THE CITY.

Thermometer.

MARCH 17, 1863.			MARCH 17, 1864.		
6 A. M.	12 M.	3 P. M.	6 A. M.	12 M.	3 P. M.
24	36½	40	30	41	41
WIND.			WIND.		
SW	SSW	S	NW	NW	NW

THE FENIAN BROTHERHOOD—PRESENTATION OF A FLAG.—Yesterday afternoon Concert Hall was densely packed by the friends of the "Fenian Brotherhood," an organization whose objects and purposes are already known to those who take an interest in the regeneration of Ireland. It is composed entirely of Irishmen or the sons of Irishmen, and notwithstanding it has been condemned as a secret body by many of the Catholic bishops in this country and in Ireland, the strength of the organization is almost beyond belief. Distinction of creed is entirely discarded, and only one sentiment is the bond of union—the re-establishment of Irish nationality by revolution. Yesterday was taken as a fitting occasion to express the views of the Brotherhood in Philadelphia, and a handsome green national flag, bearing the auburn harp, was presented on behalf of the lady friends of the members. The walls of the Hall were decorated with appropriate legends, such as "Who dares to speak of '98?" "Who would be free, themselves must strike the blow," &c.

The donors were represented by Mr. Wm. J. Turner, who, on the occasion, delivered an eloquent appeal to Irishmen, that they would unite in a still stronger friendly brotherhood to accomplish the object so near to the heart of the Irish nationalist. Referring to the charge of secrecy, with which the Brotherhood had been assailed, the speaker said that so much did he himself disapprove secret bodies, that as anxious as he was to witness the deliverance of Ireland from her cruel bondage, much as he loved the land of his birth, he could not do violence to his conscience by identifying himself with a secret society, even though that society were the only medium through which the liberties of Ireland could be achieved. Such societies are inimical to those principles to which the Irish race has adhered with a heroism which has shed a halo of imperishable glory around it.

During the dark night of suffering, through which the Irish people have passed, they were ever true to the conviction that man's first duty is to God; his second to his country; and they would not prove unfaithful to it now, even did they not know that justice can be obtained for their native land without a violation of any of Heaven's laws. The origin of the Fenian organization was touched upon, and reference made to the ancient knights of Ireland, who bore the Fenian name. Resistance to British oppression could not justly be regarded as rebellion, for England has no rights in Ireland, save such as the robber has over his prostrate and bleeding victim. The soil of Ireland rightfully belongs to the Irish people. They never conveyed it to others. In the days of their weakness it was wrested from them by the strong hand of violence, and it was clearly their right to repossess themselves of it whenever the opportunity may offer, even though its recovery should involve the necessity of shedding the blood of the spoiler.

There was no lack of argument. It had been tried time and again without success. Prayer, supplication, and tears have been tried, and tried in vain. The Fenian Brotherhood would use other and more emphatic arguments at the suitable time. Let it not be said, continued the speaker, that the fate of Ireland should be left to those who remain at home. The work of depopulation is progressing with alarming rapidity. The noblest and the most lightheart men of our race are in exile, and the maternal voice of Erin calls on them for assistance ere it be too late. Their foster mother, young and beauteous America, who has heard with delight on her shores, a hundred fields their wild shouts of defiance, at they, with the "sunburst" unfurled, charged with irresistible bravery on the foe, in defence of her honor and of her starry banner, will not only not object to an affirmative response, but will admire the filial courage which induces them to rush to the defence of her on whose bosom they reposed in infancy.

The flag was received by Mr James Gibbons, Head Centre of the Fenian Brotherhood in Pennsylvania. After acknowledging the compliment conferred upon him, in requesting him to receive the flag, Mr. Gibbons said:

The gift is worthy of the daughters of our race—for to the women of Ireland are weindebted, under God, for the preservation of the religion that is our glory and our hope, and for that unconquerable national spirit, has outlived the crushing effects of seven hundred years. The time was not not remote, when the priest shared the fate of the wolf name for the mild rule of English civilization; when the manhood of Ireland and become almost extinct, and when the women, whose devotedness the history of our country was written in the blood of her martyrs, in that dark and dreary night of persecution the Irish mother sat watching the lamp of religion amidst tears and sufferings and whispered to the ear of her faithful boy the sacred secret and trust.

