

BUSINESS NOTICES.

EXTRA VESTERS TO A POPULAR AID. Another row is on the shore. Maryland, my Maryland. It has been often said before: But don't this thing seem quite a bore, Maryland, my Maryland? Now, here's a State, placed just next door to Maryland, my Maryland, with cheerful souls, our Tower explore, And those hills they never wore, Maryland, my Maryland.

to which the matter has been referred. The firemen will, of course, oppose any movement of their kind towards an abridgement of their at present unbounded prerogatives, and a convention of the various companies has already been called "to counteract the late proceedings in Councils." But this entire matter of the present fire system of Philadelphia is too great in its bearings upon the whole community, and the abuses which have proved unable to control or correct are too great to permit the city government to be unduly influenced by any pressure from this direction. The self-sacrificing services of the firemen of Philadelphia can scarcely be over-estimated. Their energy and enterprise have rendered them famous throughout the land, and have made the Department the pride of the whole community. But it has grown into a most costly luxury, and with its growth has developed abuses which absolutely demand a reform which it is hopeless to look for at the hands of the firemen. The bill now before Councils should be carefully examined and digested. Some of its details are undoubtedly crude and susceptible of improvement; but any errors in the details of the plan can easily be amended, and, with the bill put into a good, practical, working shape, we trust that there will be no shrinking on the part of Councils from such action as will best subservise the "greatest good of the greatest number," without reference to outside influence or pressure. If such influence should prove to be too strong for our municipal authorities, it will be the strongest argument yet advanced in favor of some such legislation as that now proposed, and in favor, too, of an early reduction of the whole Fire Department to a more manageable and responsible shape.

ington at this time to effect such an arrangement as this? Or has he simply gone on professional business? Perhaps he has some obscure recollection of a Pharaoh and a Moses, and the Banks of the Nile, and simply intends to establish another Pharaoh and see about another Moses reported somewhere about the Banks of the Potomac. Whatever he may design, the eyes of the world are upon Morrissey and Johnson, and their meeting at Washington must be productive of momentous consequences.

WOMAN'S RIGHTS IN ITALY. The vote in Venetia, on the question of annexation to the Kingdom of Italy, was almost unanimously in favor of it. But only the men voted, and it is a sign of extraordinary "progress," that the Venetian ladies protest earnestly against their exclusion from the polls. They have drawn up and signed an address to Victor Emmanuel on the subject. They say: "Men have been thought wise and just when they decreed that that portion of the human race called by them the fairest, should be excluded from an active part in the government of public affairs. The women of Venice do not arrogate the right of understanding such a law. But they proclaim, in the face of the world, that never have their sex felt bitterness and humiliation more profoundly than on this occasion, when the population were asked to declare if they wished to be united to the common country, under the glorious sceptre of your Majesty and your august successors." They go on to say that, though forbidden to vote, they declare to him an unanimous "yes" on the question of annexation. Mrs. Stanton, the defeated candidate for Congress in New York, ought to go to Venice. The women there are evidently ripe for a revolution which shall give them the right of suffrage.

VINELAND. A morning contemporary, referring to the extraordinary growth and prosperity of the town of Vineland, N. J., says that "it is an evidence of what the energy and enterprise of our thrifty New Jersey neighbors can do." This is an entire mistake. "Our thrifty New Jersey neighbors" had nothing whatever to do with the remarkable success which has turned a pine barren into a flourishing settlement of 9,000 inhabitants. Vineland was founded by a Philadelphian, Mr. Charles K. Landis, and is settled almost exclusively by a population from New England, the interior of New York and Canada. There is scarcely a Jerseyman on the whole Vineland tract, and while its success is likely to have an excellent influence in stimulating the thrift and enterprise of our New Jersey neighbors, they will not claim a credit for a result which is exclusively due to the foresight, energy and ability of one of our own citizens.

THE HONORABLE JOHN MORRISSEY, member-elect of the Fortieth Congress, from the city of New York, has gone to Washington City. Doubtless the near approach of the second session of the Thirty-ninth Congress has induced this distinguished gentleman to favor the political metropolis with his august presence. Of course he wishes to aid President Johnson with his wise counsel on the subject of reconstruction, and to make some suggestions in regard to the next message. He may wish to recommend a new code of court etiquette for the honorable gentleman who has great experience in courts, having been nine times indicted and five times convicted, in New York State courts, of such mild and gentle crimes as assault and battery, and burglary.

EVENING BULLETIN.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1886.

THE PROPOSED FIRE COMMISSIONERS. The bill introduced into Common Council last week, by Mr. Evans, providing for the appointment of a Board of Fire Commissioners, is a wise step in the right direction. It is proposed to constitute a Board having general supervisory powers over the Fire Department, to consist of the Mayor, Fire Marshal, Chief of Police and Presidents of Select and Common Councils. This Board of Fire Commissioners is to make such rules and regulations for the Fire Department as it may deem necessary and is clothed with power to suspend or disband riotous or disorderly companies, and also to hear and decide questions of complaint against the Chief Engineer or his assistants, and to dismiss them from office, if the charges or complaints against them warrant it. The bill also provides that the election of the Chief Engineer shall be vested in Councils, leaving the choice of the Assistant Engineers to the Fire Department.

This legislation is in the right direction, and will not only commend itself to our citizens at large, but will meet the views of the best class of the firemen themselves. As at present constituted, the Department is a very irresponsible one, and the evils of a great volunteer organization like this, in a large city are too well understood to need elucidation here. The extinguishment of fires, upon the present system, is a heavy burden upon the tax-payers of Philadelphia, and yet the amount of control really exercised over the Fire Department is so slight and so vague, that the citizens who pay hundreds of thousands of dollars annually for its support have no voice whatever in its direction or government. One of the best features in the proposed bill is the election of the Chief Engineer by Councils. This officer should be entirely independent in the discharge of his duties, which he never will be while his office is held at the will of the fire companies, ever ready to visit their displeasure upon him, at the triennial election, for any penalty he may inflict for misconduct or disorder. He should be selected by Councils for those qualities which are requisite for such an important position, and he should be held responsible to them or to such tribunal as they may appoint. It may be a question for Councils to consider whether the Chief Engineer ought not to be a member of the Board of Fire Commissioners, instead of being amenable to them. The Chief of Police and the Fire Marshal really occupy about the same relation to the business of extinguishing fires that the Chief Engineer does, and it would seem that he, as a municipal officer, might very properly have a voice in legislating for the Fire Department. We throw out this suggestion for the consideration of the Special Committee.

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