The Press.

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 1859.

THE WEEKLY PRESS.

For next Saturday, is now out. The contents of this excellent sheet of a varied character, besides the usual attractive matter, contains the latest FOREIGN NEWS, with a comprehensive and intelligent view in regard to the WAR IN EUROPE. Editorials on the popular topics of the day, Commercial and Foreign Markets, &c. Read the list of

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THE WEEKLY PRESS is furnished to subscribers at $2 per year, in advance, for the single copy, and clubs of twenty, when sent to one address, $20, in advance. Single copies for sale at the counter of The Press office, in wrapers, ready for mailing.

FIRST PAGE.—The Palmyrene Military—No. 4, Stroll through Laurel Hill—No. 5—A Plea from only one portion of the Bible; Chow Mai Correspondence; Further News from Europe; Extraordinary attempt at Assassination; Fourth Page—Private History of Louis Napoleon to his Mother while at American Exile; Marine Intelligence.

The News.

By the arrival of the Etna, at New York, we have at length received the official sketches of the battle of Solferino, but no actual return of the number of killed and wounded. The French loss is estimated at from 16,000 to 18,000 men, and the Austrians acknowledge that their loss is at least 20,000. It is said that the advance of the Austrian army, to the right bank of the Mincio, was ordered by Francis Joseph, against the advice of Baron Hess. One of the newspapers correspondents who visited the battle-field at Magenta, says that during the progress of that battle General Gyulai, then the Austrian commander-in-chief, was greatly excited and confused, and that Hess, looking quietly on, appeared to enjoy his confusion, and to consider his difficulties a natural result of his mismanagement. A similar feeling probably animated him after the battle of Solferino. If, the report alluded to above, is true, the Hungarian and Italian troops of Austria, it appears, have become altogether unreliable, and will no longer be thrust forward to fight for a cause with which they have no sympathy. The Austrian troops, evidently fought with great bravery at Solferino, and if their generals had better understood their duties, the result of the battle might have been changed.

A telegraphic despatch from Stockville, New Brunswick, furnishes us with the very latest news received by the Canada. It appears that the whole Piedmont army has crossed the Mincio. The Austrians have invested Peschiera, and since Prince Napoleon has reinforced the Emperor with his corps of 35,000 men, the latter has determined to attack Verona. According to the *Monitour* the force of the Austrians at the battle of Solferino consisted from 250,000 to 270,000 men, and the French had 120 officers and 12,000 privates placed hors de combat. The Austrian *Correspondence* say, as far as has yet been ascertained, the Austrians had 1500 men killed and 100 wounded, but the full return will doubtless show their loss to have been much greater.

The Tammany Hall General Committee met in full numbers on Tuesday evening, Isaac V. Fowler in the chair. Resolutions of considerable length were presented in regard to the question of the rights of naturalized citizens when abroad. The chairman informed the reporters that it would be impossible to give the press a copy of the resolutions until yesterday, as they were to be plainly and correctly written before published. The resolutions uphold the right of expatriation, and contend that the Government has power to protect all citizens when abroad, General Cass to the contrary notwithstanding.

The Paterson *Guardian* says that on Saturday afternoon Henry Hopper, Walter Hoxey, Andrew Snyder, and Samuel Ensign, four young men, having agreed upon a swim, started for the little pool beck of Ryle's silk mill to take a wash, and selected the very waters for a bath from which a corpse had been taken in the morning, and after divesting themselves of their ordinary clothing in the cleft of the rock, and donning their overalls or swimming clothes, walked down to the bottom of this ravine and swam about in the deep water of the basin. Actly crossing over the two large broken rocks which obstruct the narrow passage, and swimming out toward and under the bridge. After playing about the pool for a quarter or half hour, young Hopper observed that Ensign was not a good swimmer, and that the rest were pushing each other off from a rock, they must not push of Ensign. Young Hoxey remarked, "If Ensign is not a good swimmer this is no place for him." The latter remarked that he "was going out anyhow," and with that evident intent swam to the intercepting of two large rocks nearer the falls, and crawling over was out of the sight of the rest. A few moments afterwards one of the boys went up on the "Two Rocks," and saw Ensign sitting on the ledge at the bottom of the footpath, washing his feet preparatory to going out. Ensign, standing up, exhibited a little sight of his b—, and found, and raised his arm as if to throw the fish. The other boy at this moment dived off again towards the bridge, and this was the last seen of Ensign alive. It is probable that the impetus of throwing the fish caused him to lose his foothold and fall with great force on the sharp ledge, as, when found, he had a hole cut in his left temple; no doubt from the force of the fall. His temple was crushed in the vicinity of the eye. After great difficulty his body was recovered on Sunday afternoon. The *Guardian* details the loss of thirteen persons, mostly good swimmers, who have been drowned in the Basin, and then says:—"Numerous other accidents have occurred in and about the Basin, and many other lives have been lost by accidents in the vicinity, a fuller account of which it is to be found in the new edition of the 'Guide to Passaic Falls.'"