And when that boy became the man, she was the first to breathe into his ear the Fenian cry of defiance, and of a number, and the heart of a patriot, girded on his sword, while in the agony of her soul, she cried out, "Go forth, my boy, and may the God of our fathers steel your heart and nerve your arm to avenge the wrongs of your beloved country." Ten generations has succeeded generation, like the waves of the ocean, and still the battle must be renewed, for the soul of Ireland can never be tamed by servitude or ambignation. Tyrant and defiant as when its O'Neil told the crafty minister of Elizabeth, that rather than be a slave, he would have name is the O'Neil. Banished from the homes of our childhood, and the graves of our fathers, in our destiny afar, we have borne aloft the emblem of man's salvation to the gaze and veneration of the civilized world, and whether on mountain top, or smiling valley, the cross has been planted by the hand and worshipped by the heart of the Irish exile. Brothers, Thus has our religious mission been attained. The next act in the drama of our country's destiny is the elevation of our National Flag, a bloody drama it may be, but it must be successful; for, remember,

*Despair never prospers
And wild morasses
Are Nature's barricades,
The hopes of a people of liberty
Is her own by nature.*

If the English flag floats to-day there that flag should float, it is not by the power of Norman robber, Saxon, or Dane, but by the treachery of false friends, violated treaties, and forged contracts, backed by cannon.

Fully, then, do I comprehend the undying love, the noble devotion, and lofty aspirations of our young women; and fully, too, do I comprehend your hopes and glorious anticipations in presenting this beautiful banner—always beautiful because green—but now having a historic far-reaching before Vandal, Goth, or Hun ever trod the plains of Western Europe, or Christian stood to kindled light across the darkness of a Pagan world. Shall you, my country women, be disappointed? No! for in the land of my adoption I have seen a sleeping lion in the shades of the refined Athens; in the same of outraged woman; of refined women and cultivated artists; in the name of glorious triumphs and sad disasters; and in the name of that hallowed hope of religious, home, country, and liberty—the pledge of the Fenian Brotherhood that nothing will swerve us from our lofty purpose, that we will pledge our fortunes on the fortunes of Ireland and that the land possessions of a free people. That is the work of the Fenian Brotherhood, and this their mission—to gather the scattered elements of our race, and unite the wisdom, strength, bravery, and political intelligence of Ireland, that when so united they will sweep away every barrier to Irish liberty, and the Irish flag will be raised in every colonial dominion in which it is the hands of despots that bare the standard of the people, and massacre the children born free. Upon it the strength of struggling nationalities, and will be a torch in the hands of the modern Prometheus to light a path to Irish independence (Applause.) The day for "el-quent palaver" has passed, and the time for practical action has arrived. Finally in Ireland's opportunity is now clearly understood, and I may say that such an opportunity never has been and never can have an opportunity without organization.

We have resolved that the decree is written in the concords of Heaven that our race must live free or we as perish as the descendants of a brave race should perish, but let us, my friends, fold our arms on our breasts, for home and freedom! And the trumpet note that will summon the Irish race to battle for their long-lost liberty will be the death knell to a perjured tyrant and slavish gentry, who witnessed the murder of our people without a pang of remorse.

My country women, while we rise with gratitude and pride your gift, I feel that I should be false to myself, to my country, nay, not for its honor in the hands of the modern Fenians, for whether you view them on the disastrous field of Bull Run, or the glorious field of Shiloh the Irish Brigade on Malvern Hill, that charge that astonished the world, and won admiration from the retreating foe, you behold the evidence that they have not degenerated, but inherit all the valor of the ancient warriors.

