CITY BULLETIN.

THE NEW LEDGER BUILDING.

The Opening Ceremonies—Grand Banquet at the Continental—Speeches, Songs, &c.

The ceremonies attending the opening of the "New Public Ledger Building," at the southwest corner of Sixth and Chestnut streets, came off yesterday afternoon. At three o'clock the guests began to arrive at the building, and at the time there was a brilliant gathering of representative men, not only of the newspaper profession, but also of the artistical, mechanical and mercantile together with citizens of the different denominations, poets and authors, architects, artists, military men, writers and publishers were in attendance. Among those present were noticed Hon. J. T. Heisly, Major-General Meade, Major-General Patterson, Major-General Cadwalader, Major-General Crossman, Major-General Phelps, Commodore Turner, Hon. A. G. Cattell, Judge Cadwalader, Judge Hare, Judge Strong, Judge Peirce, Judge Brewster, Judge Thompson, Judge Ludlow, Hon. R. H. Brewster, Hon. William D. Kelley, Hon. Leonard Myers, Hon. Charles O'Neill, Hon. Charles Gibbons, Henry C. Howell, Hon. Joseph R. Chandler, C. Carey, LL. D., J. G. Fell, Wm. S. Stokes, Dr. S. S. Gross, Dr. Jos. Pancoast, P. B. Du Chaillu, Geo. W. Childs, A. J. Drexel, William H. Phipps, Hon. J. T. Hoffman, Governor Ward, General Robeson, Hon. Joseph Casey, Hon. W. D. Wallach, Colonel R. M. Hon. Hon. Jas. Brooks, Hon. H. N. Conger, Hon. Richard Schell, H. A. Oram, Judge Maynard, Judge Packard, H. M. Phillips, Colonel Forney, W. Cake, General E. S. Sanford, John Hoey, Major Chas. D. Rogers, Thomas T. Kinsey, General Wadsworth, Isaac Hall, D. Cooper, George H. Stuart, Hon W. A. Porter, L. A. Godey, Joseph Patterson, General Schenck, Hon. Wm. D. Kelley, Theo. Cuyler, Geo. W. Cambles, Clarence H. Clark, Amos Briggs, Dr. Bell, George H. Boker, Colonel R. M. McKean, Mr. Burke, Va.; S. M. Felton, Dr. S. Austin Allibone, Henry Bumm, Esq., Zenas Crocker, Hon. John Sherman, President Select Council: James Long, City Solicitor; J. B. Lippincott, Mr. Richardson, and Mr. Conclair, New York *Tribune*; George Jones and C. C. Norval, New York *Times*; J. J. Ryan, New York *Herald*; Mr. Israel, New York *World*; Charles Boyer, Baltimore *Sun*; Mr. Richardson, New York; John Welsh, Charles E. Lex, Hon. N. P. Browne.

After the examination of the building an invitation was then organized to the large composing room in the fifth story. Hon. Charles Gibbons presided.

Mr. John McArthur, Jr., the architect, was called for, and responded and excused himself from making a speech, as he claimed to be an architect and not an orator. He could not forbear saying however, that whatever of praise was due for the successful completion of the Continental Hotel belongs to the gentlemen liberality of Mr. Childs. The speaker had been the man, not Mr. Childs, who furnished the money. In his orders Mr. Childs had never stinted the architect, but had given him carte blanche, everything to be done without reference to cost, and up to this day no question had yet been made of the expense.

Mr. I. J. Dobbins, the builder of the edifice, was then called upon. Mr. Dobbins, for Fox, Esq., on behalf of Mr. Dobbins, said that gentleman's part in the erection, of the magnificent structure had been to him exceedingly anxious and protracted, that he had dreamed many days, and even nights, to thought and labor in his anxiety and desire to complete the building not only a credit to himself, but a complete realization of the idea of public convenience, and—in a word, to make it an important addition to the common wealth of Philadelphia. Having been assured by Mr. Childs that he had given full satisfaction, Mr. Dobbins wished to make it known that in a very material degree his success was due to the kind, generous and liberal spirit which had ever distinguished that gentleman in their intercourse from the beginning to the end of the great work and he desired to express his thanks to Mr. Childs for it.

William V. McKean, Esq., of the *Ledger*, being called upon, said he was happy to see the representative of Mr. Childs, and while in a position to know that about which he spoke, he was still sufficiently disconnected from Mr. Childs to be able to speak in relation to the character of his of personal solicitude; therefore, if in his remarks he should say anything in praise of that gentleman, the speaker desired that the explanation should be borne in mind. He then stated that the aim in erecting the New Ledger Building was—first, to build a printing office as good as a printing office could be made; and to do so it was to render that printing office a wholesome place for workers—yes for the poorest, the most indigent. The third object was to make the wholesome and comfortable place as ornament to the city of Philadelphia.