A young man, named Abraham Hunter, was sent to Delaware, yesterday afternoon to answer the charge of having murdered a man named Dean, on Monday last.

The Fourth and Eighth-streets Railway Company expect to commence operations to-day.

Another shocking murder occurred at South Baltimore on Tuesday night.

The Apache Indians have recently stopped and robbed the overland mail coach, near Tucson.

The trial of William Murphy, for killing George Neal, was continued in the Court of Over and Terminer yesterday.

California.

We learn, by our California exchanges, that a recent census of San Francisco, made by parties engaged in compiling a Directory, shows that city to contain a population of 78,000, of whom 36,890 were white males over twenty-one years of age, and 14,696 were white females over eighteen years of age. The Chinese population of the city was 3,150, and the colored population 1,605. Ten years ago it was comparatively a mere village, and although it has six times, in its brief but eventful history, been almost entirely destroyed by fire, scarcely any other city in any other age or country has grown with such remarkable rapidity.

☞ The New York *Herald*, of yesterday, announces that the Democracy of Tammany Hall have denounced General Cass on account of his LeGlerc letter denying the protection of the Government to naturalized citizens.

The Volante boat club of Yale College are training for their boat race with the college regatta at Worcester, on the 26th. Its dimensions are to be forty-six feet long, by two and a half wide, and eight inches deep. It will weigh about as much, probably, as a racing sole of the same length might be supposed to. With this boat the Volante boys hope to beat the crews.

The Politics of California and Oregon.

The disastrous influence exercised upon the Democratic party by the policy of the National Administration is not confined to the Eastern, Middle, and Western States. The union and harmony of the party has also been entirely destroyed in California and Oregon, and the Democracy of the Pacific States are divided into two sections, one of which adheres to the true principles of the party, founded upon the rock of self government, and laid down in the Cincinnati platform, while the other clings to the waning fortunes of the perverts of those principles, and the faithless officials who have sought to enforce, under the shield of Democracy, doctrines so tyrannical and unjust that ancient Federalism would have blushed to advocate them.

In California, the separation is formal and complete. The anti-Lecompton Democracy held a Convention at Sacramento on the 15th of June, in which every portion of the State was fully represented, and it is evident that the organization they have formed is a vigorous and formidable one. It adopted resolutions reaffirming the Cincinnati platform; asserting the right of the people of the Territories to legislate or omit to legislate upon the subject of slavery as well as upon other matters of State policy, according to their own will; *denouncing the Administration of James Buchanan, for its outrages on the rights of the people of Kansas—its unrelenting proscription of tried and worthy Democrats, for the offence of adhering to Democratic principles—its constant violation of the pledges which brought it into life—its attempts to render the Legislative subject to the Executive Department—and its gross extravagance, mismanagement, and corruption*; in favor of the Pacific Railroad, and the support and increase of the overland mail service; the remodelling and reform of the State judiciary, and the enactment of a law to protect *bona fide* settlers on the public lands in their just rights. The closing resolution of the series was as follows:

Resolved, That when this Convention adjourns, its members adjourn to meet as citizens at the polls in the idea, of September, and that by our votes and our voices there we show to the world that the freemen of California are unbought by Federal patronage and unawed by Federal power, and will stand by the sacred principles of Democracy in defiance of treachery, Presidents and their Cabinets.

A full ticket was nominated, and there is a fair prospect of its election. The nominees are as follows:

Governor.—Judge John Curry, of Benicia.

Lieutenant Governor.—John Conness, of El Dorado.

Congress—J. C. McKibbin, from the Northern District, and Samuel H. Booker, from the Southern District.

Judge of the Supreme Court—Reg. J. Sprague

Clerk of the Supreme Court.—Dr. Powell, of Sacramento.

Superintendent of Public Instruction—A. H. Myers, of Alameda.

Surveyor General.—James Long, of Butte county.

It will be seen that Hon. J. C. McKibbin, who stood up with undaunted gallantry and determination in defence of the doctrine of Popular Sovereignty during the struggle on the Lecompton Constitution, has been renominated for Congress, and we trust that every voter in California, who approves his upright course during that controversy, will vote for him at the coming election. Although the desire of many anti-Lecompton Democrats and Republicans to unite upon a common ticket against the Administration nominees has not been gratified by the Conventions of the two parties, (which have nominated entirely distinct tickets,) we earnestly hope that Mr. McKibbin will be sustained with cordial unanimity by all Californians who wish to reward the devotion of an honest, fearless, and able Representative.

