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THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

NOT TO BE DEMORALIZED FOR PARTISAN OR PERSONAL REASONS.

Interviews With Republican Councilmen on the Organization—The Testimony in Favor of Chief Howell's Efficiency—The Candidates Who Are Against Him.

"No person shall be rejected or subject to removal on account of any political, religious or other sentiment entertained by him, providing that no member of the department shall take an active part in politics, or that such sentiment does not interfere with the efficient discharge of his duties." —From the ordinance establishing and governing the fire department.

The ordinance establishing the present paid "call" fire department system of the city government first became operative about three years ago. Its enactment was at no time a party question, and it was adopted with the full understanding on all sides that party politics were to have no place nor weight in the management of the new fire department. The question of electing a chief engineer came up in councils at the regular meeting in February A. D., 1882, and although there were a number of persons proposed for the office, no partisan issue was raised. Mr. Geo. W. Zecher, who had been chairman of the fire committee, before the election of a chief took place, took occasion to advert to the entire absence of anything like political or party feeling in the action of the special committee on the reorganization of the fire department; considerations of that kind had not been permitted to influence the course of the committee. They had been a unit in all they did and a resolution had passed the committee at the last meeting that *if either party called a caucus for the purpose of putting in nomination a candidate for this position of chief engineer they would refuse to go into it;* they wanted to see an engineer elected on his merits alone.

This position was agreed by all to be the proper one; and it prevailed in councils, which a Democratic majority controlled at that time. It was approved by the public generally and there was universal satisfaction felt and expressed that at least one branch of the city government was to be administered regardless of partisan politics.

THE FIRST CHIEF ELECTED.

Of the six persons placed in nomination for the new office at that meeting, four happened to be Democrats, though no such distinction was then suggested. The election resulted on first ballot as follows:

Charles Green, Dem., had the votes of five Democrats.

Jacob R. Waters, Rep., had the votes of four Republicans.

Fred. Arnold, Dem., had the votes of six Democrats.

Peter Fordney, Rep., had the votes of three Republicans.

Leo Jacobs, Dem., had the votes of three Democrats and one Republican.

H. N. Howell, Dem., had the votes of three Republicans and four Democrats.

On the second ballot four Republicans voted for Howell; and on the third and final ballot of the 30 votes cast, Howell received 16, of whom 10 were Republicans. He was declared elected and the choice was made unanimous.

Good feeling prevailed and though the quality of the new chief and his skill as an organizer were to be proved, no partisan demands were made upon him, and during all of his administration there has been no charge of any violation of the provision of the ordinance quoted at the head of this article.

The efficiency of his service, the discipline of his department and the generally good management of the fire dep, have been undoubtedly due to the fact that they owe their appointment and retention to no party favor, but to merit and the faithful discharge of duty.

Mr. Howell, himself, though of a well-known Democratic family, and of that faith, too, has never been a politician; and the fact that he was originally chosen by a majority of Republican votes over two Democratic politicians, affords the best evidence that he was not elected as a partisan; while the refusal of the Democrats to caucus over the appointment, at a time when they had a majority in councils, is proof of the understanding, all around, that this office and the department in general was to be in fact and theory, kept out of politics.

Mr. Howell's efforts in bringing the local system to a high degree of efficiency, and his successful work at the fires which he has managed, have made for him many friends, and nothing short of his industry, attention and capacity could have so soon commanded for the new system the hearty popular support which attaches to it to-day.

Partisan Demands for the Place.

The *New Era* unquestionably spoke for a very large and very respectable element of its party before the election, when it said: "any change in the superintending of the * * * fire department at this time, for partisan or personal reasons, would be unwise." Nevertheless the agitation for such change had begun and has been progressing with more violence since the election.

Some of the more desperate members of the City Ring are outspoken in their demands that Chief Howell must go, to make room for a Republican. They have suddenly discovered that the office is a "political," one and for purely "partisan or personal reasons" they propose to try and bring the matter under the jurisdiction of a party caucus, to drive into it with the bosses' lash the Republicans who are opposed to making a change or to dragging the department into party politics.

With a view of ascertaining the prevailing sentiment among the Republican councilmen on this subject they have been interviewed with the results given below. There are now only 8 Democrats in councils and while they favor the present organization of the department—not because Chief Howell happens to be a Democrat, but because of its tried efficiency—the question is one to be determined by such Republicans as want to keep the department out of partisan politics. While 15 members would be a majority of the caucus, it will require but 11 acting with the Democrats to prevent the attempt to make a change "for partisan or personal reasons."

THE VIEWS OF THE COUNCILMEN.

What the Members of Select Council Have to Say About It.

Henry Doerr declines to express his views at present. He has been called upon by three or four candidates who have solicited his vote for chief of the department, but he has made no promises to any of them. The time for choosing a chief is a good way off, and there is no knowing what circumstances may occur between now and then to alter the present status of the applicants. When the time comes to act he will do that which seems to him to be best for the interests of the city.

Robert A. Evans is well pleased with the fire department as it is now organized, and hopes it will not be made a political machine as some of the other departments have been made. He regards Mr. Howell as a fearless, active and efficient chief; the only complaint that he ever heard against him being that he is not strict enough in disciplining his men. Mr. Evans thinks the salary too low for a first-class officer and would be willing to vote for an increase, if the incumbent would give his whole time to it.

