The Press.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1857.

FIRST PAGE.—Effects of the Credit System; Literary Criticism; Letter from Portugal; Report of the Secretary of War; General News; The Courts; Philadelphia and Cincinnati Markets. FOURTH PAGE.—The Two Fountains, by S. D. Patterson; Great Men and their Books, by Greybeard.

SPEECH OF SENATOR DOUGLAS,

A full report of the great speech of Senator DOUGLAS on the Calhoun Constitution, delivered in the United States Senate on Wednesday last, will appear in THE PRESS of to-morrow morning. Extra Copies can be had by application at the counter.

THE SOUTHERN DEMOCRACY.

Had a Northern minority, in a Territory known to be controlled by a majority in favor of slavery, attempted by such a *coup d'état* as the Lecompton Constitution, to perpetuate freedom there, and to override the plain will of the majority, there would have been a united protest on the part of the members of Congress, Senators and Representatives from the slave States. They would have proceeded in a body to the President, and demanded the full recognition of their rights, and failing in that, would have resorted to the alternative which has more than once been threatened—that is, of withdrawing from all association with the Representatives of the other States. We are not without hope that this fact will make its due impression upon the minds of such Southern statesmen as must now feel that they are called upon to endorse the action of men who, in the name of the South, have perpetrated all the outrages in Kansas, and who, for their own immediate selfish ends, attempt to establish a precedent which must operate more fatally against the South than anything attempted in politics for the last fifty years; for, besides weakening the South in the future, the operations of the minority at Lecompton may throw the new State, in the event of a fair vote being obtained hereafter, into the hands of the Republicans, which will locate upon the borders of Missouri an Abolition rendezvous State, from which arrows, firebrands, and death may be scattered all over the South.

The South cannot surely desire to perpetuate slavery in Kansas by a fraud. There is an instinctive repugnance among the chivalry of the South to all dishonest action. They recoil from the imputation of being willing to promote their own interests by wrong; and we shall not be surprised if, in the course of the coming debates in Congress, declarations to this effect will be made by the leading Representatives of the slave States.

When California came to Washington with her Senators and Representatives, and demanded admission into the Union under a Constitution endorsed by an overwhelming popular vote, nearly the entire South stood in solid column against her, and nothing but a compromise, by which the fugitive-slave law was strengthened, and other concessions agreed upon, induced them to consent to abandon their position. How, then, do the Southern Democracy expect their Northern allies to stand up in the face of such a record as is presented in the Lecompton Constitution? How do they expect us to turn back the tide of fanaticism when, while admitting, as all the South must do, that there is a vast preponderance of free-State men in Kansas, they are still determined to force upon the people of that Territory a Constitution fabricated by a minority, or by a Convention elected by a minority, and at the same time depriving the people of any fair chance to vote upon the slavery question itself? Can the South be assisted and strengthened by breaking down the Democracy of the North? Can it be fortified in its peculiar institution by arousing new elements of dissatisfaction in the free States, and by placing in the hands of its avowed enemies, Messrs. SEWARD, HALE, TRUMBULL, SUMNER, GREELEY, and others, means by which a new sectionalism may be awakened?

These are questions which every Southern statesman should carefully and conscientiously consider. The course of the Missouri press is alone significant of the sentiment which prevails in that State. The action of Judge ELMORE, and other leading pro-slavery men in Kansas, is a strong proof that the Lecompton fraud is denounced by the most disinterested witnesses.

How is this example to operate in regard to the Territories hereafter to be organized, and in reference to States hereafter to be introduced? To-day it may be to the advantage of the South to make a minority predominant: to-morrow the North may seize upon the precedent, and wield it against the South. The whole future is filled with trouble, and it becomes every patriot, in Congress and out of it, to unite in frank speech and action, so that the principle of popular sovereignty—the principle that "the majority shall rule"—a principle "as ancient as free Government itself"—may be placed upon an immutable foundation.

BY MIDNIGHT MAIL.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Removal of Secretary Stanton—Lord President Calhoun—Judge Douglas's Great Speech—Appointment of Colonel Richardson as Governor of Nebraska.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10, 1857.

