EVENING BULLETIN.

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THE FIRE-FIENDS OF PHILADELPHIA.

The incendiaries and rioters of the "noble band" of Philadelphia firemen have been holding high carnival since Saturday night. It is a pious custom with these, early on Sunday morning, to create a fire, or an alarm of fire, and consequently the service of the day is a riot. People are awakened about one or two o'clock in the morning with the hideous din of steam-engines, with bells ringing, men yelling through horns or without them, dogs barking, and a fearful rush, accompanied with races and fights, through all the principal streets. This is Philadelphia's preparation for the worship of God and observance of the Sabbath, which was ordained as a day of rest, and, in the language of an old provincial statute of Pennsylvania, "to the ease of everybody."

Valuable property was set on fire after midnight on Saturday, in order that the volunteer firemen of Philadelphia might have their customary Sunday pastime. At a cost to citizens not firemen of sixty or seventy thousand dollars, the usual Sabbath luxury was furnished to our heroic firemen, who fought at intervals, in different parts of the city, through the greater part of the Sabbath day. Some of the incidents of the day are reported in other columns. But no description can give a correct idea of the scenes that were witnessed in some quarters. Certainly no one can depict the terror of the nervous and the anguish of the sick and suffering, as the mobs of yelling ruffians rushed by their houses, on the pretext that they were going to extinguish a fire. The report and the fight created at one o'clock on Sunday morning were bad enough; but they were not worse than were created several times later in the day. It was noticed that the steam fire-engines that dashed through the streets, about one o'clock in the afternoon, had no fires lighted, and no preparation to go to steam; so that it was well understood there was no conflagration. The object was simply racing and rioting. At least twenty hose carriages, each pulled by or followed by a hundred or more vagabonds, ran in the same direction as the engines—not to put out a fire, for there was none, but to judge the propensity for making a disturbance, swearing and howling, and racing or fighting with rivals. Strangers in the city looked on in amazement, and even the savage Indian chiefs at the Continental wondered at the exhibition of Philadelphia civilization.

The shame of all this is, not merely that such a state of things exists in Philadelphia, but that, even if there be a temporary cessation of it, there is a constant danger of its reappearing. There is no law to control an irresponsible mob of many thousands of ruffians, who have been so spoiled by indulgence that they fancy themselves supreme in the city. If there were a law to restrain them, the police are not brave enough or numerous enough to enforce it. The Mayor and the City Councils are too cowardly to say publicly what every decent man in Philadelphia—not a beggarly politician—says of this horde of organized ruffians, that were he and enough when the city was small, but that are utterly intolerable now that it has increased to a great size. Even the men of Mayor Fox's police force, when casually spoken of to the performances of the rioters, declared that the present Fire Department was a nuisance and a disgrace. The same sentiment was expressed by every man not engaged in the rows of the day. Respectable old members of fire companies, recalling the time when it was an honor to be a Philadelphia fireman, looked on with shame at the riotous proceedings of their successors.

But blushing and complaining bring no remedy for the appalling evils of the Philadelphia Fire Department. The politicians are afraid to adopt the only remedy—that of abolishing it entirely and creating a body of trained firemen to be paid for their service, and only on their good behavior. The Bulletin has been urging this for many years, and it has, at times, had the cooperation of some of the other papers of the city. But several influential ones still speak timidly on the subject. The *Ledger*, this morning complains of the "demoniac gangs of fire runners" and of the impropriety of taking lose carriages home without having the bells "muffled." But "runners" will always be found with valuable fire companies, and the sound of the bells of the machines as they go home is the smallest part of the nuisance. If the *Ledger* and other influential papers would come out boldly and say, what every respectable citizen believes, that a Paid Department is the only real remedy for the disgraceful scenes created by fire firemen and their followers, we might hope to see it adopted.

A NATIONAL DISGRACE.

The country was disgraced on Saturday by a scene in the Senate over the bill conferring a pension on the widow of Abraham Lincoln. When a discussion in the United States Senate reaches a point at which even Senator Sumner can rise in his place and rebuke the insolency of Republican Senators, the case must necessarily be a very bad one. Messrs. Tipton, Morrill, Howell and Yates have put themselves in a position before the country from which they will find it very difficult to extricate themselves. They have assumed the gallant attitude of champions and maligners of a deceased President of the United States, Lincoln, were the only one of these gentlemen ever so much as heard to utter one word in his behalf, or even to speak in his behalf, when the question was put on his bill, or on any other bill, for the relief of his family. Not one of these men ever spoke a word in behalf of the widow of Lincoln, when she was in the deepest poverty and distress, and when the pension now asked for her was pending in the Senate