H. C. Demuth favors the reelection of Chief Engineer Howell and will use his influence for him.

Mr. Amos Urban says that personally he should regret to see any change made in the present management of the fire department, but he is not yet prepared to say what he may do when the time to vote comes on. He is not in favor with the local managers and has not much influence among them, being regarded as a "kicker," because he has declined to support unfit nominations.

Frank Remley said it was rather early to give any opinion in the matter and he really had not considered it a great deal yet. He thought it evident that the Republicans wanted the position, and as he came from a stronghold of that party he might be looked for to support its man by his constituents. Mr. Howell had made a much better engineer than he supposed he would, and is a good fellow. Mr. Remley seemed to be more interested in the way the other offices will be filled by his party, and said that he would of course confer with his fellow councilmen in the ward and talk with the people in regard to the engineer situation before taking any steps in the matter; but he will not be bossed.

Mr. William Riddle said he had not as yet given the matter the reflection it deserved; but that he thought the office of chief engineer was a political one and that it had been so regarded and so treated by its present incumbent. There were complaints from business men that if Chief Howell had horses to be shod, or harness to be repaired, or gum coats to be bought, he invariably took his trade to Democrats. Mr. Riddle was not yet prepared to say what he would do; but he thought the prevailing opinion among the Republican politicians was for a Republican.

Mr. D. E. Long was found at his grocery on the northwest corner of North Queen and James streets. Individually, he said, he thought the present organization of the fire department efficient, and its chief a very good man for the head of it. Politically and as the elect of a party, he might be expected, however, to waive his personal opinion. He thought it wise to keep the fire department out of politics.

Opinion of Members of the Common Branch.

FIRST WARD.

John C. Spaeth, who was a member of the committee on fire engines and hose during the past year, and has had ample opportunity to familiarize himself with the condition of the department, speaks in high praise of Mr. Howell's zeal and efficiency as an officer, and as the office was created on a non-political basis, he would like to see it remain so. Is not prepared to say for whom he will vote.

Wm. T. Eberman says he has not made up his mind as to who he will vote for for chief of the fire department. He thinks Mr. Howell is an excellent officer, a born fireman, and that it would be a pity to remove him. He inclines to the opinion that enough Republicans will join the eight Democrats to secure Mr. Howell's re-election, and that all the old city officers will be re-elected; but he don't want it to be understood that he is committed to any one of them or to Mr. Howell either. He will make a list of all the applicants and consider their fitness when the time comes to vote for them.

Mr. John B. Long is not prepared to say at present what he will do in regard to the chief of the fire department. He is free to say, however, that the present chief is active and efficient, and he has heard of several Republican members of councils who favor his retention.

Wm. K. Beard good-humoredly smiles and says he don't know what will be done in regard to the election of a chief. The present incumbent is a good one, but there are other good men who want the place. Mr. Beard thinks it would be a good thing to have all our city officers elected biennially instead of annually.

SECOND WARD.

Common Councilman Hervey N. Hurst informed the reporter that he had not yet made up his mind on the question. He had been approached by one candidate for Howell's succession. He declared that no possible fault could be found with Howell's administration of the office, and the manner in which he made his reports and kept his records was all that could be desired. He thought that it was true that Howell took a more personal interest in the department than most men would. Still there might be a belief among the councilmen that a Republican could perform the duties as well. He said he did not as yet feel that he could define himself as to whether he was for Howell or against him.

Frank H. Bare said that he was opposed to the removal of a faithful officer who had given most scrupulous attention to the duties of his office. He believed that it was to the best interests of the city that officials who have been true to their duties should be retained. He thought Howell was the right man in the right place, and was opposed to his removal.

Adam J. Auxer was sorry that municipal affairs could not be divorced from partisan politics, for he believed that the time was not yet ripe for that ideal state. He had no particular fault to find with Howell's administration of the office of chief of the fire department, but he did not think his chances for re-election were as good as that of a Republican.

THIRD WARD.

Charles Buckius says he has not been giving the matter any thought and has not been consulted by any one in reference to filling the position of chief of the fire department or any other office. He understands there are several applicants for Mr. Howell's place, but none of them have asked him for his support, and he is not prepared to say for whom he will vote.

John W. Mentzer has not given the matter any consideration, but in his opinion a first-class intelligent man should be chosen for the office. Chief Engineer Howell, he thought, had made a good officer.

A. P. Shirk had not considered the matter at all. In his judgment, Mr. Howell has made an efficient and good chief engineer.

FOURTH WARD.

Dr. R. M. Bolenius will vote for a change in the fire department. He says that there is a disposition among other members to do so. When the Democrats secured a majority in councils they promptly turned Hallbach out of office, although he was a good officer, and put in Dave Kitch, who didn't know half as much about the duties of the office. There will be several candidates for chief—Johnny Breneman, H. B. Vondersmith, John M. Shaub and R. C. McDonnell, one of whom will probably be elected.

John E. Schum says Chief Howell is an excellent officer, and has done him some favors, and personally he has a high regard for the chief. But there is a very good candidate for the position in the Fourth ward, and Mr. Schum feels like voting for him, but has not promised to do so. If he were out of the way he might vote for Howell, but it is yet too early to say what he will do.

Mr. Cormeny is said to be very favorably disposed towards Mr. Howell and always speaks well of him, but this is no sign that he will vote for his reelection.

FIFTH WARD.

Reuben S. Hershey says he has been so busy since the election that he has really not given the matter any attention. He has not conferred with the people of his ward nor the other members. As far as Chief Howell's ability is concerned, no other man could be chosen to fill the position as well.