A beautiful incident of the occasion was the appearance on the stage of thirty-two little girls, dressed in white, with green sashes around their waists, and each bearing in their hands a flag with the name of one of the counties in Ireland painted upon it.

After the reading of a poem by Mr. Lambert, written for the occasion, and an address by Captain Welsh, of the Army of the Potomac, the exercises concluded.

FRANKLIN INSTITUTE—ANNUAL MEETING.—An unusually interesting meeting was held last evening, at which Professor Fleury read a well-written and highly-instructive article on the method of dissolving iodine in syrup and afterwards transferring it into alcohol, without decomposition. The Professor also at some length explained, much to the satisfaction of his scientific listeners, the construction of a Fuchs aerophone and an artificial spring-water fountain. These preliminaries being over, Mr. Howson displayed and explained the use of the following new articles:

An improved oil cup invented by Robert Ross, of Bethlehem, Pa.

A tobacco pipe made by J. Shaw.

Sepiminus Winner's self-instructing scale for pianos.

W. Starkey's improved lamp chimney.

J. Frick's patented shutter fastener.

J. Cundy's improved soap bowl.

J. Butterfield's modification of C. Sharp's self-priming fire arms.

C. Hutchinson's improved pipe.

M. Alden's improved "chuck" for lathes, the "jaws" in which are operated by a disk, radiating curved grooves being cut in the face of the latter, and pins projecting from each jaw into one of the grooves.

U. B. Vidal's improved coal oil lamp.

Mr. Howson also exhibited specimens of Japanese paper.

Mr. J. H. Thompson, of New York, exhibited his improved galvanic battery, which, he said, his ventures are held and exhibited without exposure to a damp atmosphere or dust.

John Mason's improved vertical submerged paddle wheel for small boats was exhibited.

Mr. Pliny E. Chase continued his remarks, begun at a previous meeting, on the law of change in the barometer, thermometer, and magnetic force.

Specimens of screw-taps from Messrs. Sellers & Co. were exhibited; also, a new form of a spring in hinged-back photograph albums, and Philip Griffiths' patented crate bars.

The committee to the Legislature, asking for changes in the charter of the Institute, was read.

Also, a letter from the Secretary of the Navy, requesting the Institute appoint a committee of three gentlemen, to act in conjunction with others appointed by the Academy of Sciences and the Navy Department, to investigate the subject of the exhaustion of steam.

ANOTHER PASSENGER RAILROAD COLLISION.—Two passenger railroad cars came in collision last evening at the intersection of Thirteenth street and Mount Vernon, by which one passenger was injured. The pole of one car ran through the body of the other. One of the horses was so badly injured that it was considered necessary to kill him. Thus is added to the list of passenger railroad accidents another one that makes a person shudder to contemplate. Fortunately in this instance neither car was crowded, or the collision would have been attended with a result as shocking, perhaps, as that which occurred on the Second and Third street road some time since, by which a woman was shockingly maimed for life, and several other persons injured. The companies owe it to the community to pass a stringent law to make the drivers halt the horses when about to cross any intersection of two roads, particularly where locomotives are used. Unless such be done, no person can feel secure while riding in the cars.

SWORD PRESENTATION.—On Wednesday evening Lieutenant Atwood G. Sims, of the 88th Regiment, P. V., was the recipient of a magnificent sword, as a token of the esteem entertained for him as a gallant soldier of the Union. The Lieutenant reached his present position by his acts of bravery and noble bearing in the cause of his country. The speech of presentation was made by Mr. Charles B. Barrett, United States draft commissioner of the Fourth district, whose remarks were eloquent and patriotic, eliciting, as they did, a modest reply from the worthy recipient.

ADJOURNMENT OF A COURT MARTIAL.—The General Court Martial, (Colonel Fritell, president, Captain C. Clarke, judge advocate,) which has been in session since Dec. 28th, 1863, in this city, adjourned yesterday morning. They have disposed of 45 cases, among which was that of Wm. H. Howe, charged with the murder of Abraham Bortcost, an enrolling officer of the Sixth district. The regulations of the army prevent the sentences in these cases being made public for several days subsequently.