The removal of Secretary Stanton, by the President, seems to have taken place some days before the fact came out in Washington. General Denver, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, his successor, left here as it was supposed for Ohio, a week ago, but it is now believed for the purpose of proceeding to the Territory of Kansas, there to supersede Stanton, or else to exercise a certain supervision in regard to the election which is to take place on the 21st of this month. Mr. Stanton, in obedience to what seems to be the overwhelming demand of the people of the Territory, and in order to fulfil the pledges of Governor Walker and himself to that people—that the Constitution, whenever framed, should be submitted to a popular vote—convened the Legislature, which, at this writing, is in session, having commenced on the 7th of December. This is doubtless the cause of his removal. Two proclamations have been issued by Lord President Calhoun—one announcing his officers to conduct the election on the 21st proximo, when the Lecompton Constitution will be submitted, and laying down the law in reference to that election; and the other providing for an election under the Lecompton Constitution, on the first Monday of January, for State officers, and for a new Legislature. The "legal and regular" Legislature of Kansas, elected on the 5th of October, under the same statute which called into existence the Constitutional Convention—the only body that the whole people of Kansas have really yet elected—the body which can wipe out all preceding acts—is now in session; and yet, in the face of all this, we have Lord President Calhoun calling an election for a *new Legislature!* It is not my purpose to comment on the extraordinary picture which this conduct presents to the American people; but if Secretary Stanton is to be removed for calling the regular Legislature together, according to the demand of the people who elected it, what measure of reprehension should be meted out to Calhoun, who orders an election under a minority Constitution, in advance of the adoption of that Constitution by the people, and before the judgment of Congress has been passed upon it?

This is a new complication of the Kansas question. Intelligence from that Territory will now be awaited with the utmost solicitude. And woe to those public servants at Washington who, in addition to all these facts, should deem it to be their duty to set at defiance the will of the majority in Kansas!

The speech of Judge Douglas, in the Senate yesterday, will be printed in great numbers and circulated throughout the country, and I have no doubt that it will carry conviction to every mind. He may be said to have barely commenced the contest.

Judge Douglas bases his opposition to the Lecompton Constitution on many strong grounds. He speaks of the President's argument as one most decidedly *not* in favor of that instrument. Indeed, the President's instructions to Governor Walker demanded that the whole Constitution should go to the whole people. In this view of the case, Judge Douglas proceeds to prove that the work demanded by the President and Governor Walker was nullified by a minority Constitution.

Mr. Buchanan has again appointed Col. Richardson Governor of Nebraska. The Colonel is now in Washington, and will this time, it is said, accept the place tendered by the President. It speaks well for the liberality of Mr. Buchanan that he should have appointed Col. Richardson to this important position, in view of his determined hostility to the Lecompton Constitution; and I understand that if Col. Richardson accepts the position, it is with a distinct understanding that he is not to yield his opposition to the Lecompton Constitution.

X. Y.

FROM WASHINGTON.

New Halls of Congress—Captain Meigs Relieved from the Superintendency of the Capitol Extension—Great Patronage of the Superintendent of Public Printing, &c.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, December 10, 1857.

A feeling seems to exist in both Houses of Congress, to remove their sessions into the new halls as soon as practicable, and it may be that this will be satisfied on the opening of the new year at the latest day.

The new halls have been fitted up in a style of costly splendor, and look, with their gaudy colors and infinity of decorations, more like the cabins of Mississippi steamboats or opera houses, than legislative halls. Some spicy discussions will take place on the accounts of the superintendent when they are sent in.

It has been long determined by the War Department to relieve Captain Meigs from the superintendency of the Capitol extension and the aqueduct, which is being constructed for the purpose of bringing water from the Great Falls of the Potomac to this city. I understand, to-day, that he has been so relieved, and that both these works will soon be placed under the other superintendents.

Much anxiety is felt by printers, book-men, and others interested in Congressional and Departmental printing, for the advent of General Bowman, who has been appointed Superintendent of Public Printing in place of Seaman, whose term has expired. There are few public officers of this Government having the control of as large patronage as this superintendent. He supplies the paper for the printing of Congress and of the Executive Departments, and every bill for printing, engraving, binding, &c., must pass through his hands and obtain his approval, before it can be allowed. Even Mr. Buchanan is compelled to secure his approval for any printing that he may have done.

With such power, it will not be strange if, on the arrival of General Bowman, he is beset by a myriad of speculators and others, who will do their endeavor to get him, by hook or by crook, to yield to their influence. I do hope that he will keep a sharp look out, and prevent, indirectly even, the slightest doubt to be cast upon the pure integrity for which he has always been admired, and which was the moving cause of his appointment.

X. Y.

CITY IMPROVEMENTS.

Among the numerous architectural improvements of our city, we have to notice a truly splendid edifice, No. 28 North Third, above Market street, which has been erected by Mr. Charles A. Rubincam, a most experienced builder and contractor, for Henry Korn, Esq. The plans of this building have been drawn by Mr. S. D. Button, 26 Merchants' Exchange. The plumbing is by Rice & Whalley, 936 Arch street. The painting and glazing have been well executed by Hunneker & Brant, Arch street. The plastering by Mr. William Trench, of Chestnut street. The locks by Mr. Peter Rodgers, Seventh, below Arch street. Mr. Rubincam, who is the builder of the State Arsenal, (corner of Sixteenth and Filbert streets,) has already won the very highest distinction in his profession, and this beautiful edifice will go far to extend it.

