cleaning bill, and saw it safely through the Common Council. This is the gentleman's second year in Common Council; no weak has passed in which he has not accomplished at least some good, either for his ward, or the city in general. His energy, activity and vigilance are literally sleepless.

Mr. Gray is a pater familias, with four "olive branches" around his table. He is a native of Lancaster county, and was reared a farmer. He is about thirty-three years of age. He gets himself slightly upon shape, wears No. 7 kids, and No. 6 patent leathers. He is one of the few good looking men who also possess brains in proportion. He owes his position in Councils solely to the refusal of his Ward to accept a negative answer to a request that he would permit himself to be a candidate.

Communications.

Written for the "Spy." MR. EDITOR—The recent series of excellent articles published in your journal under the cognomen of "Progress" are interesting, and are awakening our citizens to comprehend what are the advantages and real interests of our town.

The progress of Columbia has perhaps since the period of its incorporation, been much retarded in consequence of individuals having large real estate possessions, and which they would neither improve themselves, neither would they dispose of to others, other than at exorbitant prices when capitalists desired property for improvement. Indeed for many years in the past history of our town if any public or individual improvement that might be a convenience or real benefit to the interests of our community were suggested there was sure to be some old foggy individual interest—some exorbitant price to be obtained that would frustrate any public advantage or benefit that might be projected or conferred upon our Borough. Recently we perceive some indication of this former state of affairs becoming obsolete, as an evidence and earnestness of the public feeling, we are pleased to see the demonstration made during the present week, by our citizens in petitioning the President and Directors of the Pennsylvania R. & Co. signed by several hundred of our citizens together with the Chief Burgess and Town Council petitioning for a Passenger station or depot to be erected in a central part of our town. They say their grievances, cannot longer be endured that about nine tenths of our traveling community have been subjected to travel a mile, more or less, and from the station on every journey they take on the cars, in consequence of our present station being located at the extreme end of our Borough.

It is hoped the prayers of our citizens will be favorably entertained and a convenient and spacious passenger station or depot be erected at some point on their line of road between Walnut and Perry streets in our Borough. PROGRESS J. R.

For the Spy. NEW YORK CORRESPONDENCE. TRUMANSBURGH, N. Y., Feb. 25, 1864. MR. RAMBO: Dear Sir: If you have ever witnessed a large conflagration, you can imagine what has been the experience of your correspondent within the last week. On the morning of Tuesday the 23d, just one half of the business part of Trumansburgh, (a village of between one and two thousand inhabitants, in Tompkins county, New York,) was burned to the ground. The fire was first discovered at about one o'clock, on the morning of the day mentioned, and raged until nearly day break. Fifty or sixty buildings, including thirty-one places of business, were consumed, and between thirty and forty families were turned homeless into the street.

So rapid was the progress of the flames, that many families were unable to save even their household goods from the flames, and many who were uninsured were reduced in a few hours from comparative affluence to indigence. Among the property which was burned, was a furnace, worth some ten thousand dollars, a hotel, H. D. Barto & Co. bank building, several large stores, a stone mill which cost between seven and eight thousand dollars. This mill and the furnace were both uninsured. One individual who lost a dwelling house and four tent stores, had only two hundred dollars insurance. A large amount of ground was burned over, and the total loss will be about one hundred thousand dollars, of which not more than one fourth is covered by insurance. For many years our village has been singularly fortunate in being free from conflagrations, and we had not a solitary fire engine, or even a hook and ladder company to aid in putting down the fire. A single engine would have saved one half, if not three fourths of the property destroyed.

I do not know how volunteering is progressing in your State, but here in New York we are doing nobly. The congressional district which includes Tompkins county, has filled its quotas under every call, and has furnished fifteen hundred recruits more than have yet been asked for by the war department. In our township of Ulysses, Tompkins county, men are continually enlisting, although the town bounty has been stopped.

I have received Finley Johnson's new book. Many thanks! I hope that it may meet with an extensive sale. I have also lately read a pamphlet, entitled "Juliette Moore, a tale of the South," written by Willie Ware, another member of your talented corps of contributors. It is a story which will amply repay any person for its perusal. With many hopes for your success in your editorial enterprise, I am Your Friend "LU LIGHT."

For the Spy, HELLMAN TWP., York Co., March 1st, 1864.

MR. EDITOR—I am sorry to inform you that Mr. Gressly, who lost considerable at a late fire in York, lost another barn or stable, and an ice house, last night, by the hands of some base incendiary. A series of burglaries was perpetrated in the same place, on Wednesday night last. The loud report of the explosion of a safe in Kurtz & Nes' store, attracted the attention of the neighbors, and police, which led to the arrest of two professional thieves, as they had the implements of the profession, such as skeleton keys, &c., in their possession. They were committed. The Fair, at York, for the benefit of the sick and wounded soldiers, last week, exceeded the most sanguine expectations of every one. The proceeds, up to Saturday, amounted to \$8,092, and still left a large number of articles on hand, unsold. It was to remain open until to-night, inclusive. The Concerts and Tableaux, at the above fair, were so well received, that a number of Prof. Bentz's friends (and they are legion) tendered him a benefit, but he declined the honor, and to-night he and the managers of the Tableaux connected with the Fair, give an entertainment for the benefit of the poor of the town. The Ter-Centenary year of the Heidelberg Catechism was celebrated in quite an imposing and interesting manner, on Tuesday evening last, by the Sabbath School attached to the First Reformed Church, in York. The object of these jubilees, by the various churches of that denomination, is to raise a fund for the purpose of establishing certain institutions under its care, and other benevolent objects. The annual report of the Northern Central R. R. Co., shows that the total receipts of the company for the year ending December 1st, 1863, were \$2,122,034 19, and the ex penditures \$1,686,867 41—leaving a net revenue of \$435,216 78. To which should be added \$185,864 11 due from the United States for business done the past year. They do not intend to declare any dividend until the road is put into complete order, it being the intention of the Board to make it a first class, double track, road. The old Board of Directors were re-elected, also the same President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Superintendent of last year. I hear the story called "The Outcast Daughter," by Finley Johnson, published by you in pamphlet form, highly spoken of. Don't neglect to send the one I wrote for the other day. I applied for it at some of the book stores in York, and was astonished at not finding it there. Yours, &c., HELLMAN.

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