City Councils.—The usual meetings were held yesterday afternoon.

A petition was received from owners of property in that vicinity, for the opening of Seventeenth street, between Carpenter and Pine.

Also, from citizens of Nineteen—Sixth Fire District—asking that five hundred feet of hose may be donated to the Nineteen Hose Company, the present supply being wholly inadequate for their necessities.

Also, one from citizens of the Eleventh and Twelfth wards, asking for a consolidation of their gas works, to cheapen the price to the Northern Liberties Gas Company twenty per cent. more than is charged at the Philadelphia Gas Works.

A communication was received from citizens of the Northern Liberties in the same effect.

Mr. Marseille presented an ordinance, and ordinance appropriating for the support of Girard College, the sum of $39,289. The ordinance was read, and on motion, laid over to be printed.

Mr. Taylor, from the Committee on Schools, reported a resolution for the transfer of certain items of appropriation to the Clerks of Councils. It was agreed to.

A communication was received from the Mayor, notifying the President that he had affixed his signature to sundry bills.

Also, one from Richard Finch, president of the Manayunk Fair Company, asking that the bell recommended by the Chief Engineer for the Fourth fire district be placed upon their engine house, which they also offer to place a telegraph and alarm station for the Fourth district. Referred to Committee on Trusts and Fire Department.

Mr. Roberts read in place a bill extending the time for receiving plans and estimates for a bridge over the Schuylkill to January 20, 1858. The bill was agreed to.

Mr. Taylor presented a report from the Committee on Schools, recommending the adoption of an ordinance releasing certain property from existing leases and mortgages.

Mr. Bowman offered the following:

Resolved, That a joint special committee, to consist of three members from each chamber, be appointed to examine and report in relation to the expenditure of the Board, on Seventh street, Poor, as well as the receipts of the said Board; and, to enable them to make such examination in a satisfactory manner, the accounts are hereby required to be read for perusal and papers, and to have the witnesses who may be called to testify, sworn or affirmed.

The resolution was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Taylor, from the Committee on City Property, the resolutions relative to the construction of new public buildings, introduced by him at the first meeting, and which were to have been made the special order for the present one, were called up for discussion.

Mr. Taylor said that he considered it but duty to array himself against the resolutions. He was the more regretful in the matter as he felt satisfied that a majority of the members would decline to do their duty. Such buildings, however, he considered necessary and highly desirable. Had the city of Philadelphia possessed the means to build them, he had determined to oppose the grant of money, for such a purpose at the present time. The taxes were already too high, and should be reduced instead of being increased; and until the former was done he should oppose the erection of any new buildings unless actually indispensable.

Mr. Carpenter said that he did not think any argument was required, to illustrate the necessity of these buildings. He had no fear of dealing upon the subject, except that in consequence of others he felt that there was a heavy responsibility incumbent upon Councils in regard to the matter, should a fire occur in the present buildings, and destroy the valuable records deposited there. The city now pays $16,500 per annum in rental for the Girard Bank and other buildings. This would at any rate be saved. Mr. Taylor said he felt that he had done his duty as the matter as a member of Council, in reporting the resolutions. The responsibility of their defeat would rest not upon him, but upon his colleagues.

Mr. Nathans thought it desirable to build, but was in favor of waiting until the rate of taxation was fixed for the year 1858. He moved to postpone the further consideration of the subject until the second week in January. He was in favor of the resolutions, but at present did not think it expedient to erect more than one wing of the building.

Mr. Cuyler reprehended the motion of Mr. Nathans. He saw no reason why a postponement could make any difference, as they were merely resolutions of inquiry. The resolution called only for plans, and as this would occupy time, the other matters could be considered at a future day.

After much talk, but of short debate, the motion of Mr. Nathans was agreed to. The resolutions accordingly plant over for the special order of the meeting on the second week in January.

The Chairman then announced as the committee to inquire into the transactions of the Guardians of the Poor, Messrs. Common, Bradford and Benson.

A communication asking that Councils appropriate 505 feet of hose to the Nicetown Hose Company, was read and referred to the Committee on Trusts and Fire Departments.

Communications asking for the payment of a bill appropriating $150 to the Fairmount Engine, $150 to Fairmount Hose, $150 Independence Engine, $400 Western Engine, $150; and the Pennsylvania Hose, $150, were read and referred to the same committee.

A large number of unimportant petitions were read and referred to their appropriate committees, signed by residents of the Eleventh ward.

Mr. Stevenson presented a petition, asking for an appropriation of the piece of gas. Referred to the Committee on Gas Works.

Several petitions from the citizens of different wards, asking for a consolidation of the various gas works, were presented and referred to the same committee.

The Committee on Finance reported an ordinance making an appropriation to the Department of Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, which was ordered to be printed for the use of members.

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A message was received from Mayor Vaux, notifying the Councils that he had signed, and approved certain ordinances and resolutions.

Mr. Dreer offered a resolution to send the orders of the day, and the consideration of the appropriation bills reported by the Committee on Finance, to the table.

Resolutions on the points agreed.

The Chamber then resumed the consideration of bill *No. 52 on Common Council file*, making an appropriation of $500 for the treasurer of the Department for the Year 1858. The question was on the amendment of Mr. Haines, of the Eleventh Ward, which provides that no policeman be paid unless he has been previously confirmed by Select Council, and dispenses with the "docking system" in cases of petty offences.

Mr. Holland, of the Eighteenth ward, in a speech of much force, strongly opposed the amendment. The Eighteenth ward, in fact would be disfranchised by the adoption of the amendment. The police force is kept up by the citizens of the whole county of the city. In reply to a question of Mr. King, he disclaimed speaking under the authority of the Mayor, but said that the executive officers of this municipality should be allowed a full and free exercise of all the powers vested in him by the Act of Consolidation. The Chief Engineer, the Controller of the Board of Health, the police department, &c., is responsible for the peace of the city, would be found to operate most powerfully against the ability of the entire Legislature of the State to control the city.

Mr. Gerrard said there could be no doubt that the appropriation was the amount of her necessary expenses for the next month. He would be glad to see the Mayor present, and would vote for the bill.

Mr. A. Miller seconded striking out the words "condemned by," &c.

Mr. Kingston spoke briefly, he might be misunderstood, but he was not ashamed to speak [illegible]

Mr. King moved the previous question.

The previous question was then put, and sustained by the following vote:

AFFIRMATIVE—Messrs. Bowman, Brown, Carpenter, Cuyler, Dreer, Ellis, Fox, Gerrard, Haines, Hall, Holland, Kingston, King, Lennox, Marseille, Miller, Nathans, Roberts, Stevenson, Taylor, Thomas, Wagner, Wilson, Wood—24.

NEGATIVE—Messrs. Bradford, Common, Dougherty, Hamilton, Hutchinson, Lex, Lewis, Mann, Mellon, Moore, Rowan, Shaw, Smith, Stokley, Thompson, Wright—17.

The question was then taken on striking out the words "condemned by," &c., and agreed to.

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