It is doubtful whether, amid the many first-class places of business which have graced our city, of late years, any one is even equal to that which we now notice. It is built in the form of an L, and consists of five stories above the street level, with a fine basement and good sub-cellar. It extends 147 feet back, has a front of 30 feet, and has quite a large extra shoot of 64 feet—thus making not only a full approach in North Third street, but, with an opening, 24 feet wide, into Wistar's alley. The entire brick-work has been executed by Mr. Samuel Haines, well known as "facile princeps" in the ornamental work of that nature in this city. The store is fronted with blue Pennsylvanian marble, supplied by Mr. Samuel F. Prince, of Chestnut street. The lower interior is wholly granite work, by Messrs. Comber & Co. The safes (*not* the Queen-Dowager's of Spain) were made by Stewart & Stevens.

Yesterday afternoon, at McCrea's hotel, which is fortuitously and fortunately back of this truly fine store, Mr. Henry Korn entertained a large party of his friends at a most sumptuous dinner. "well watered with wine," as Paddy would say. He mentioned that he had been nearly the third of a century in occupancy of the premises which had previously occupied the site of the new edifice, and that the large amount required to erect the new fabric had been wholly realized by moderate profits on large sales on the same spot.

The entertainment, on the occasion, was truly splendid, and the genial hospitalities of Mr. Korn were cheerfully done amplest justice to.

PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENTS.

MISS WILLIAMS' COSTUME CONCERTS.—To-night and on Saturday evening, Miss E. L. Williams gives Concerts at the Handel and Haydn Hall, Spring Garden, for the benefit of the Home for Destitute Colored Children, an institution incorporated by the Legislature "to afford a home, food, clothing, and instruction in school learning and household art to indigent colored children, and at a suitable age to place them in families to learn some useful occupation or trade." Miss Williams, whose vocal powers are great, while her dramatic art is indifferent, does not, on these occasions, appear in the objectlee entertainment written for her by Mr. Lover, but; wearing the respective national costumes, will sing Scotch, Irish, Welsh, and English ballads, with some French and Italian airs.

PARODI AND VIEUXTEMPS' CONCERT.—At the Musical Fund Hall last night, by far the best concert of the season was given. It had two special peculiarities—it was, almost exclusively, an English concert, (allowing Miss Milner and Mr. Ernst Perring to "make their mark" in the music of their own country,) and it was Parodi's farewell. She left Philadelphia last night, by the "owl train," and immediately proceeds to Cuba.

ARCH STREET THEATRE.—This evening, Mrs. E. L. Davenport takes her first benefit here, and she deserves that it shall be a bumper.

THE ROUZANI BALLET TROUPE.—The Academy of Music will re-open, next Monday evening, with performances by the Rouzani ballet *troupe*—by far the best dancers who ever have performed in this country.

WALNUT STREET THEATRE.—Mrs. Bowers is about becoming manager of this establishment, with a good company.

BUCKLEY'S.—This evening is the last night's performance this week of Buckley's Serenaders. They will not perform on Saturday evening.

MATTERS AND THINGS IN NEW YORK.

[From the New York papers of yesterday.]

PARRISH WILL CASE DECIDED.—The Surrogate this morning rendered a decision sustaining the will and first codicil of the late Henry Parrish.

The other codicils were disallowed. It is said the case will be taken to the Supreme Court.

COLLISION.—The barque J. W. Andrews, Captain French, for Mobile, while attempting to get under weigh for sea this morning, with a pilot on board, came in contact with ship Viking, hence for San Francisco, which carried away the barque's foretopgallant mast, head of foretopmast, with topgallant, yard and rigging attached; also, the main topgallant. The J. W. Andrews came back for repairs, while the Viking proceeded to sea, having sustained no damage.

COURT OF OYER AND TERMINER.—In the case of Samuel Keys, for the murder of his wife, this morning the jury brought in a verdict of manslaughter in the fourth degree. The prisoner was then brought forward and asked by the judge what he had to say why sentence should not be passed upon him.

Keys replied: "I am as innocent as the child unborn. When I went home the day my wife died, I found her drunk, and asked her what ailed her. She told me it was none of my business, and I left the house. This was about nine o'clock in the morning. I returned again at six o'clock in the evening, and found her lying on the bed, and bruised about the face, and was surprised to hear she was dead. The reason I said she should have been dead years ago, was because she got drunk. I never, prove that whenever I have lived with her, that I never raised a hand against her."

The court, in passing sentence, praised the jury for their verdict, and said that he would impose as light a penalty as possible. Keys was then sentenced to two years' imprisonment in the State prison.

An Important Grain Decision.