Lewis Noll, just elected to common council from the Fifth ward, thinks that Mr. Howell has made a fine record. He thoroughly understands the working of the department and is the best man named for that place. As it is early, Mr. Noll has made no promises to any candidate. He will also talk with his people and do what he considers to be in accordance with their wishes. He does not propose to be led by the nose by any political boss, and favors no candidate.

SIXTH WARD.

John H. Baumgardner is an old fireman himself. He has seen long service as a volunteer and when the alarm gong strikes he seldom reaches the place signalled far behind the chief himself. For many years a member of the Friendship company this city, for five years an active fireman in Philadelphia, and a frequent witness of great fires in the large cities and of their management, Mr. Baumgardner's views are probably as intelligent and noteworthy on this subject as those of any member of council. He said: "I was not particularly friendly to Mr. Howell's election, nor was I impressed with the wisdom of the selection. But after three years' close observation of his work, I must admit that in all my experience I have never seen anyone, except perhaps Thomas Thurlow, who was so cool, collected and clear-headed amid the exciting scenes of a fire. He is wonderful in his comprehension of the right thing to do and the right way to do it. I will vote for his reelection; and I am most earnestly in favor of keeping the fire department out of party politics."

Israel P. Mayer says he has given the matter no thought: he didn't know there were four or five candidates for the office; he had been spoken to on behalf of one appliant but had made no promise to vote for him; he endorsed Mr. Howell as a good fireman and good chief.

John McLaughlin declines to answer what he will do when the time comes to elect a chief. He has not promised anyone his support, and does not intend to do so for some time at least. He has been spoken to in behalf of only one of the applicants. He says Mr. Howell has made a very acceptable chief; but there were good men in the city offices when the Democrats came into power, and they were turned out to make room for Democrats. He supposes the Republicans will be disposed to do as the Democrats did and put their friends into place.

NINTH WARD.

Mr. Joseph R. Trissler says that he was a member of the old volunteer fire department and knows something about the business. He left the department several years before it was abandoned because of the demoralization which had come upon it. He knew Chief Howell as a volunteer fireman and he has closely watched his efforts to build up an efficient city department; no one could have done better and few so well. Mr. Trissler is emphatic in his opinion that Chief Howell is the right man in the right place, and that no change should be made.

John S. Kendig said he had not given the subject much attention as yet. What he had seen of the fire department had impressed him favorably and he thought Chief Howell was doing very well. But he was of the opinion that the office was a political one and would have to run the party gauntlet. He hoped the INTELLIGENCER would obtain and print the views of the people about it, as he desired to serve the public interest.

Joseph R. Goodell is non-committal as to whom he will vote for for chief. He has made no promises and will not make any to vote for any of the applicants. The fire department was organized on a non-partisan basis, and he hopes it will remain so. He thought that Mr. Howell had made a good chief and that the department had been efficiently conducted by him.

AN ORPHAN ASYLUM ON FIRE.

A Panic Among the Children Prevented by the Coolness and Courage of the Sisters.

Shortly after eleven o'clock Friday morning a fire broke out in the fourth story of the large brick building on Pius street, above Fifteenth street, Pittsburg, which is occupied by St Joseph's convent and orphan asylum. It originated from a defective heating apparatus and might have been readily extinguished had any water been obtainable. The severe weather of the past few days had frozen all the pipes around the building, and although an alarm was promptly sent in the scene of the fire is so difficult of access that the fire department was fully twenty minutes in reaching it. The fourth floor is occupied by children of the asylum as a sleeping apartment and the discovery of the flames created a temporary panic among them. The discipline of the institution is so admirable that the nuns in charge soon succeeded in restoring order and in conducting the terrified little ones in safety from the building. In course of half an hour the firemen began to get the fire under control. The whole upper part of the building was burned out and the roof destroyed.

In the first and second stories the damage was priciply from water. The building was worth about $30,000 and the loss will not be far from $15,000. The furniture was badly damaged by water, which deluged the lower part of the building. At one o'clock the fire had been completely extinguished. There were sixty persons, exclusive of servants, in the building when the fire broke out, thirty children and thirty nuns. St. Michael's Asylum is a German Catholic institution. It is run in connection with a school which occupies an adjoining building. It will probably be rebuilt at once.

MARIETTA KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS

Celebrate the Twenty-First Anniversary of Their Organization.

MARIETTA, Feb. 20th.—Last evening Lodge No. 120, Knights of Pythias, of Marietta, celebrated the twenty-first anniversary of the organization of the order by holding an open meeting in their lodge room.

About two hundred people were present to witness the exercises. The meeting was opened by prayer by the Rev. Mr. Schneader, of the Reformed church, after which the Lyceum Glee club furnished some excellent music. During the evening the audience were addressed by Captain George Ettla, Captain D. B. Case, and Rev. Mr. Hickman, pastor of the Presbyterian church.

The Knights in this place have been very prosperous, having about a year ago bought Temperance hall and enlarged and remodelled it, and now have one of the handsomest rooms in town, and a neat sum otherwise invested.

New Providence Items.

Tuesday Christiana Keely, better known as Steeny Eberly, one of the best known citizens of New Providence, was buried in the graveyard attached to the Mennonite church. For a long time she has had charge of the church in which she has lived, and until a few years ago her brother Abram Eberly lived with her; after his death she has lived alone. She was considerable over 80 years old, and her funeral was attended by an immense concourse of people.

The skating rink was started in Hildebrand's tobacco warehouse at this place last evening. A large crowd was in attendance. It is under the same management as the Quarryville rink. The building is large and the floor has been put in good condition.