The day fixed for the meeting of the Administration State Convention was Wednesday, June 22—two days after the steamer Sonora sailed from San Francisco. A warm contest for the Gubernatorial nomination was expected. As far as heard from, the delegates were supposed to stand as follows: For Latham, 84; Weller, 76; Denver, 26; Nugent, 24; doubtful, 31. Even in the primary assemblages of this Administration party the national officials suffered several severe defeats. In San Francisco, for instance, nearly all the delegates elected were in favor of the nomination of Nugent, notwithstanding the fact that he was bitterly opposed by the custom house and post office influence of the city.

Thus it will be seen that, notwithstanding the lavish expenditure of money in California by the National Administration, and the immense patronage it possesses there, its influence over the Democracy of the State has been almost entirely destroyed by its shameless desertion of principle.

In Oregon, a somewhat similar state of affairs exists. A short time since the proper period arrived for the election of a United States Senator, in place of Delazon Smith, the colleague of the redoubtable Gen. Lane, who is one of the chosen favorites and staunchest supporters of the National Administration. Gen. Lane was extremely anxious that Smith should be re-elected, and he obtained the nomination of the Democratic legislative caucus by a vote of 22 to 21. In the Legislature, however, there were seven Republicans, and through their co-operation with the Democrats hostile to the election of Smith, the Senatorial election was postponed. In 1860, Lane's term as Senator will also expire, and from present appearances the two new Senators of the State will be an anti-Lecompton Democrat and a Republican. Buchananism is as obnoxious to the people of Oregon as to the citizens of any other State, and the influence of Gen. Lane has been almost entirely destroyed by his eagerness to prostrate himself at the feet of power, and to misrepresent the sentiments of his constituents on the great Territorial question.

The Doctrine of Perpetual Allegiance.

The doctrine of perpetual allegiance, which has been virtually adopted by the National Administration, meets with little favor from the Democracy of the country. Even Tammany Hall has formally condemned it, and we cannot doubt for a moment that it will be repudiated by the Democracy of the nation, as utterly unworthy of our country, and of this enlightened age. Some of the most illiberal Governments of the world have already repudiated it as untenable, and it will be seen, by the following communication from the New York *Evening Post*, that the small German Powers acknowledge its illegality:

To the Editors of the Evening Post: Much has been said of late concerning the European laws regulating the duty of subjects to bear arms, and our Government has given over our adopted citizens to the tender mercies of European drill-sergeants. I believe all this noise about laws of nations, as adopted in Europe, is not applicable to the question, for even the most insignificant of the small German Powers virtually acknowledge the principle, Mr. Cass repudiates. It is held by them, whenever they adopt a citizen *of subject of theirs*, that they are, after a certain time, obliged to protect the individual, now one of their citizens, against the claim of doing military duty in another German State. This is the doctrine; but, to prevent coming in conflict on the mooted subject with other Powers, they require, (by admitting any person to become a citizen, proofs of his intention to be a bona fide citizen of the place, or is exempt by his native Government from military service. If these proofs are not satisfactory on the point, his citizen's papers are not granted. This is honest and fair. They will not admit to citizenship those owing fealty or service to another Government, and thereby assuming the duty of protecting the new-made citizen against the claim of another Government. We invite foreigners to become citizens, and to do this oblige them to forswear and renounce their former fealty to their native country. If Mr. Cass is right in his opinions, then Congress should pass an act altering the naturalization form, so as to read, renouncing, etc., all allegiance *except* to the king or prince under whose dominion they were born; for it is now held that this allegiance cannot be shaken off, and as soon as an adopted citizen comes within reach of his former sovereign he may, even with a United States passport in his pockets, be forced to bear arms for the sovereign he has been obliged to renounce.

Have Mr. Cass and his advocates duly reflected where these opinions in this matter will lead? If ever we engage in a war with a European Power, adopted citizens serving in our army would and could, if made prisoners of war, be tried as traitors by a court martial, and put to death, as having fought against the Government to whom they owed military service.

Truly, delivering over adopted citizens who try to fight for the United States to a traitor's doom is a precious Democratic doctrine, now promulgated by the successors of an Administration blazing forth to the world "that every American citizen should stand proudly erect before princes and potentates." But even that Administration did not assert what is preached for the State Department under Pierce took the same view of the question as Mr. Cass, leaving their agents abroad to be guided by Mr. Everett's circular. This document conceded just what Mr. Cass now does; but Secretary Marcy did not deem it advisable to instruct officials on the subject; the only left Mr. Everett's instructions in force. I will, if you permit me in my next communication prove that Mr. Marcy virtually repudiated his renowned Koszta letter, and in similar cases refused to interfere. All the efforts of our Government to protect adopted citizens in Europe took to me as spasmodic effusions, made only for political effect, and therefore no guide for officials or adopted citizens while abroad.