The Cleveland *Herald*, of Saturday, reports a decision of much importance to mercantile men, rendered in the United States Court, by Judge Wilson, in that city the day previous. A year ago last April, T. A. Wilson sold to the agents of Fitzhue & Littlejohn, of Oswego, a quantity of wheat lying in an elevator at Cleveland. The purchase-money was paid, and an order for the delivery of the wheat given. On the night after the order was given, and previous to its being weighed out for shipment, the elevator took fire, and the wheat was entirely consumed. Notice had been given by the seller to the buyer, at the time of sale, that no insurance had been effected. The question between the parties now turned on whether the wheat was sold "free on board" or not, the purchaser contending such was a part of the terms of sale, whilst the seller denied any mention being made of such agreement. A suit was brought for the recovery of the money by the purchasers. Judge Wilson charged the jury that the question to be considered was whether the wheat had actually been delivered to the purchaser. The fact of the money being paid, and the warehouse order for delivery being given, did not suffice. The article must have been actually weighed out to the purchaser before delivery could be legally effected. It not being contended by the defendant that this had been done, the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff for $1,007.90, with interest from the 23d of June, 1856.

Homœopathy.

The number of Homœopathic physicians in the United States is about 3,000. There are two Homœopathic Colleges, one at Philadelphia and the other at Cleveland, O., at each of which, upon an average, 125 students graduate annually.

The yearly meeting of the State Society will be held at Albany next May. Semi-annual meetings of the profession are held every autumn in the various States. The New York County Society meets every month.

Homœopathy was introduced into the United States in 1825, by H. B. Graham, M. D., and the adherents to the system are increasing in numbers continually; the several organizations are in a prosperous condition, notwithstanding a deeply rooted prejudice of the "regular" faculty. There are three Homœopathic dispensaries in the city—the Central, Northern, and Bond street, and county societies are in operation in Saratoga, Kings, Washington, Oneida, and New York counties. The Homœopathic Medical College, of Pennsylvania was incorporated April 5, 1848, and the Western Homœopathic College, at Cleveland, subsequently.

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

Governor Walker.

[SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE PRESS.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—Governor WALKER is expected to arrive in this city to-night.

THIRTY-FIFTH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION.

U. S. CAPITOL, WASHINGTON, December 10, 1857.

SENATE.

Mr. SEWARD submitted a resolution, which lies over under the rule, directing the Joint Committee on Printing to inquire into and report whether any new provisions of law are necessary to secure the faithful performance, on the part of Congress, of existing contracts, which provide for accurate reports of the debates of the two Houses.

Mr. DOUGLAS gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill at an early day, to enable the people of Kansas to form a Constitution and State Government preparatory to their admission into the Union.

Mr. FOOT gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill making grants of the public lands to actual settlers.

The Senate then went into executive session.

After the secret session, the Senate adjourned till Monday next.

HOUSE.

The Speaker appointed Messrs. Smith, of Virginia; Grow, Taylor, of New York; Nichols, Smith, of Tennessee; Morse, and Dowdell, as a Committee authorized to be appointed to examine into the subject of public printing, and to report such reforms as they may deem advisable.

On motion of Mr. Banks, the Speaker was authorized to appoint the standing committees; and in order to afford him an opportunity to do so, that when the House adjourn, it be till Monday next.

On motion of Mr. WARREN a committee was ordered to be appointed to report when the new Hall of Representatives can be occupied.

Mr. DOWDELL offered a resolution requesting the ministers of the Gospel, of Washington city, to alternately open the daily sessions of the House with prayer.

Mr. JONES, of Tennessee, presented petitions against the employment of chaplains by the Government, on the ground of its unconstitutionality.

A debate ensued, during which, in reply to a question, it was stated that various ministers had tendered gratuitous services.

Mr. DOWDELL's resolution was then adopted.

Mr. STEPHENS, of Georgia, offered a resolution which was adopted, providing for the distribution of books heretofore printed, to new members.

Mr. LETCHER, of Virginia, took occasion to say that it was the duty of the House to stop the evils attendant on these book distributions. Some volumes were now in course of preparation, a single one of which will cost two hundred thousand dollars. Everything to be printed should be first scrutinized carefully, especially since the House had heard so much about the "plunder," which is alleged to be connected with this department.

The House then adjourned till Monday.

FROM KANSAS.

Meeting of the Delegate Convention—The Lecompton Constitution Repudiated, &c.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 10.—The *Democrat* received Kansas letters to-night containing the proceedings of the Delegate Convention, which met at Lawrence on the 2d instant, ex-Governor Robinson presiding.

Resolutions were unanimously adopted repudiating and pledging ceaseless hostility to the Lecompton Constitution; denouncing the call for elections on the 21st inst. and 1st proximo; declaring that the Legislature elected on October 5th shall not be suspended by any Constitution or State Government, until a fair and impartial vote be had; endorsing the Topeka Constitution; requesting an extra session of the Territorial Legislature to frame an election law; providing for the submission of the Topeka and Lecompton Constitutions—the one receiving the majority of legal votes to become the fundamental law of the State of Kansas.

A resolution was also passed, returning thanks to acting Governor Stanton, for calling a special session of the Legislature.