HOSPITAL CASES.—Jas. E. Elwell, aged twenty-five years, while working in the navy yard yesterday morning, had the thumb and finger of his right hand torn off by a circular saw. He was taken to the Pennsylvania Hospital.

Miller Hutton, aged thirty-five years, was also admitted yesterday with his left arm fractured, caused by being caught in a belt at the planing mill, Broad and Hamilton streets.

NEW COURT OF INQUIRY.—The following officers have been detailed for a special court of inquiry, to meet daily at Twenty-third and Wood streets, to dispose of such business as may be brought before them: Capt. Eddy, 114th P. V., president: Lieut. Wiegand, 75th P. V., and Lieut. E. A. Wallazz, 104th P. V.

DONATIONS TO THE CENTRAL FAIR—CORRECTION.—In our issue of yesterday we stated that Richard D. Wood, Esq., subscribed $10. It should have been $1,000.

THE CELEBRATION OF St. Patrick's Day came off quite pleasantly to all concerned. With fair weather and genial sunshine, nothing was wanting to render the occasion a pleasant one to the friend of a due celebration of such an important day could desire. No peculiar incident occurred to distinguish the day from any other, excepting the parade of the 69th Veteran Regiment and the more quiet in-door celebrations of the civic societies. The 69th paraded with about one hundred and fifty men, the heroic remnant of a gallant regiment which left the city at the outbreak of the war with full ranks of stalwart, brave men. Religiously, the day was commemorated in St. Patrick's Church, Twentieth and Locust streets, by a very crowded congregation. Solemn Pontifical Mass, under the direction of Rt. Rev. Bishop Wood, was offered, and Rev. P. P. McGrane, Catholic chaplain to the army hospitals of this city, pronounced the panegyric of the Saint. The choir, under the direction of Prof. Aledo, sang Haydn's Grand Mass, No. 3. The Fenian Brotherhood, as elsewhere reported, made good use of the day to show how firmly they are resolved to maintain their organization, and still further increase their membership. The Hibernian Society remembered the occasion in their genial and social way by a splendid banquet at the Continental. Rev. Dr. O'Donner discoursed upon the "Destiny of the Irish Race," in the Academy of Music during the evening, and was complimented with an audience that occupied every available spot within the building. His lecture was a very able production, and was a full vindication of the Irish character. The burden of the diection of the Irish orator was to show how much Catholicity was destined to do for the future in furnishing consolation and hope to all parts of the world. The American Catholic Church has been largely from the priesthood of Ireland, and its brightest lights were of that nationality, and its triumphs of Ireland were adverted to, and hope expressed for her early regeneration.

ORDERED OFF.—The 25th U. S. Regiment of colored Troops have received marching orders, and will strike tents to-day, at their encampment of Wm. Penn. They will immediately join the command of the General Banks, in the Department of the Gulf. They will leave under the command of the following officers:

Colonels—J. Scroggs.

Lieut. Colonel—F. L. Hitchcock.

Major—J. W. A. Reisenger.

Surgeon—C. Howley.

Assistant Surgeon—J. J. Angear, of Wisconsin.

Quartermaster—J. M. Dudley.

Acting Adjutant—E. B. Nourse.

Company A—Captain, T. Brandon, of Connecticut; first lieutenant, C. P. Fisher, of Massachusetts.

Company B—Captain, J. W. Migrath, of Pennsylvania; first lieutenant, Geo. M. Copp, of New Hampshire; second lieutenant, C. A. Haines, of N. York.

Company C—Captain, W. B. Wright; first lieutenant, A. H. Shattock; second lieutenant, N. Thompson, of Illinois.

Company D—Captain, F. W. Lynch, of Ohio; first lieutenant, G. E. Brigham; second lieutenant, J. S. Wamsly, of Maryland.

Company E—Captain, C. W. Green; second lieutenant, J. Marshalls.