I remain, gentlemen, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. Brosnanne,

Formerly United States Consul at Hamburg.

Union, New Jersey, June 11, 1859.

The High School Commencement.

In Philadelphia we have annually-recurring celebrations, parades, and exhibitions, which excite more or less attention, and, to a certain extent, are each productive of more or less beneficial results; but we think none of them affect us as a civilized and progressive community so profoundly, or present a spectacle of greater moral grandeur, than the Commencement of the Central High School, which takes place to-day, at the Academy of Music. It is the "People's College," and stands at the head of the immense and perfectly-organized school-system of Pennsylvania. In operation a little over fifteen years, it has won for itself a reputation throughout America like that which the High School of Edinburgh enjoys in the English Kingdom. Its graduates occupy positions of high honor and trust, requiring capacity and knowledge, in almost every section of the United States. They are to be found in all of the learned professions—in scientific pursuits, as officers of the coast survey, as ministers and missionaries, in the army and navy, as machinists and ship-builders, in politics, as journalists, as merchants of Asia and China, handling the commerce of the world,—indeed, wherever enterprise, and energy, and education were welcomed, they have gone, and have deservedly taken high rank. All this, to be sure, is matter of commendation for Philadelphia, and it must not be forgotten that, next to the profuse liberality of the public, we are indebted for this source of self-gratulation to the careful vigilance and energetic management of Bache, and Hart, and Maguire. There may have been points of dispute, engendering acrimonious feeling between scholars and professors, and between both and the controllers; but the High School has, nevertheless, gone on prospering and increasing in usefulness. Grammar schools are scattered thickly throughout the length and breadth of Philadelphia county, and as the number of candidates compared with the number of those to be admitted is large, it follows that the consequent rivalry between the schools and the accompanying hard study secures for the High School the picked boys of each neighborhood. This is another fact which accounts for the general high character of High School students.

It is well that every attention should be given to the condition of the High School; for whether Philadelphia is to be superior for her commerce or her manufactures, whether she is to be the seat of learning and of the arts, or the thriving home of mechanical industry, or for all of these, depends upon the education of the young men that are growing up in her midst; and these commencements are the reports to the public of the profits with which its bounty has been expended. It is a proud reflection that so far this duty to ourselves has been pretty faithfully discharged. Yet, while the past is secure in its good fruits, we ought not to forget the demands of the present. If there be anything wanting, by reason of increasing population or the higher standard of learning in the world, it should be supplied at once, so that the efficiency and pre-eminence of the High School may not pass away. It is to be feared that the willingness on the part of the public to devote funds to that end may urge speculators to get the control of the school, in order that, through both contracts and otherwise, they may put money in their purses. We do not say that this is so now, but it is not impossible to occur. When it does occur we hope there are none who will not join to crush such attempts in their birth.

The relations between professors and scholars should not be that of arrogant superiority, as in the past it has sometimes been, but that of gentlemen in association with gentlemen. High School scholars are proud of the honors gained in severe preliminary examinations. They have advanced through all the grades of the lower schools over competition and by dint of natural abilities and hard study, and they are entitled to respect. If they are treated as mere boys it is not likely that the professors will get all the deference they are entitled to. This is not so now, and we are happy to learn that the *esprit de corps* of the High School scholars has been much cultivated of late.

We have thrown out these reflections at this time because we thought it was opportune, and also out of a loving regard for the continued prosperity of a worthy institution.

Foreign News.

From Europe, by the *Æina*, which left Liverpool on the 2nd inst., we have the details of news previously received, by telegram, from Halifax, as brought by the *Canada*. These particulars confirm the previously reported results of the great Battle of Solferino.

No doubt that contest was a very sanguinary one. No doubt, that the Allied forces of France and Sardinia achieved a great triumph. The Austrian army, crossing the Mincio, made the attack. The Allied troops met, repulsed, and defeated it. After a prolonged engagement, the Austrian reserve—an army in itself of 80,000 men—made what was hoped to be a final and invincible attack. Just so, at Waterloo, the picked troops of the elder Napoleon mustered their energies, at the last hour, to meet the foe. Just so, too, this reserve was met, in smaller numerical force, by the opposing army. The result was the same—the party which resisted the shock gained the victory.