Water Main Broken.

The 24-inch main which connects with the stand-pipe in the western reservoir has been broken, or a joint of it has been opened by the great pressure of water and ice upon it, and in consequence water can not be pumped to the top of the stand-pipe. Water renters residing in the higher portions of the city are thus deprived of the use of water in the second stories of their houses. The broken pipe cannot be repaired until the reservoir is emptied, and this cannot be done until there is a thaw, as the ice which is from nine inches to a foot in thickness would tear the brick lining of the reservoir walls to pieces if the water were now lowered.

Charged With Embezzlement.

This morning at 10 o'clock was the time appointed for the hearing of Levi S. Rhoads, of Eden township, on a charge of embezzlement, at the office of Alderman Ford. y. The complaint was made by George Lefevre, representing the Eden township school board, and the allegation is that Rhoads, as treasurer of the board, embezzled $250. The parties interested were not ready to go with a hearing this morning and by agreement an adjournment was had until next Wednesday.

Sleighing on East King Street.

The sleighing on East King street has been splendid for some days past, and large crowds have been present at the extreme end to witness the trotting. There are a number of handsome turnouts of both single and double teams; of course every fellow thinks he has a fast horse when he has bells on. Many are only fast to the sleighs and can pass teams that have stopped. There are quite a number of good trotters on hand every day and the races are interesting and exciting.

Attempts to Rob.

An attempt was made on Wednesday night to break into the hall of the Springs hotel, Ephrata, where the fair for the benefit of the fire company is being held, but the thieves were scared off by those on guard. A second attempt to rob the place was made last night, and the thieves were again scared away after Harry Strobel, one of the watchmen, shot at them. The would be thieves are believed to belong to the Ephrata mountain gang.

Church Dedication.

The new Bethel Church of God, at Steelton, will be dedicated on Sabbath, at 10:30 a. m. Rev. G. W. Seilhamer, of this city, will preach the dedication sermon.

The church in this city, of which Rev. Seilhamer is pastor, is enjoying a great revival of religion. Sixty-three have professed, the greater part of which have united with the church. And the work goes on with increasing interest.

Leg Broken While Playing Ten-Pins.

Charles Effinger, hotel keeper, residing at the corner of South Queen and Vine streets, met with a serious accident on Friday afternoon. He was at the ten-pin alley in the rear of the Leopard hotel, and while rolling a game of ten-pins slipped, fell and broke his right leg. He was taken to his residence where his injuries were attended by Dr. George A. King.

At the Station House.

One drunk and twenty-two vags were the occupants of the station house last night. The drunk was committed and the vags discharged.

A TERRIBLE CONFESSION.

THE TALE OF THE NEGRO BOY WHO FIRED THE BLOCKLEY ALMSHOUSE.

Instigated by Schroeder, One of the Attendants. Two Previous Attempts at Arson Made. The Chief Criminal Under Arrest and Held to Answer.

The deputy coroner's investigation into the cause of the Blockley almshouse fire in Philadelphia has brought out the startling confession by Joseph Nadine, the patient who gave the first alarm, that he had been instigated by Peter Joseph Schroeder, the chief attendant in ward K, to set the building on fire. Schroeder was one of the first witnesses examined and from his own testimony it appeared that he was called to the fire by Nodine, and when he reached it he could do nothing to check it and tried to save all the inmates; he had been under censure of the officials for maltreating a patient, and was to leave the institution in the spring; there had been three fires in the drying room during the past three weeks.

It was when Nadine was called that the guilt of the witness was disclosed, and after his testimony Schroeder was committed to jail.

THE ACCUSING WITNESS.

Considerable interest was created by the arrival of an under-sized, half-grown colored boy, with a frightened look on his face and an old straw hat of lofty dimensions on his head. It was Joe Nadine. He was placed in a chair near to Dr. Richardson and directly facing Deputy Coroner Ashbridge. His look of fear seemed to disappear when he saw these two gentlemen, as if he recognized in them two friends.

"Now, Joe," began Mr. Ashbridge," you have nothing to fear here. Do you know the nature of an oath? Do you know what will happen to you if you tell a lie?"

"De brack man'll get me."

"Very well. Now that you know where people go to if they swear to a lie, will you tell tell the truth to these gentlemen if you swear to do so? Here is Dr. Richardson, and I am here and all the kind guardians. Will you tell the truth?"

"Yes, sir."

"Then take this Bible in your right hand and listen to what I say.

The oath was administered to the boy, who kept looking nervously at the door, through which people were coming. At last the coroner ordered some one to stand outside and keep it shut and prevent any one coming in.

"Do you remember about the big fire?"

"Yes, sir."

Joe could not tell when it took place, as he was unable to tell the time. He didn't go to bed that night. He "hollered fire!" Joe (Schroeder) let him through the wicket gate in the evening and he went to the drying room and set fire to it.

"Set fire to what?"

"Dere was one bed dere and one bed on top."

He opened the slats, he said, where the rats had eaten them, struck a silent match, "one with a blue head," and set fire to the top bed. "Joe" gave him the matches. "Joe" said he was tired and sick of the place and asked him to set the room on fire. He didn't like to, but "Joe" gave him the matches and told him to. He gave him the matches before he went into his room and let him through the wicket gate. When he had set fire to the beds he stood and looked at the fire a little and then went back to the wicket and shouted: "Joe! Joe! Joe! Fire!" The room door was open a little way and he could see Schroeder, Dewees and Mullen talking. When he shouted "Joe" opened the door and asked where it was. Nadine told him it was in the drying room. Mullen opened the wicket door and went with Nadine to let the boys out of the day room. Then they carried water to the drying room and "Joe" threw it on the fire. Schroeder and Mullen opened the doors o the cells.