The speaker then referred to the arrangement of the building; the light and airy press-room, four feet higher than the earth, unlike the dark, damp, unwholesome wells generally found in printing establishments, and the room in which the company were assembled, in which two hundred gas lights would be burning every night, as well as the machine-room, which is conducive to the sanitary condition of the workmen who would inhabit it. Going on indicating the aggregate cost of the building and apparatus, he said that it is one structure somewhere about $300,000 had gone out into circulation among the laborers, the carpenters, the locksmiths, the blacksmiths, the gas-fitters, the steam-fitters and the mechanists and other workmen of this community, in furnishing the building for the company to do its work, somewhere in the neighborhood of $100,000 more had gone to the mechanics shops of this city. Thus, instead of being buried in agrand investment of an immense fortune these amounts had been spent in such a way as to put all those engaged in the various branches of industry, in vigorous action. The five or six hundred thousand dollars invested in the new and erected building had not been the profits of the *Ledger* for one year for the money, as some might innocently suppose [laughter], and the speaker wished his hearers not to go abroad and newspapers with any idea of suddenly acquiring such wealth. [Laughter.] In behalf of the owner of the structure, he said that the building was accepted from Mr. McArthur, Messrs. Dobbins and the sub-contractors and workmen with feelings of satisfaction.

THE BANQUET AT THE CONTINENTAL.

At the close of the ceremonies at the building, the company adjourned to the Continental Hotel, where a magnificent banquet had been prepared for the entertainment of the distinguished guests. In preparing for this banquet, the proprietors of the Continental had a better idea than in anticipation of the order intrusted to them they succeeded in preparing an entertainment the like of which has never been seen in Philadelphia. The splendid dining-room of the Continental was filled with the tables spread for the guests. Over the tables, with ten others at right angles with it, was the formation of the tables, and these were magnificently decorated with all that confectionery, art and artistic taste could furnish, while all the table furniture, of silver, was of the brightest and newest pattern, and the tables themselves incumbered the elaborate constructions of confectionery. On the main table a representation of the old hand-press contrasted with Hoe's last-but-one improved machine, and there was a representation of the New Ledger Building, constructed of material known only to the chief cook; and it was a capital representation of the reality.

The decorations of the room were of a character to correspond with the tables and their contents. The American flag was draped around the pedals, with a centrepiece over the presiding officer's chair. The centrepiece was the representation of the national colors around the cost-of-arms of the United States, surmounted by a great eagle.

The Germania Orchestra was in attendance, and throughout the evening discoursed most expressive and appropriate music, which was appreciated and during the pauses in the speeches, gave some of its best choice pieces. A German Sociale.

The Star Spangled Banner was especially noticed.

About five hundred guests were seated at the table, representatives of the press of the whole country, forming one grand family, in which all questions of politics were sunk in the universal recognition of the dignity of the profession to which they belonged. Mayor McMichael presided, and after the disposition of the feast, the ceremonies of the evening were opened by a prayer by Bishop Simpson, after which the proceedings were inaugurated.

Mr. McMichael said:

Gentlemen—Mr. Childs has asked me to occupy this evening the place which, as our host, under ordinary circumstances, he would be expected to fill. I have acceded to this request with reluctance, but only because it always gives me pleasure to oblige Mr. Childs, but, also, because it seems to me proper that somebody other than himself should preside, the modesty which he has brought to together are peculiar. We are the guests of Mr. Childs—hidden by him to this most generous and sumptuous feast; but at the same time we have assembled not merely, nor even so much, that he may do honor to us, as that we may do honor to him, or rather to the work in which he is not to commemorate. It is well, therefore, that he should be relieved from the responsibilities which this duel, and in some respects incongruous, position might involve, and from the necessity, on occasions, both official and professional, why I should take his place, and, in his stead, I shall commit myself to the double duty of speaking for him and for you.