The belligerents, on both sides, fought with extraordinary valor. The French and Sardinians lost from 16,000 to 18,000 men, and the Austrian troops have probably suffered yet more severely. After battling from the morning to the set of sun, and even later, the Austrians re-crossed the Mincio. In other words, they fled, leaving the prolonged line of battle-field in occupation of the Allies. View it how we may, the Austrians were well beaten. Since then, they had retired yet farther back, and were unable to prevent the Allies from following them, a few days later.

The severe losses sustained by the Allies, albeit they were conquerors, prevented the pursuit which would have gone far to annihilate the Austrian army. But whoever blames the Allies for not making that pursuit, evidently has not seriously estimated the difficulties of doing so. Be it borne in mind, that the conquerors had actually been over sixteen hours without food, or refreshment of any sort, and must have therefore been physically unable to press on in pursuit of the beaten foe. The French army alone lost from sixteen to eighteen thousand men. What the Piedmontese loss was has not been ascertained, but, proportionally, Victor Emmanuel lost as many men as Napoleon did—the Turin bulletins indicate a greater loss.

Step by step, the Austrians have since retreated. Step by step, the Allies have since advanced. The last account is that Peschiera, a great Austrian fortress, had been invested by the Sardinians.

Another great battle is probably impending. The Emperor of Austria, a young man who is really as much "a feather-bed soldier" as Prince Albert, of England, is said to have insisted on crossing the Mincio, to attack the Allies, contrary to the remonstrance of Hess, the Generalissimo. Obstinacy is the characteristic of Austrian princes, and Francis Joseph will therefore press on—to be again defeated. Another battle will probably result in another Austrian defeat, after which, in all probability, negotiations for peace will commence. Napoleon will greatly disappoint public expectation if he consent to any terms less than the total expulsion of Austrian power and Austrian influence from Italy. He is bound to carry *that* point, or meet with the contempt of Europe and the disaffection of France. Indeed, he *must* achieve this result, or his waste of French blood and French treasure will have been all in vain. As the cards now lie, a general European war is scarcely to be anticipated.

☞ The following, from the New York *Times* of yesterday, seems to be a full confirmation of the assertion of the *Tribune* of Tuesday:

"One of our contemporaries has been at the trouble of sending to Washington for intelligence of the reconciliation of Mr. Sickles with his wife, and has ascertained, what we believe to be the truth, that the most resolute of avengers has approved himself also the most relenting of husbands, and is now living once more with the victim of the late Philip Barton Key. This, of course, is a purely personal and private matter, with which the public have nothing to do. But it is due to the leading personal and political friends of Mr. Sickles, who honestly believed him to be a man maddened by intolerable wrong, and in that belief interposed their influence between himself and the hasty rage of public feeling at the time of his trial at Washington, that they should not be made responsible, as by the journal in question they are, for a step taken entirely on the impulse of Mr. Sickles himself, without their knowledge, and in the face of their positive remonstrance and disapproval."

The Route of the Fifth and Sixth-Streets Passenger Railway.

ANNALS OF THE CITY POLICE.

From the municipal history of our city we turn to the annals of its police. The subject to which our attention is now to be directed is not a pleasing one. It is sad to think how early in the history of the City of Brotherly Love, among a people whose aim was to live in peace, and among whom the name of Friend was generally an index of the character of the bearer of it, the officers of the law were compelled to become a terror to evil-doers. When Columbus, to gain recruits for the New World, was compelled to take convicts from prison, the very dregs of society, we cannot wonder that riot and disorder was rampant almost at once. But Philadelphia was no exception to the general rule that in all collections of people there will be crime. Some came to this new country to be at peace, others to avoid tyranny, others to get free from necessary and wholesome restraint. For the first year or two the Governor and his Council acted as judges in all matters. One of the earliest cases brought before them, October 24th, 1683, was for putting away bad money, (i. e. counterfeiting.)

The first mention we have found of a "watch" in the city of Philadelphia, is the complaint of Capt. Geo. Loather and Thos. Clark to the Governor and Council of Pennsylvania, dated 11th 5th mo., (July,*) 1704, stating—"That upon the publishing of the late Commission to the officers of the Militia, expectation was given by the Governor's orders to all such as should enlist themselves, they should be exempted from watch and ward. But that at the last Mayor's Court, held for the city of Philadelphia, the constables, according to orders given them, had returned the names of such persons as upon the aforesaid encouragement had declined watching." October 3d, the Mayor and Aldermen of the city remonstrated "that many of the good people of this city, much discouraged by ye Govrs giving out a proclamation exempting all that would list themselves in the militia from wateching in their turns, contrary to ye warrt given forth by the Mayor, for ye safety of the place." This proclamation of the Governor was dated July 18th, 1704. The Governor's reasons for issuing it were, as he stated, that it was more important to serve in the militia than to watch; a great part would not serve as soldiers, and it did not seem fitting that a double duty should be imposed on such as would.