"Whom did Schroeder tell you he wanted to get even with, Joe?"

"He said he was down on de place, he was tired and sick of it, he was tired and sick of Dr. Richardson, he did't want to stay any more."

Nadine the said that he had heard Rusk say that Schroeder had hurt him, and that he (Nadine) told Schrader that he'd get into disgrace if he did it again. He had seen Schroeder kick and beat patients and say he'd do it again if they told him. He said that he set both the previous fires, because he knew no better. Schroeder knew he had done it and said if he told on him Dr. Richardson would hurt him.

Schroeder knew on each occasion who had caused the fire. Since the big fire on Thursday night Schroeder said: "It's done for now. I'm sorry for the people, but I tried my best to get them out of the road."

"Are you sure Schroeder told you to do this?"

"Yes. He said he didn't care what I did."

"Are you afraid of Schroeder?"

"No, he won't touch me now. He won't touch me now," looking at Dr. Richardson and Ashbridge as if assured he was safe in their presence. "He won't touch me at any time."

The deputy coroner then questioned the boy as to his practices with Schroeder. Having obtained a great deal of information from him that is unfit for publication he said he might go. As Nadine was going out he said: "I is sorry I done it now. I pray ebery night an' morning to be forgiven."

Among the other witnesses was James D. Mullen, assistant attendant in Ward H, who testified to having seen Joe Nadine on the inside of the picket gate separating the cell corridors from the day side, where the alarm of fire was given. He didn't know what business Nadine had inside the wicket gate. He did not report him, because Schroeder had charge of the ward. He had no suspicions of Nadine, because he had the run of the institution. Afterwards, on a caution from Deputy Coroner Ashbridge, Mullen said that he had often seen Nadine in Schroeder's room and that he had talked with every one he met about the fire.

"I asked Schroeder," said the witness, "if he locked Nadine inside the wicket gate. He said he did, but I don't remember that he told me why. I don't remember what he said when I asked him if Nadine had set fire to the drying room. He said Nadine might have done it, but didn't tell me the motive. Schroeder told me not to tell you or any one that he had locked Nadine inside the wicket. He didn't say I should be discharged. He said he would be responsible. He said I was not to tell anybody. He didn't ask it as a favor, but just told me to keep quiet. I had been here about a week when Schroeder told me he was down on Dr. Richardson because the doctor had had him censured. He said, 'I'll get square with the doctor.' He said this often, and that he was going to leave, but he'd get square first."

A CORPSE-LIKE DRIVER.

His Stiff, Unconscious Body Still Staring After His Horse.

Just before 12 o'clock last Monday night, when the mercury was away below zero, the conductor of a street car on the Larrabee street line, Chicago, wished to stop the moving refrigerator at North avenue and rang the bell, but without effect. He stepped to the front platform to ascertain, why the signal was not obeyed, and found the driver standing motionless, but holding on to the lines. He spoke to the driver but received no answer, and then attempted to shake him but found that he was as stiff as a statue.

The man, who is known to his fellow drivers as "John, from Kansas City," was unconscious, being in the heavy stupor which overcomes people who are freezing to death. He was taken into a store, thawed out, and after an hour or so revived. Had he been exposed fifteen or twenty minutes longer he would doubtless have perished.

An Old Piece by a Good Actor.

Last evening Robert McWade, who has always been popular here, appeared in the opera house in the good old play of "Rip Van Winkle." The audience was not large, but of fair size. Mr. McWade impersonated the Catskill vagabond in his usual capital style, and the support with him was up to the standard.

THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT.

Its Dedication To-Day—Address by the President and by Robt. C. Winthrop.

Special to the INTELLIGENCER.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—The weather was intensely cold here to-day; but the streets were thronged in anticipation of the dedicatory exercises of the Washington monument and great animation was created by the numerous military and civic organizations and the crowds of spectators, marching toward and converging nearer the base of the grand shaft, 555 feet high, which looks down upon all other constructions upreared by the hands of man.

The out door ceremonies began at the foot of the monument at the hour appointed, 11 o'clock. The grand stand was filled with distinguished invited guests, President Arthur and his cabinet, visiting governors of states, senators and representatives, the diplomatic corps and members of the monument commission all participating in the presentation, the dedicatory, religious or Masonic exercises.

Senator Sherman presided and opened the exercises with a brief address, reviewing the history of the monument and paying an eloquent tribute to Washington.

An address by Gen. W. W. Corcoran, president of the Washington monument association, who was present, but unequal to the task of speaking, was read.

Col. Casey, as engineer in charge of the construction of the monument, reviewed the work done under his superintendence, and then President Arthur delivered the dedicatory address.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

He referred to the original conception of the work, and the fulfillment by the present generation of the pledge made by its grandfathers. Its dedication was a matter for national rejoicing and while the structure shall endure, "it shall be to all mankind a steadfast token of the affectionate and reverent regard in which this people continue to hold the memory of Washington. Well may he ever keep the foremost place in the hearts of his countrymen. The faith that never faltered, the wisdom that was broader and deeper than any learning in the schools; the courage that shrank from no peril and was dismayed by no defeat; the loyalty that kept all selfish purpose subordinate to the demand of patriotism and honor, the sagacity that displayed itself in camp and cabinet alike, and, above all, that harmonious union of moral and intellectual qualities which never found its parallel among men, are the attributes of character which the intelligent thought of this century ascribes to the grandest figure of the last."