First, then, gentlemen, in behalf of Mr. Childs, let me say that he rejoices at your presence. Six months past he has looked to the completion of the new Ledger building as a crowning act in his career. No wonder, therefore, that he desired to commemorate its dedication to his fellow men by suitable ceremonies. And still less wonder that among the most official methods of making the occasion imposing and memorable he invited you—you and your representatives of the great industries and instrumentalities and activities of our country—you who typify the social, political, civil and military power—to join with him, and to all of you he returns his thanks for the honor with which you have accepted his invitation. He is grateful—and he has cause to be grateful—that so many gentlemen, some of whom have come from a long distance, with no little inconvenience to himself, should be so kindly responded to his call. He is proud—and he has cause to be proud—that so many now sit at these tables include so many foremost men of the land—foremost in arts and letters, foremost in the pursuits that illustrate and adorn and ennoble humanity, men whose pen and deeds that intensify and symbolize the furious energy of our age. Lastly, he is grateful—and that such a convocation, comprising so much worth and so much genius, has come to enjoy and never to be forgotten, and through the spirit and spirit and spirit, he thanks you, thanks and welcome.

And now, gentlemen, having said this for Mr. Childs, I am sure I speak your sentiments as well as my own when I say that he is by no means for us to be here. If Mr. Childs, as none of us doubt, he would be the first to take the opportunity he has given us to meet him. We are glad to see him eye to eye; glad to grasp him, face to face, the good will we entertain for him, and the good will he has shown to us in his liberality, and the admiration we have for the rare combination of energy and genius which has so often insured him success. For he has not remarkable success. Not to refer to the success of the great work of which we have to be achieved results that few bodies himself have obtained; as a newspaper proprietor, he has this afternoon had proof that he has not ventured to attempt. I have seen it stated that the success of Mr. Childs in the last years his most cherished wish was to obtain the control of the *Public Ledger*, and it is not unworthy of an honorable ambition, and he has realized the hope, for the *Public Ledger* is a Philadelphia institution. Its commencement marked an epoch in our journalism. Its progress it has been identified with all our local movements. At the outset it was a mere chronicle; now it is a recognized necessity. How well I remember the dirty sheet that was at least much its appearance. Though diminutive in size, it was, so like the sheet, a faithful journal from the beginning, alike in its mechanical execution and its literary merit, and so it might be. Its publishers were three printers unknown to fame, but distinguished for intelligence; its editor was a scholar of wide culture, a keen and bright observer, and a writer of exceeding fluency and force. Until Mr. Childs became its purchaser, he had not the means to make it widely known to its owners; until the death of its original editor, he continued to contribute to its columns. This paper was what it was and is characteristic of the *Ledger*. The men who devised it, and who took no concern in its success, were unforlighted, and they laid its foundations on an enduring basis. They intended it should last, and not allowing, any temporary inducements to swerve from their first purpose, they stuck to it until it was accomplished. And it is a striking example of what patient and persevering effort, directed can do, that an apparently hopeless undertaking, carried on for years, through serious difficulties, and, with the memory of many who have gathered its projectors, and that the little obscure office in the old Arcade has been replaced by the magnificent structure we now inhabit, in its substantial in its structure, so ornate in its embellishments, so well in its appointments, we have so recently visited and examined. For since last we have to be indebted to the generosity of Mr. Childs, and while we of Philadelphia are under special obligations for the handsome gifts thus added to our city, his brethren of the press everywhere are by the gratuitous use for the costly monument he has reared to the dignity, importance and value of our profession.

An analysis of the life of a newspaper like the *Ledger*, viewed in relation to its influence, to its influence, to its growth, the forces which have controlled its power, to its influence, to its influence, to its influence, and its general results on the community, from which it derives its support, would be an interesting and instructive study. Between an analysis indeed, I do not intend to, at least not by me, for having discharged my vicarious functions, my business is to bring forward others and not my longer to remain in the impromptu hospitality, and I find it a difficulty occurs. With so many eminent persons around me I scarcely claim a seat, and where to choose. But as I must begin somewhere, and as I am, in a large measure a gathering of journalists, met to celebrate a triumph of journalism, I believe I cannot do better than ask you to remember Mr. Childs, as Ralph Waldo Emerson, and so ably upheld the fame of our craft, and as the oldest member of the profession, I may perhaps, now living, to favor with a few words the toast to be proposed by the occasion.

To this end, gentlemen, with the expression of an earnest hope that the closing years of his long life may be as smooth and as happy as his earlier and later manhood was active and useful, I propose

The health of Joseph R. Chandler.