Speeches were made by Messrs. Robinson, Lane, Thatcher, and others.

Death of Colonel Turnbull.

WILMINGTON, N. C., Dec. 10.—Col. Wm. Turnbull was found dead this morning in his room at the hotel where he was boarding. He bore the rank of colonel by brevet in the corps of topographical engineers. He was a native of Maryland, and entered the army in 1819.

Re-Election of Senator Hunter.

RICHMOND, Dec. 10.—The legislature on joint meeting have re-elected R. M. T. Hunter as United States Senator, for the term commencing March 4th, 1859. His election was nearly unanimous.

Custom House at Oswego Robbed.

OSWEGO, Dec. 10.—A burglary was committed last night at the United States custom house in this city. The safe was blown open with gunpowder, and $500 carried off.

Destructive Fire—A College Building Burned.

WHEELING, Va., Dec. 10—At one o'clock this morning the college buildings at Bethany, Brooke county, Va., was entirely destroyed by fire, together with the furniture, three valuable libraries, extensive laboratories, chemical apparatus, and valuable papers. It is supposed the fire originated by incendiarism.

The Weather at Cincinnati.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 10.—The weather is clear. The thermometer 35 deg. River twenty-one feet and rising.

Sailing of the Kangaroo.

NEW YORK, Dec. 10.—The steamship Kangaroo sailed for Liverpool at noon, with $250,000 in specie.

Markets.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 10.—Flour is dull at $5; Wheat is firm; old white Corn is selling at 63a65c, and new at 40a50c; old yellow 60a63c; new 45a55c; Whiskey 22a23c. Exchange on New York 103¼a104.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 10.—The markets are generally unchanged. Flour and grain dull. Whiskey, raw, quotes at 18c.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 10.—Flour is steady; sales of 2,500 bbls at $3.90a$4 for superfine, and $4 for extra. Receipts of the week 30,000 bbls.

Hogs are unchanged at $5a$5.25. There are few offerings, and the demand is moderate. Holders are firm. There is now lying here, awaiting investment in Pork, nearly two millions equal to gold, but dealers will not buy beyond present prices. A large number of eastern dealers are willing to invest a half million of dollars at safe prices. The receipts are light. Mess Pork is dull at $13.25a$13.50. Shoulders quote at 5½c., and Sides at 6½c. Green meats are slightly better. Whiskey steady at 16c.

CITY POLICE—DECEMBER 10.

[Reported for The Press.]

MISS MARY TIPTON'S REAUX.—The old saying, that "it is well to have two strings to your bow," may be true enough in its general application; but the affair we are about to relate may prove that it is not always well to have two beaux in one string. Miss Mary Tipton is a nice little dress-maker, residing somewhere in North Thirteenth street. She is, or was, passionately beloved by two gentlemen of this city, to wit: George Feederman, a boss tailor, and Henry White, a clerk in a grocery store. She appears to have had no decided preference for either, but had made up her mind to accept one of them. Meanwhile, the two suitors were enduring all the agonies of suspense. Feederman, the boss tailor, being a stout individual of a somewhat greasy constitution, did not suffer much in the flesh; but White, the grocer's clerk, was obviously wasting himself away to a shadow, as his affections were powerfully strong, and his bodily constitution is exceedingly weak.

Last evening, both lovers happened to call at the same time; and, while they were waiting for the object of their adoration to appear, Miss Mary, from an adjoining apartment, overheard a proposition made by Feederman to his rival, that both should give up the pursuit, in order that both might escape from the torment of hope delayed, and that each might avoid the horrifying possibility of seeing Mary united to the other. This suggestion, which showed that jealousy was a stronger feeling than love in the bosom of the boss tailor, settled *his* fate at once. Mary burst into the room and "cracked" him on the spot. As soon as Feederman had departed, Miss Tipton turned to the pale and trembling grocery clerk, and throw him into an ecstasy by declaring that he was the elected of her heart. The tender scene which followed was brought to an untimely termination by the re-entrance of Feederman, the rejected and infuriated boss tailor. He had been to his shop, which happened to be in the neighborhood, and had brought away a large pair of shears, (one of the implements of his trade,) and came back with the avowed purpose of executing vengeance on his successful rival. Never was there a more ferocious boss tailor than this Feederman. Amurath was a mere sucking lamb in comparison. As soon as the grocery clerk caught a glimpse of the gleaming steel and heard Feederman, that remorseless boss tailor, express a determination to cut off his ears, he fell on his knees and solemnly renounced all claim to the hand and heart of Miss Mary Tipton. Nay, he professed himself ready to make a vow of perpetual celibacy, and was willing to swear by the river Styx, that he would never look at a woman again, if Feederman would agree not to cabbage any portion of his ear. The screams of Miss Mary, in the meanwhile, had brought in some of the police; but it was too late; the recreant grocery clerk had saved his hearing apparatus by a full and final renunciation of his sweetheart. And so, instead of two beaux, Miss Mary now has none at all. But she avenged herself, in a measure, by having Feederman arrested, and bound over to keep the peace.