The president then referred to the oration of Mr. Winthrop, which was to be delivered at the capitol; and, after he had formally accepted the monument for the people, the procession, a grand display of military pomp and civic power, moved from the monument grounds to the capitol.

The sidewalks and the streets on the way were crowded; and a throng of people around the entrance of the capitol, who had been kept shivering outside in the severe atmosphere for five hours poured through the opened doors and filled the House, where Representative Long read

MR. WINTHROP'S ORATION.

The orator opened with a regret that his ill-health prevented him from speaking outside as he had done thirty-seven years before. He referred touchingly to the death of John Quincy Adams, in the capitol about that time—a link between Washington and that day. He traced the history of the monument association, and the progress and interruption of its work, though he would not venture upon details of the prolonged intervening agony between the lifting of the first stone and the last. Its unfinished 174 feet of height had long been an abomination of desolation to every visitor to Washington.

With the restoration of the Union—the best monument to Washington—came the movement for the completion of the structure. Federal aid accomplished it, but the chief credit of final success belongs to the accomplished engineers who practically directed it, especially Col. Theo. Lincoln Casey, and Capt. George W. Davis, Supt. McGlaughlin and the hard-handed and honest hearted mechanics who wrought out their plans. The orator entered upon a lengthy description of the monument and its building. Its very plainness of design and towering height were pronounced most typical of Washington's preeminence, above the smoke and stir of earth.

He then passed into a review of Washington's life and character; his Revolutionary services, his labors and influence in the constitutional convention, the dignity and wisdom of his executive career and his peaceful and fearless death. John Adams' and Richard Henry Lee's matchless eulogies were quoted; and copious extracts from Washington's own messages, speeches and writings to show his large intelligence, patriotism, courage, benevolence and dignity. "Modest, disinterested, generous, just—of clean hands and a pure heart—self-denying and self-sacrificing, seeking nothing for himself, declining all remuneration beyond the reimbursement of his outlays, scrupulous to a farthing in keeping his accounts, of spotless integrity, scorning gifts, charitable to the needing, forgiving injuries and injustices, brave, fearless, heroic, with a prudence ever governing his impulses and a wisdom ever guiding his valor—true to his friends, true to his whole country, true to himself—fearing God, believing in Christ, no stranger to private devotion or public worship as to the holiest offices of the church to which he belonged, but ever gratefully recognizing a divine aid and direction in all that he attempted and in all that he accomplished. What epithet, what attribute could be added to that consummate character to commend it as an example above all other characters in merely human history?"

"And yet," the orator said, "he would not boast of virtue, or of valor, and no amount of flattery ever led him to be otherwise than distrustful of his own ability and merits."

The orator suggested that the constitution be so amended that all future inaugurations be held on April 30, the anniversary of Washington's; and he concluded his address with an eloquent panegyric to Washington's character, and "God be praised, that character is ours forever."

PERSONAL POINTS BY TELEGRAPH.

The Lotos club, of New York, will entertain Mr. Evarts this evening.

Mr. F. L. Stetson, of New York, denies that he was requested by Cleveland to bear a message to Thurman.

Congressman Throckmorton, of Texas, is ill with inflammation of the bowels and kidneys. His condition is considered critical.

Wm. B. Dean, a well-known dealer in hotel glassware and a variety of special articles in glass of which he was the patentee, died Thursday night in New York.

Governor Glick, of Kansas, has been summoned by a telegram, from Albany, from President-elect Cleveland to meet him immediately at Albany, and Mr. Glick is now en route.

Senator Cameron's health is said not to have improved since he left Washington. He has had two hemorrhages while in Florida.

Wm. C. Kingsley, president of the Brooklyn bridge trustees, died at 1:15 this morning of inflammation of the bowels and pneumonia. He had been for many years one of the leading public men of Brooklyn.

James Stephens, ex-head centre of the Fenian Brotherhood, denies as a fabrication the charge that he attended a recent meeting of Irishmen in a cellar on an island in the Seine, at which Stephens with twelve conspirators drew up plans for the destruction of the principal buildings of London. He is opposed to enfranchising Ireland by dynamite, and advocates the formation of a federal republic in that country.

A WEST VIRGINIA HORROR.

Three Houses Wrecked and an Entire Family Killed in the Dead of Night.

WELLSBURG, W. Va., Feb. 21.—The most terrible affair in the history of this state occurred in this city early this morning. At two o'clock a. m. a sharp and terrible explosion was heard, followed by two others. The shock was severe. Windows were broken and doors rattled a mile from the scene of the explosion. Near the explosion people were thrown from bed, furniture knocked down and crockery destroyed.

The explosion was immediately followed by flames in the wreck of the house of Jno. Helsley, on Charles street. The crowd rushed there and found the building, a large brick house, completely demolished and burning fiercely. The dwellings of John Walters and Wm. Mooney, adjoining, were also wrecked. A shoe shop belonging to a man named Esterly was also badly shattered.

A hasty search was made of the ruins of the Helsley house, and the dead bodies of Jno. Helsley, aged 35; Ellen Helsley, his wife, aged 33; Jane Helsley, mother, aged 60; Pearl Helsley, aged 6; Maud, aged 18 months, were found.

In Walter's house, Jno. Walters, jr., aged 17, was killed.