December 1st, 1704, the minutes of Council record, "It is ordered that the Inhabitants of this City be divided into ten pts (*parts*) and each Constable bring in a number to have an equal number assigned to serve upon the Watch; and that nine prsns (*persons*) beside the Constable Attend the Watch each night, and at the same meeting a Watch house was ordered to be built in the market place 16 foot long and 14 Wide.'" In two months, the city having been divided into the ten wards, the Recorder and Alderman Story were appointed to draw up an ordinance for the regulation of the watch, and on the 14th of August, 1705, not nine months after, the "Ordinance Intituled an act for the better ordering and Establishment of the Night Watches within the City of Philadelphia and precincts thereof," was passed by the City Council. This, as shown in minutes of the Provincial Council, *August 24th, 1705, required all persons, without* exception, to watch. The Governor thought this was setting his proclamation at defiance; but the Mayor explained to him "that they could not conveniently insert in their ordinance any exception of the militia," but promised him that they would not punish any militia man for not serving. The fact seems to be that as magistrates of the Quaker City they were unwilling to recognise the soldiery *officially*. In November, 1704, several young gentlemen, one of them William Penn, Jr., "kicked up a row," beat the watch, &c. They appealed against the Mayor, Recorder, and an alderman, who had interfered to defend the peace, to the Governor and Council. But they, after inquiring into the circumstances of the case, upheld the city authorities. The whole affair created quite a sensation. The proprietor had little reason to be proud of his first-born. The grand jury, at the beginning of the year 1742, presented the watch of the city, declaring that it was expensive and unjust (since the poorer part of the people who could ill afford it had to pay as much as the rich in fines for non-performance, incidental expenses, &c.) It was thought that a less amount of money than was then expended would build a convenient watch-house and support a regular watch, "who would go their hourly rounds in every ward during the whole night, and be a much better security to the city."

The powers of the Mayor and Council were too restricted to act efficiently in this matter; they therefore, in August, 1743, laid before the Assembly a bill for regulating it. The consideration of this was put off from time to time; so that, in 1749, the city authorities presented a memorial to the Assembly, stating that up to that time nothing had been done, and the inconveniences of the old system were yearly growing more intolerable. They requested, therefore, prompt action to be taken in the premises. As the city government had opposed the militia of a former Governor, so the present incumbent seemed disposed to thwart the city in this matter, and it was not adopted until February 9, 1750.

The first step, as we have seen, for organizing a police force took *eight months*; the second, more than a century afterwards, occupied *eight years*. How many years should we, then, a century later, take in discussing a subject so weighty? We mentioned this law in our article last Monday, alluding to the wardens. The particular duty of those officers was to appoint watchmen, and see to the payment of their salaries, &c. These watchmen were to have regular beats, which they were to guard from the 10th of March to the 10th of September, from 10 P. M. to 4 A. M.; the remainder of the year from 9 P. M. to 6 A. M. One or more of the constables was to be on duty for the same time, and go the rounds at least once a night to see that all was right. This law, passed at various dates, with a limitation of time for five years, &c., was made perpetual April 6th, 1776, the day of the enactment of the last law of the proprietary government.

When the city received its new charter, in 1789, the duties of the wardens were transferred to the new corporation, and since then the police of the city have been in immediate connection with the Mayor and Councils. The particulars of this relation have been different at various times. Stephen Girard directed in his will that a part of the income arising from his estate should be applied "To enable the corporation of the city of Philadelphia to provide more effectually than they now do for the security of the persons and property of the inhabitants of the said city by a competent police, including a sufficient number of watchmen really suited to the purpose, and to this end I recommend a division of the city into watch-districts, or four parts, each under a proper head, and that at least two watchmen shall, in each round or station, patrol together."

The anomalous condition of the city of Philadelphia previous to consolidation interfered greatly with the prompt administration of justice. In such cases, for instance, as sudden riots, the offenders could and would often cross the arbitrary line dividing the city from the districts, and set the authority of the police at defiance. In the same way the watch of each district had no power to act across the line of the district to which they belonged. To remedy the difficulty, in 1850 the city of Philadelphia and the districts of Southwark, Moyamensing, Spring Garden, Penn Township, the incorporated Northern Liberties, and Kensington, were by the Legislature consolidated (for police purposes) into the Philadelphia police district. This force, which was supplemental to the police of the city and districts, was made the charge of a Marshal of Police. They had power to act in any part of the so-consolidated district, and acted with great efficiency, making in a little less than a year from their organization, Nov. 21st, 1850, more than 12,000 arrests.