W.

THE CITY.

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MUSIC, BROAD AND LOCUST STREETS.—Concert for the Benefit of St. John's Orphan Asylum.

HANDEL AND HAYDN HALL, N. E. CORNER EIGHTH AND SPRING GARDEN STREETS.—Costume Concerts, by the Welsh Nightingals.

WENATLEY'S ARCH STREET THEATRE, ARCH STREET, ABOVE SIXTH.—"The Lady of Lyons"—"The Serious Family."

WALNUT STREET THEATRE, N. E. CORNER OF NINTH AND WALNUT STREETS.—"The Enchantress."

NATIONAL THEATRE, WALNUT STREET, NEAR EIGHTH.—"Equestrian Performances."

JAYNE'S NEW HALL, CHESTNUT STREET, BELOW SEVENTH.—Buckley's Opera Troupe.

SANFORD'S OPERA HOUSE, ELEVENTH STREET, ABOVE CHESTNUT.—Ethiopian Life Illustrated, concluding with a laughable afterpiece.

Proceedings of City Councils.—A stated meeting of City Councils was held yesterday afternoon, at which the following business was transacted:

SELECT BRANCH.

The following memorial of the Board of Managers of the House of Refuge was read and referred to the Committee on Finance:

Your memorialists respectfully request that such appropriation may be granted by your honorable bodies as may be necessary for the maintenance of the House of Refuge for the coming year. Aware of the state of the finances of the city, your memorialists will not ask for an amount which, under a more prosperous condition of the treasury, would be exceedingly desirable to receive, but restrict themselves to such a sum as, with the expected assistance from the Commonwealth and the labor of the inmates, will be absolutely necessary to sustain the institution. The appropriation now solicited is for $23,000, which is $5,000 less than that granted for the year 1857.

It will be seen by the estimate herewith submitted, that more than forty-three thousand dollars will be requisite to support the institution; and we think that the great economy practiced by the managers cannot fail to meet your approbation. We refer to the printed estimate to show that the salaries and other expenses are less than are paid in other institutions. While it is hoped that a reduction will take place in the cost of provisions, the expense of the rapidly increasing number of inmates will more than counterbalance this reduction. It is a source of continual regret that it has been found impossible to procure employment for all the inmates—scarcely half of them have been occupied in the workshops; the inmates, however, are deriving advantage from increased scholastic instruction. It would be superfluous to enter into any argument to prove the great advantages the community, as well as the inmates, are deriving from this school of reformation. More than five thousand wayward children have enjoyed the benefits of this institution, a large majority of whom, we believe, are now useful and respectable citizens; most of the others, we doubt not, have derived some advantage, at least, from the instruction received by them while in the Refuge. It would afford the Board of Managers sincere pleasure if the members of Councils, when their leisure, would visit this interesting and noble charity, and witness, themselves, the salutary effects it is accomplishing.

By order of the Board of Managers.

THOMAS EARP, President.

ALEXANDER HENRY, Secretary.

The following is a recapitulation of the items comprising the estimates:

For the White Department	$16,256 21
For the Colored Department	8,324 02
For the general expenses of both departments	2,570 27
	$27,120 50
To which add an estimate also of the expenses for the 4th or last quarter of 1857, for both departments	9,040 00
Interest and ground rent for 1858, on $37,500*	2,250 00
Claims due and unpaid prior to the commencement of the present year	1,300 00
	$39,740 50

THE INCOME FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE INSTITUTION FOR 1857.

From the City Treasury	$28,000 00
From which deduct appropriation to pay off the floating debt of 1856	8,000 00
	20,000 00
From the State Treasury	15,000 00
From the labor of the Boys, about	4,000 00
	39,000 00
Deficiency	740 50
To which add an estimate for the probable increase of inmates in 1858	3,000 00
Total deficit	$3,740 50

* The Ground Rent and Mortgage Debt of the House of Refuge amount to $37,500.

Mr. Beideman presented a petition from Joseph Delavau, late Coroner, asking for the payment of his claim against the city, incurred by collecting the ballot-boxes during the progress of the investigation in the contested election case between Messrs. Lewis C. Cassidy and Wm. B. Mann. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. Williams presented a petition asking for the construction of a culvert. Referred to the Committee on Surveys and Regulations.

Mr. Horrocks presented a communication from George J. Hamilton, stating that he had a just claim against the Board of Health for $840 for services rendered. Being no prospect of receiving his due from that quarter, he is compelled to ask Councils to pay his claim. Referred to the Committee on Claims.

Mr. Cuyler presented a petition asking for an increased compensation to the public officers of the city. Referred.