Esterly, owner of the shoe shop, was badly hurt. Six or eight others were more or less severely injured.

A BATTLE WITH THE FIRE.

The greatest excitement ensued, and all the population turned out. The water plugs were frozen up and the only engine in town is useless. A bucket brigade was formed to the Ohio river, some distance away, and freezing cold water was passed along the line to fight the flames. Many women fainted and it seemed as if the whole town would go. No aid could be obtained from outside the town, the telegraph office being closed and the operator could not be found in the excitement. The houses of Walter and Mooney burned rapidly.

LATER PARTICULARS.

Another dead body, that of a town character, named "Dutch John" has been found. The people fighting the fire were nearly exhausted, when a fall of rain stopped further progress of the flames and the excitement was somewhat allayed.

It is found that nearly a score of houses are badly injured by the shock. The Hudson hotel suffered much; the plastering was knocked down, plate glass windows in the office shattered. The total loss will approximate $50,000.

CAUSE OF THE DISASTER.

The accident was caused by the explosion of natural gas in the house of Jno. Helsley's, but it will never be known just how. The gas had been used here two years in every house in town for fuel and and lighting, used in all the factories, churches and public buildings and this is the first accident ever known here.

THE NEWS IN BRIEF.

Special Dispatches to the "Intelligencer" by the United Press Association.

The clubs of the League have all voted to play no Sunday games.

The banking firm of Fisk & Hatch, of New York, will soon dissolve, probably on March 1.

The New York supreme court decides that a railroad company there can hold shares in a Pennsylvania mining company.

Anarchists Gorsuch and Samuel Filden, of Pittsburg, are reported to be trying to bring about a labor demonstration, and their violent harangues seem to have increasing influence.

The Oregon legislature adjourned last night without electing a senator. Hirsch received 37 votes; 45 were necessary to a choice.

The Oklahama boomers have scattered to their homes. A general compromise was agreed upon and past difficulties are to remain as they are, awaiting news from Washington.

Thursday night in a quarrel at Vernon, Texas, Heck Garrison was shot and killed by John Davidson. Both were stockmen. Davidson was shot in self-defense.

In Eufaula, Alabama, a primary election is being held to-day to decide upon a candidate for postmaster.

Lack of emigrant business has caused the Erie railroad to discharge their employes at Castle Garden, New York; the New York Central will follow suit.

John Manning, a ranchman, shot and killed Tom Green, yesterday, near Manheim station, ten miles west of Big Spring, Texas, for stealing a team.

Two shocks of earthquake were felt at Malaga to-day, creating consternation among the inhabitants. Many of those who have returned to the city are preparing to go away again, fearing a recurrence of the scenes witnessed a few weeks ago.

The Swiss government is discussing the question of expelling all Anarchists who have taken refuge within the borders of Switzerland. It is believed a decree of expulsion would affect more than a thousand persons.

The 2,000 street car drivers in New York city have notified their employers that they will strike on April 1st for $2.50 per day of twelve hours, unless granted the same before that day. The average pay now is about $1.75 per day of 16 hours.

A two weeks' billiard tournament will begin at Irving hall, N. Y., April 20. The new 14-inch balk line game, in which rail-nursing was done away with, will be introduced. Shaeffer, Slosson, Sexton, Daly, Dion and young Wallace, have entered. The Brunswick's Balk and Collender companies offered $1,000 in prices and each player puts up $250 for extra prizes.

The joint session of the Illinois legislature convened at noon to-day, for the election of a United States Senator. Logan received one hundred votes and Washburne 1. The Democrats withdrew and Haines declined to vote.

The West bound passenger train on the West Shore railroad drawn by two engines collided with the engine of a freight train coming east at 3 o'clock this a. m., at Canojaharie, N. Y., demolishing the engines, killing the engineer and fireman on the first passenger engine, and injuring a number of passengers.

The St. Louis express train, due at Cincinnati this morning, ran into the rear car of the accommodation train at Delhi, injuring a number of passengers. About the same time another accident occurred on the Bee Line road at Lockland, in which two persons were badly hurt.

A WRONGED MAN'S FATE.

He Makes a Mad Assault and is Shot Down by His Intended Victim.

ROMEO, Mich., Feb., 21.—Robt. Cairns was awakened early yesterday morning by some one trying to batter down his door. He fired but without effect. The door was finally battered down and the two men grappled in the dark. The unknown shot three times at Cairns, and was himself shot by Cairns' son, the ball penetrating his brain. The wound was not immediately fatal, and the man was brought to town and charged with attempted murder. He proved to be Brooks Stoddart, who recently began a criminal suit against Cairns and Mrs. Stoddart for adultery but lost the case. On account of his domestic troubles his mind had become unbalanced. The ball is lodged in his brain matter and the man cannot live.

THREE TERRIBLE FIRES.

FIVE LIVES LOST IN PHILADELPHIA AND ONE IN CONNECTICUT.

Harrowing Scenes at a Morning Blaze in Philadelphia—A Blaze on Market Street. New Britain, in Connecticut, Has a $200,000 Fiery Visitation.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Feb. 21.—Fire broke out this morning at 4:15 o'clock in the cellar of the residence of Jno. King of the firm of Lloyd & King, at 1,539 Pine street. The flames soon spread to two adjoining dwelling, which were also destroyed. Four people are known to have died either from burning or from injuries received by jumping from the burning building. Mrs. King and her two children were saved, but injured by jumping from the third-story window upon mattresses held by spectators. Miss Hamilton, a sister of Mrs. King, climbed out of the fourth-story window in the rear of the building, and fearing to jump, held on to the window-sill until suffocated by the smoke.