THE MARKETS.

When the act of consolidation of the whole city and districts passed, February 2d, 1855, the duties of the Marshal of Police were changed, he becoming, *to some extent*, a subordinate of the Mayor. Two years later the office was done away with, and his functions were transferred to the Mayor and the Chief of Police, the Mayor at the same time ceasing to be a committing magistrate, and acting only in an executive capacity. There are now on duty in the consolidated city about six hundred and fifty men, quite too few for the large extent to be guarded.

We may wonder that, under the circumstances, their duties are so fully discharged as they are. There are three or four points in this connection to which we would beg in closing to direct the attention of our readers. The Detective Police should be perhaps the most important branch of the department. But it has to work its way under difficulties which are very harassing. It has no proper head or organization; consequently, a unity of action is not to be expected. Of the few men serving in this way, three are constables, who in this way are taken from the more direct duties of their office. The proper facilities have not as yet been afforded them. Their quarters are low and contracted, and the pay afforded them quite too little for the skill, as well as industry and untiring energy, demanded. We understand that to-day there is a proposition before Councils for fixing the Detective Police upon a definite footing, and trust that the wisdom of our city fathers will order these things in a fitting manner. Certainty and promptness of punishment is a much greater preventive of crime than severity. Not only is the offender emboldened, but others are incited to break the laws by a single undetected crime.

Perhaps you have wondered, when you met poor homeless wretches in the streets, in a cold winter night, why they did not seek refuge in a station-house. Step down into the basement of the Mayor's office, the Central Police Station. You will not need to enter the cells before you are almost overpowered by the stench, and suffocated by the damp miasma. Is it right to put our criminals in such a place? How much worse, then, to bring here those under suspicion who may, and often are, innocent of crime?

The fire-detective branch, under High Constable Blackburn, has done wonders in preventing incendiarism, and even guarding against what are called "accidental fires." Of the Police and Fire Alarm Telegraph, the first official message ever which was transmitted April 19th, 1856, it is hardly necessary to speak. Its benefits are too self-evident. It adds very much to the efficiency of our whole police. In 1857 3,440 lost children were by it restored to their parents. It has prevented to a great extent the evils attending on false alarms of fire, which used to be so prevalent, and at the same time quickly and surely gives notice of real danger.

BY MIDNIGHT MAIL.

Letter from "Occasional."

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, July 13, 1859.

When will the Charleston Convention be held? A meeting of the Democratic National Committee has been called for the 7th of December next, to fix the time for holding this Convention. I have repeatedly asserted in this correspondence that there are many difficulties in the way of this important meeting of the Democratic party, and in conversation with strangers from different parts of the country, I can see that the apprehensions there expressed are pretty generally entertained by others. Charleston, during May and June, is intensely hot, and frequently fatally unhealthy. It is proposed, in order to avoid the risk attendant upon holding the sessions of the Convention in the midst of an unhealthy climate, to hold it very early in 1860, and I notice that, in some quarters, March and April are suggested. There are many objections to this, for although the Democrats are not in the habit of awaiting the movements of their adversaries, they should at any rate be able to profit by developments, and all experience teaches that a long campaign never ends well. The idea, for instance, of placing our candidates before the people in March; and being compelled to struggle until November, is by no means agreeable. It may be necessary, on reviewing the ground, for the committee to fix another place for holding the National Convention.

The Administration seems to have made up its mind at last that the letter of General Cass on the naturalization question was a fatal blunder. All the political conventions of the day are taking ground against it; and, what is worse than all, there is some apprehension entertained that Tammany Hall, in New York city, will follow suit on the same side.

Hon T. A. Hendricks, Commissioner of the Land Office, is a candidate for Governor of Indiana, and is opposed by Mr. Dunham, formerly a member of Congress from the same State. Mr. Hendricks intends starting for home in a few days, to make a canvass for the nomination. It is charged by certain of the dependents of power here that he has strong Douglas proclivities.

Judge Douglas is now in this city preparing another manifesto on the Territorial question, which, it is said, will shortly see the light of day, and will be far ahead of anything that has yet emanated from his prolific brain. It is said that Judge Douglas will be compelled to remain in or about Washington during the summer, on account of the delicate health of his accomplished lady.

The news of the reconciliation between Mr. and Mrs. Sickles has created, as you may well suppose, intense excitement in this city. I forbear comments upon this event, which seems to have taken all parties by surprise. OCCASIONAL.

Letter from New York.

THE NEW YORK DELEGATION TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION: FORTY PRESSES FOR THE DISTRICT SYSTEM—NEW YORK CENTRAL RAILROAD EARNINGS FOR JUNE: REDUCED DIVIDEND—SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FIRE MARSHAL—THE WEATHER.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

NEW YORK, July 13, 1859.