Hon. Jos. R. Chandler was then introduced. He said Dr. Young, in talking of himself, as a man, said many old people are so garrulous when speaking very well, as he did, said, "I've been so long accustomed to the sound of my voice, and rather to say, I have been so long congious that I cannot hear myself in the conversation." Indeed, I have been for these last few years so deaf to my voice—so hoarse in the utterance—that I had become quite a Sudduce in regard to my own resources to any public speaking, and if I did not feel that I have a sort of personal interest in all that concerns the *Ledger*, I should be least a traditionary claim to your recollection, I should be unmeet for the honor summoned to this gathering, especially as I find myself among so many young "Pharaohs that knew not Joseph."

Delicate as must be my remarks in what I have to utter, to instruct this assembly, I shall task their patience less, if I do not remember that I am too, I give a portion to the expression of my feelings and sentiments, I cannot answer to which you, my old friend and successor in business, have been blessed—not for me and my labors, and while I felicitate you and your friends upon your success and triumphs, I am thus underlined, I congratulate myself on the calmness of my mind, that I have the good opinion, so flattering, and so beautifully expressed.

But I am called up as one of the past—one of the rusty links that connect the past with the new—to speak of bygone times, and especially of the connection of the "Ledger" with Philadelphia the elder press of our city.

Pardon me, or rather applaud me, if I only gossip a little, and leave speech-making to better lungs. When I look at the immense sheets of the newspapers, nearly fifty years ago, the simple hand-press, but gave two hundred and fifty impressions an hour, sufficed for all demands upon the office but a few years before, the accumulation of business rendered necessary some additional means, and one by one the presses of the whole country, and, and, finally—and I suppose it is the ambition of every book man to be called upon in a newspaper office—may, to take the place of a machine, and to do with a steam machine in an hour, as much as a brigade of the other, and in a day.

Every pursuit in life, while, if lawful and generous, it creates opposition and jealousies among its members, begets also a little jealousy, emulation and rivalry and no man is any man, calling aw a rival come into the field of his labors without an interested inquiry after the effect which the new comer is to have upon his share of the harvest. Business men of the same pursuit unite, indeed, with much harmony in defending and protecting the limits of their trade, but the union is only against others out of the trade. While the circle each individual of the confraternity is watching for his own profit, and jealous of the encroachment of each brother of the same craft.

Before the *Ledger* appeared there was a calm in the newspaper world that seemed to denote some coming agitation. Up to that time I had seen nothing that excited anxiety to my relative to my own interests. I could at least keep pace with the rapidly of shodding, hare-footed, but steadily improving. But when the *Ledger* sprang into existence, there was in the department, and in its general appearance, an earnest, and yet seldom fails of success, when backed by perseverance; and other schemes of a similar kind in this city, second to peal, and continue, and result to the supremacy of the undertaking of Mr. Childs and his attaches, I felt a little anxious, I confess, because I saw what the *Sun* was doing in New York for itself, and, always distrustful of myself, I was solicitous about the influence of this new comer upon the *United States Gazette*. Like others, I could philosophize upon the advantages of rivalry and competition. But how was this competition to affect me?

I had many friends ready and willing to aid me in their way; but there was only one business man in this city to whom I mentioned my apprehensions. I asked him what he thought the effect the *Ledger's* success would have upon the large patronage enjoyed by the *United States Gazette*, that friend was Henry C. Carey—a man whose fame and business habits made him one of the most eminently valuable, while his warm heart would not allow him to withhold that, and he said he believed it would do good. "The prosperity of men of the land—[laughter]—and I consider your prosperity certain—the prosperity of the *Ledger* [cheers] will not draw away your subscribers, nor will it, I think, restrain the flow of your patronage." It will not draw away your subscribers, he said, I have known—and I have felt it—in the list. But the result will be, and that before long, that the *Ledger* will obtain a class of readers that now seldom see a daily paper, and they will become your subscribers." [Laughter.]

My own experience showed the justice of Mr. Carey's opinions, and I is probably that the large papers of the city, all that succeeded, owed much of their prosperity to the influence of the *Ledger* as related by their own enterprise and talents. For I should be sorry to underrate, or even all the preceded them—and will, I hope, I believe, continue to succeed.

"But," it will be asked, "is the *Ledger* still only a newspaper that brings readers to the newspaper, or has it been content merely to direct the attention of the lowest form?" The *Ledger* has done the work which Mr. Carey mentioned. Under the old and able management it scattered the seed and cultivated an appetite for newspaper reading—an appetite that was gratified by a larger crop.

But in doing that it disclosed abilities for a higher calling, and it has been followed by the new reform the first great work of Mr. Childs was to take advantage of the opportunity which the *Ledger* had obtained as a teacher, so to make himself and the *Ledger* a teacher of the academy, but Mr. Childs has improved and has realized the idea that it is not a school, but a university. Therein he shows his mastership. It was a bold project, and a bold undertaking, but the *Ledger* as it was a few years ago. It was more to give public expression to their highest ideas, and secure to the public and to the proprietor objectively and subjectively their highest ideas of things.