Her body was burned to an unrecognizable crisp. Two servants, white women, died from injuries received in jumping from the blazing building. Mr. King appeared at the fourth-story window standing on the sill from which his wife had leaped. Calls were made to him to follow her, but he fell back in the sea of flames. The body of Mr. King has not been found yet. The loss is estimated at about $30,000.

In addition to Mr. King, his five-year-old son, and Miss Jennie Hamilton, Mary Burns aged 18, a servant girl, and a colored servant were victims. The following were injured besides Mrs. King: Lillian King, aged 3 years and a servant girl.

MR. KING'S TERRIBLE NEGLIGENCE.

It appears that the King residence was on fire twice during the night and early morning. Fire was discovered in the basement about four o'clock, but the police were denied admission, Mr. King reporting that the danger was over. The inmates who had dressed themselves preparatory to a speedy flight again retired. About six o'clock, the neighbors were again alarmed by smoke issuing from the basement, and they rung the door-bell. Mr. King appeared and assured them it was the result of a defective flue and that there was no danger. Soon afterwards the flames burst forth from the lower floor. The neighbors raised an alarm, but as two other fires were in progress in different parts of the city at the same time it was three-quarters of an hour before the fire engines came. Meanwhile Mr. and Mrs. King and others of the family could be seen in the fourth-story with all means of escape cut off. Mrs. King was in her night clothes, but was remarkably calm and bade her children be good and brave. She then told the neighbors assembled below to get a mattress, and they were not long in spreading the pavement with blankets and mattresses. Then lifting her boy to the window sill she told him to be brave and jump. He seemed a plucky little fellow, five years old. He jumped and struck the mattress fairly, and it seemed that he was safe. But the poor little fellow was so badly shaken that he died in about two minutes. Then Mrs. King poised her daughter Lillian, 3 yrs. old, on the window sill, and dropped her fairly on the mattress. The child was hurt but not killed. Turning for a moment then to address a word to her husband, Mrs. King mounted the window-sill and deliberately jumped off with as much calmness as one might jump in a bath. Her flight through the great distance from the fourth story seemed to end in safety, but she was found to be unconscious, and badly hurt. The husband was about to follow her but seemed to be calling on some one behind him (probably Miss Hamilton) when the spectators were horrified by the sudden belching forth of a broad sheet of flame, by the light of which Mr. King was seen to throw up his hands as if in despair, and to fall back out of sight.

ANOTHER TERRIBLE SIGHT.

At the same time another crowd at the back of the house were horrified witnesses of similar shocking sights. Miss Hamilton had been driven by the flames to the fourth story back window and being unable to stay in the room and afraid to jump she hung by the hands outside the window-sill until, utterly exhausted, she let go and dropped to the paved area below. When picked up, one side of her body was badly burned, showing that she had been literally burned off the window-sill.

Another Disastrous Blaze.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 21.—Fire was discovered at 3:15 this morning in the four-story brick building of No. 504 Market street. The first floor is occupied by Ruth, Bennet & Co., china and glass ware. The two upper floors were occupied by Jos. I. Meany & Co., boot and shoe commission merchants. The stock of both firms was entirely destroyed. That of Ruth, Bennett & Co. was valued at $35,000. The flames spread to the paper warehouse of S. Rudolph & Co., 506 Market street, the contents of which were destroyed, as was also No. 508 Market street. The upper floors were badly damaged. The first floor and basement are occupied by Lippincott, Son & Co., carpe[t] auctioneers. The total loss is estimated at $125,000.

When Mrs. King jumped from the window she had a baby in her arms. She received severe but it is stated not dangerous injuries. The baby was so badly injured that it has since expired. Mr. King's charred body was found in the ruins after the fire had been extinguished.

Burned In a Big Connecticut Fire.

NEW BRITAIN, Conn., Feb. 21.—A 3 o'clock this morning a fire was discovered in a livery stable belonging to Bayley & Bunting, and situated in the rear of Main street. It gained such headway that the three occupants in the office barely escaped, and a fourth, Edward Rowley, was burned to death. The fire spread to a wooden block on Church street, occupied by W. H. Giddon's furniture; W. H. Allen, Backer & Roberts, harness; Lee's laundry and several tenements. This block was in flames and the fire got beyond control. The fire engines were unable to cope with the fire and Hartford was telegraphed to for aid, and they sent one engine. The fire from the point on Church street, spread north to Main street. Some merchants removed their goods, but most of them lost everything as did those in the Wood block.

The loss was at least $200,000, insured in various companies for $125,000. The owners of the livery stables had no insurance. Ten horses were burned with many sets of harness and carriages.

Narrow Escape from the Flames.

CHAPPAQUA, N. Y., Feb. 21.—The Chappaqua mountain institute here was entirely destroyed by fire early this morning. The 75 scholaes were rescued with many narrow escapes, some of the children being carried out insensible. The children were left barefooted and partly naked on the frozen ground. Loss, $50,000.

WEATHER INDICATIONS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—For the Middle Atlantic states, fair weather, northwesterly winds shifting to northeasterly in southern portion, light rise in temperature.

Ears and Nose Frozen.

This morning a man, whose name was not learned, who came to town from the country to attend market, was badly frozen. An icicle formed on his nose, and when he broke it off considerable skin came with it. His ears were also badly frozen. Dr. Compton attended him.