A communication from the Chief Engineer and Surveyor was read, submitting certain plans for surveys, &c. Referred to the Committee on Surveys and Regulations.

A communication from the Board of Guardians of the Poor, asking for an additional appropriation of $1,539.29, was read and referred to the Committee on Poor.

Two communications were received from the Board of Controllers of the Public Schools; one asking for an appropriation of $2,500 for repairs to the Ringgold School House, recently damaged by fire. On motion of Mr. Cuyler, this communication was referred to the Committee on Schools, with instructions to report on the cause of the oversight, by which the directors of the Fourth Section failed to have the furniture of this building insured.

A communication from Peter Armbruster, Receiver of Taxes, asking authority to retain certain temporary clerks, engaged in his office, was read, and referred to the Committee on Finance.

The City Solicitor notified Select Council that a suit had been commenced against the city, and recommended Councils to pass an ordinance providing for the payment of the same. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. Kline presented a petition from the Hibernia Hose Company, asking to be admitted into the Fire Department. Referred to the Committee on Trusts and Fire Department.

Mr. Cornman presented a petition from the Fame Hose Company, asking to be admitted into the Fire Department. Likewise referred.

Mr. Cornman also presented a petition from the Diligent Hose Company, relative to an alteration of a fire plug. Likewise referred.

Mr. Kline presented a report from the Committee on Law, to whom had been referred the claim of the city to certain ground in the Twenty-fourth ward. Attached to the report was a resolution instructing the city solicitor to commence an action to test the matter. Agreed to.

An ordinance from Common Council providing for the payment of the claim of Jesper Harding & Son, and for transfer of certain items of appropriation, was concurred in.

A number of other ordinances and resolutions from Common Council were considered and concurred in.

Mr. Cuyler offered the following:

Resolved, That the Committee on City Property be, and they are hereby, requested to report to the next meeting of Councils such temporary improvements as are practicable in the office accommodations afforded to the Prothonotaries of the District Court and of the Court of Common Pleas.

Resolved, That the committee be, and they are hereby, instructed to take into consideration and report what permanent improvements in the accommodations afforded to our courts and public offices are desirable and practicable, and at what cost the same can be effected.

After a discussion between Messrs Roberts and Cuyler, the resolutions were adopted.

On motion, the Chamber took a recess of twenty minutes.

On re-assembling, a report was read from the Committee on Prisons, relative to the accuracy of certain estimates. Referred.

A communication was read from the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department, reporting the Diligent, Washington, Philadelphia, and Fairmount Engine Companies, for disregard of his orders at the fire at Eighth and Market streets, on Monday morning last. Referred to the Committee on Trusts and Fire Department.

Mr. Neal offered a resolution to suspend these companies from the Fire Department until the Committee report upon their conduct.

Messrs. Cornman and Schofield opposed the resolution at considerable length, after which it was disagreed to by a vote of 5 yeas to 6 nays.

The resolutions from Common Council relative to legal action being commenced against those persons implicated by the committee who reported upon certain transactions in the Board of Health, were concurred in. Some unimportant communications were presented and referred, after which the Chamber adjourned.

COMMON COUNCIL.

In the absence of the president, Captain Day was called to the chair.

A communication was received from the Solicitor, stating that the market house at Broad and Race streets would be sold, unless an appropriation of $750 was made to pay the ground rent against the same. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

A communication was presented from the Receiver of Taxes, asking that his temporary clerks be continued. Referred to the same committee.

A resolution from the Controller of Public Schools, asking the transfer of certain items of their appropriation, was referred to the Committee on Schools.

A communication from the same body, asking an appropriation of $2,500 to repair the Ringgold School, was referred to the same committee.

The usual number of petitions were presented. Mr. Mascher moved to suspend the rule in order to consider the bill reorganizing the Board of Health.

Mr Miller hoped the subject would not be considered at this time.

The ayes and nays were called, and the motion was lost by a vote of 33 to 23.

Mr. Parker made a statement, that at the late fire the fire companies could not get half a supply of water. He asked leave to submit a resolution in regard to the subject, but Councils refused.

Mr. King submitted a petition that the court rooms and offices were inadequate to accommodate the business crowded into them. Referred to the Committee on City Property.

Also, a communication from Mr. George J. Hamilton, asking the settlement of a claim of $840 against the Board of Health. Referred to the Committee on Claims.

Mr. Boyer submitted a petition from the Hibernia Hose Company, asking to be admitted into the Fire Department. Referred to the Committee on Trust and Fire Companies

Mr. Hollman, a petition asking that the water main be connected with the steam fire engine under Carter street. Referred to the Committee on Water Works.

A petition for water pipes in the Twentieth ward was referred to the same committee.

Mr. Warnock submitted a petition from the Fellowship Fire Company, asking an appropriation of hose. Referred to the Committee on Trusts and Fire Companies.