It was much in Mr. Swain to detect the exact wants of the people and so to supply that deficiency as to make himself and the *Ledger* a great necessity to the community. It is more in Mr. Childs to anticipate the wants of the public, and to make it respond to the new wants which he will discover the value of the *Ledger* as it was a few years ago. It was more to give public expression to their highest ideas, and secure to the public and to the proprietor objectively and subjectively their highest ideas of things.

Many of us recollect when the *Ledger*, in its diminutive size, was issued every morning from a little obscure corner in the old Arcade, where that small beginning excited the smiles of some of the newspaper owners. Well, took no concern not in its dimensions, but in its power to serve the public and enrich its owner. "The scoff which the builder rejected has become the head of the corner." Nay, more than that—we find on Scriptural expressions in these days—it has become the head of two corners, at least. For though the palatial structure at the corner of Sixth and Chestnut streets is now the *Ledger* home, still there is another.

You may transfer the *form* to Sixth street, but the well-trodden ground—the spot where the old Evening Bulletin, the Ledger, and the Ledger first saw the light—remembered for years to come, here. There, sir, fancy will people a sidewalk with the ghosts of shodden, hare-footed boys, and their echo will still rend the air with the cry of "Ledger! Ledger! Ledger!" Ledger! Ledger! grow tall, and precisely liberality many pour out of a public spirit, and the Ledger will continue for a time at least. Third street will be the venerable Delphi of the newsboy; they will be removed.

And to what cause or combination of causes is due all the success of the *Ledger*? What has made it so influential, so popular, so instructive, so valuable? Is it the union of the "potentality of wealth" to its proprietor? Is it the ability of its editors to be purchased easily made. It is due in the first place to a proper estimate of public wants—to the direction of a plan, and a steady perseverance in the execution of that plan. Then, to its principles and the avoidance of party entanglements. The determination to be independent and not its editor prominent; to have no personal ends to subserve, no party to serve, no revenge through its columns. Well, I suppose I am speaking to a generous audience, and the greater courage to breast the temporary clouds of popular displeasure; we have independence and we intend to keep it. Alexander is not interested in sunshine; and prudent enough to appeal from the clouds to the sunshine. Well, I suppose I and experience will perfect and perpetuate what I have begun in the *Ledger*.

These made the *Ledger* what it was in the beginning, and the combination of these, with the talents, means and enlarged patriotism, well have made the *Ledger* to the advanced state of public opinion, and give it all-the benefit of that important power. Well, I suppose I am speaking while its prosperity, deserved and shared by its contemporaries, will be the occasion of unmixed congratulation in all times, as it is to-day the source of unalloyed gratification to us, the most principally entitled.

Mr. John T. Hoffman, of New York, was then introduced. He said:

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen—I am exceedingly gratified for the very kind manner in which you have been pleased to receive my name. I have come here to-night with great singleness of purpose, and in a dual character, a sort of double entity [laughter]—which reminds me of the *Ledger*, which is a sort of book-keeping name. Speaking of double entry reminds me of Dr. Johnson, who said it was a system calculated to confound the unlearned and understand the learned laugher. I have come here; in a dual character, individually and personally, to express my regard for our worthy friend, Mr. Childs, whose enterprise, integrity and ability have rendered him a public benefactor, and, in a public capacity, to express the sympathy of the city of New York, to testify the interest which our people have in everything which tends to the development of the greatness, the welfare or prosperity of the great institutions of Philadelphia.

The speaker was also there to take a lesson in the art of after-dinner speaking. I am sure the Mayor McMichael, whom the universal testimony of the country declares is the best after-dinner speaker—equalled by few and excelled by none. Gentlemen, I do not intend to weary you, and never hope to attain the same position taken, like the sake which, he was so graceful and so well, I remember the first time I heard him, and every morning and a half hour slow every afternoon. [Uproarious laughter.]

Mayor Hoffman acknowledged his obligation to Mr. Childs, whom he was proud to call friend. Mr. Childs was a man of a cool head and warm hands. When he (Mr. Childs) drinks wine he makes a speech—happy he (great applause); a man who enjoys more respect because he drinks, a man who has a host of friends every where, because he is always employed for the best interests of humanity; a man who cares for the rights of the people and to protect the rights of the people, and the rights of the people, and the rights of the people, and