The *Daily News*, which warmly opposes the appointment of delegates to the National Democratic Convention by the September State Convention, and advocates a choice by Congressional districts, as in 1854, publishes a list of forty-seven Democratic papers in this State in favor of the district system, and asks if there is a political interest in the State which dares to ignore such evidences of public opinion? Probably there is The Softs, who have on their side the power of numbers, maintain that if a majority of the delegates are elected to the State Convention in the usual way, and under such a call from the State Committee as includes a delegation to Charleston, that the mino ity are, as party men, bound to submit; and, claiming this to be right, they will unquestionably make up the delegation. The chairman of the State Committee, Dean Richmond, arrived in town yesterday but whether he was called here by the business affairs of the New York Central Railroad, of which he is the vice president and ruling spirit, or by political matters, is a question more easily asked than answered.

The earnings of the New York Central Railroad for the month of June last, were $440,126 41, against $432,195 40 in June, 1858—an increase of $7 931 04—the first month during the last eighteen that has exhibited an increase. For several years past, the regular semi-annual dividend of the road has been four per cent, but in view of the diminished receipts since the 1st of January last, the directors have decided that the semi-annual dividend to be declared in August shall be *only* three per cent.

The Semi-Annual Report of the Fire Marshal is a document uniformly looked for with interest. The total of incendiary fires for the half year is twenty-eight, a decrease of twelve as compared with the six months previous. The number of arrests for arson during the time is twenty-eight, and thirteen have been indicted by the Grand Jury. Six of these have been tried and found guilty; on another the jury failed to agree; one died at the Tombs another has been liberated by the jury, and four await trial. The calculations of the insurance companies in regard to the number of fires, etc., are so accurate, that even the nationality of incendiaries is computed. During the last five years, the following has been the percentage: Americans, 29; Irish, 16; Germans, 31; Hebrews, 15; English, 4; French, 3; others, 3. The number of fires occurring in December last was 25; in January, 22; in February, 28; in March, 22; in April, 25; in May, 18—in all 135. The total loss as alleged was $260,608; insurance, $1 226 565; amount paid, $138,655. The number of alarms given was 162, of which 17 were from fluid lamps; 17 attempted arson; 10 from chimneys; 11 unknown, and 17 false alarms. Among the most prolific causes of *accidents from fire* are the following: camphene and fluid lamps, 18; carelessness of children, 10; gas-lights in windows, and leaky meters, 14; hot-air furnaces, flues, and registers 8; carelessness with lights, 10; sparks on roofs, 8; imperfections in stoves and stove-pipes, 11; chimney flues and chimneys, 24. There have been seven women burned to death from the careless use of fluid and camphene, and four men, six women, and one child severely injured from the same agency. From other causes, there have been four women, one man, and three children burnt to death.

The weather here for the last three days has been intensely hot. At Delatouche, in Wall street, which is regarded as the official place for matters torrid and frigid, the mercury has ranged as follows:

	9 A. M.	12 M.	3 P. M.	6 P. M.
July 11	88	91	88	85
At 3¼ P. M., 89¾ deg.				
July 12	73	85	89¾	87
At 3¼ P. M., 91¾ deg.				
July 13	78	90		

In the room in which I write, (the sky parlor, or "editorial room" of one of the "great moral engines of the age,") the thermometer has stood at 90 from 10 A. M. to 4 P. M., during the day time, since Monday forenoon.

New York Stock Exchange, July 13.

SECOND BOARD.

1000 U S 5s 1855	100	200 Reading R	42¾
50 0 Tenn 6s, '90	89	100 Mich Cent R	44
500 N Carolina 6s	91¾	100 do	s30 41¾
4000 Missouri 6s 6s	88¾	200 Mich S Guar	s30 25
2000 Virginia 6s	94¾	100 Panama R	b30 117¾
1000 Gal & Chicago 2d	68¾	150 do	b60 117¾
25 Pacific Mail S Co	68	100 do	117¾
150 N Y Central R	72¾	10 Illinois Cent R	6 ¾
100 Hudson River R	38¾	100 Gal & Chic R	s30 63¾
100 do	38	100 Chic & R I	s30 60¾
1000 Harlem R pref	s30 36		

THE MARKETS.

COTTON.—The market is steady with sales of 700 bales at 11¾c for Middling Uplands.

COFFEE.—The market is quiet and firm. No sales have transpired.

FRUIT.—By auction was sold a cargo of bark Zephyr, from Palermo, consisting of 52 bxs Sicily oranges, $2.90; 212 do, $3@3 05; 169 do, $3 10; 64 do $2 90@