Mr. Kane, a petition for the permission to lay a railroad track from the Kensington depot to Willow street. Referred to the Committee on Highways.

Mr. Knaks submitted a petition from the M. E. Church of West Philadelphia, asking to be released from a claim for laying water pipes. Referred to the Committee on Water.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. Drayton, of the Committee on Finance, submitted an ordinance, authorizing the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund to sell city loans enough to raise the sum of $114,000, to pay the city loans falling due on the 1st of January next. Agreed to.

Also, an ordinance making an appropriation of $560,000 to pay the interest on the funded debt of the city falling due on the 1st of January next. Agreed to.

Also, a report stating that the Committee on Finance had examined and submitted the estimates of the expenses of the Controller's Department, of Wharves and Landings, Law, Clerks of Councils, City Treasurer, the Ice Boat, and that of Wills Hospital. Laid on the table for the present.

THE ALLEGED FRAUDS IN THE BOARD OF HEALTH.

Also a report and resolution that the City Solicitor be directed to commence suit against Messrs. Kain and Shaeffer, the contractors employed by the Board of Health to fill up the lot at Broad and Prime streets, to recover from them, if possible, any sum of money which has been unwarrantably obtained from the City Treasury.

Mr. Wildey presented a substitute that the City Solicitor be authorized to prosecute such of the officers and members of the Board of Health as may be implicated in the recent corruption in that department.

The Chair declared the motion out of order, as the Solicitor was not a criminal prosecuting officer.

Mr. O'Neill moved to amend by adding a resolution that the District Attorney be requested to commence criminal proceedings against the officers and members of the Board of Health who have committed the recent forgeries upon the city treasury, &c.

An amendment was made that the city Solicitor act in conjunction with the District Attorney.

Mr. Miller spoke in favor of the adoption of the resolution as submitted by the Finance Committee. He thought the parties who perpetrated these frauds should be sent to the penitentiary.

Mr. O'Neill then withdrew his amendment.

REMARKS OF MR. MASCHER.

Mr. Mascher contended that these rascals (the members of the Board of Health) should be placed out of the power of robbing the city to a greater extent. He thought it came with a bad grace from Councils to pass these resolutions after they had refused to consider the ordinance to re-organize this department.

MR. RIDGWAY SPEAKS.

Mr. Ridgway thought the Board of Health was not the only corrupt department of the city government. If they passed these resolutions, he trusted that a committee of the honest members of Councils would be appointed to see that the juries were not packed (laughter.) There were many rogues about who were allowed to escape by this course.

Mr. Stevenson urged the adoption of the ordinance to reorganize this department. They were about withing their annual appropriation, and he thought no more money should be placed in the hands of these robbers.

The resolution submitted by the Finance Committee was agreed to.

Mr. O'Neill again submitted his resolution in regard to their prosecution by the district attorney.

Mr. Miller moved to amend by submitting resolutions, that the recent investigation by the Board of Health developed transactions which had shocked the moral sense of the community, which were equally criminal and disgraceful, and that the original evidence in the case be submitted to the mayor, with the request that he will hand them to the district attorney, with instructions to commence suit against the members of the Board of Health for conspiring to defraud the city treasury.

A QUESTION OF ORDER.

Mr. Parker said that these frauds would always exist until the people elected honest men to office. He was fearful these resolutions would amount to nothing. He referred to similar charges against out-door officers, and the course of the Guardians of the Poor in selling the remains of certain paupers.

The Chair decided that the latter part of his remarks was out of order.

Mr. Parker—I am in order, sir.

Capt. Day—You are out of order, sir.

Mr. Parker—I am in order, sir, and—

Capt. Day—I decide you are out of order—(rap, rap.)

Mr. Parker—I am here as a representative of the people, and have a right to express my views in regard to this resolution.

Captain Day—The gentleman will please take his seat. (Rap, rap, rap.)

After some little sharp debate between Messrs. Parker, Stevenson, and Day, the resolutions submitted by Mr. Miller were agreed to.

Mr. Hollman moved to reconsider the vote on the ordinance re-organizing the Department of the Board of Health, and it has agreed to by a vote of 46 to 20.

CONSIDERATION OF THE ORDINANCE.

The Clerk then read the ordinance to reorganize the Board of Health. It provides that the Board of Health, as at present organized, be abolished. At the stated meeting of Councils, which shall be held next after the passage of the ordinance, three citizens of Philadelphia shall be elected by each Council, one of whom shall be elected by the members of each Council to serve for one year, one for two years, and one for three years, and the persons so elected, and their successors, shall thenceforth constitute the Board of Health of Philadelphia, and shall possess all the powers, and perform all the duties now conferred or enjoined by law on the said Board of Health, and shall serve without compensation. The terms of service of the persons to be elected by the present Councils shall, immediately after their election, be determined by themselves by lot.

At the first