Company F—Captain, C. A. Greenleaf, of Maine; first lieutenant, A. A. Burke; second lieutenant, F. B. Davis, of Vermont.

Company G—Captain, W. A. Prickett, of Massachusetts; first lieutenant, W. H. Powers; second lieutenant, O. E. Edgerton, of Vermont.

Company H—Captain, J. D. Wolf; first lieutenant, M. Gensin; second lieutenant, D. H. Randall.

Company I—Captain, J. H. Warren; second lieutenant, F. Brandt.

Company K—Second lieutenant, J. M. Adams.

FIRE.—A fire broke out yesterday afternoon in the third story of a dwelling house, No. 621 Barclay street, occupied by colored people. It originated from hot ashes placed in a wooden box. The house was burned through, and other property damaged to the extent of about $200.

HON. WILLIAM B. MANN will address a mass meeting at the Commissioners' Hall, Twenty-fourth ward, this evening, in reference to the filling of the city quota.

CITY COUNCILS.

The regular stated meeting of both branches of the City Councils was held yesterday afternoon.

SELECT BRANCH.

Mr. KING (O.) presented a communication from citizens of the vicinity of the site of the new Penitentiary on Callowhill street, near New Market street, as a nuisance. Referred to Committee on City Property.

Mr. WETHERILL (U.) presented a communication from the president of the Reading Railroad Company, in reference to the vetoed ordinance for a bridge. In his communication, Mr. Wetherill introduced a resolution instructing the Committee on Surveys to confer with the officers of the Reading Railroad Company, so that some plan may be adopted by which the interests of both the city and the railroad company may be promoted, and the safety of the street-crossings be secured. Adopted.

Mr. WETHERILL also presented a communication from the Trustees of the City Ice-boat, recommending an appropriation for an additional ice-boat. Referred.

Mr. DAVIS (U.) presented a communication from the Chief Engineer of the Water Works in reference to the Schuylkill Water Works. Mr. Fleischman refers to a report made by him in 1858, in which he attributes the bad condition of the works to the insufficient depth of the water, and recommending Councils to deepen the water at the front of the works on this Delaware.

Mr. DAVIS offered an ordinance making an appropriation of $3,500 to enable the chief engineer to carry out the plan suggested.

There was some discussion as to the propriety of this appropriation, it not being established that it would remedy the defects in the works. It was suggested that the ordinance should go to the committee for examination, while on the other hand it was contended that there was no time for delay in view of the approach of warm weather. The bill was referred to the Committee on Water.

Mr. DAVIS (U.) submitted a communication from the Chief Engineer of the Water Works, in reference to the advance in the price of conduit pipe and labor. Mr. Berkenbine reports that the cost of pipe for this year will be $1.10 per foot, and the laying pipe at the present price of labor and the necessary expenses in laying the same will be 55 cents per foot, and in view of the increased price it will be necessary for the city to increase the price of frontage from 75 cents per foot (the present price) to $1 per foot to meet the expenses of laying the service mains.

Mr. DAVIS offered a resolution directing the Clerks to lay the subject before the Legislature, with reference to an amendment to the act of Assembly, and to prevent the adoption of the act to *defeat* the Spring Garden Water.

A further communication was received from the Chief Engineer of the Water Works, stating that an ordinance making an appropriation of $38,850 was required to carry on the works during 1864. Ordered to be printed.

The proceedings of a meeting of citizens of Germantown, in reference to a supply of pure water, was received and referred to the Committee on Water.

A message was received from the Mayor, announcing that he had signed the ordinance increasing the salaries of the Clerks in the Department of City Property, adding that in his opinion there was no necessity for such an increase in the cases of the principal officers.

The following message was received from the Mayor:

GENTLEMEN: I transmit a copy of a communication addressed to me January 9th, by Charles Dutilh, president of the Pennsylvania Company for Insurances on Lives and Granting Annuities, and also of another, dated March 16th, from Joseph C. Harris. These communications offer to the city the use of the State House in Independence Square for the 1st day of April next, at the prices named for the respective ownerships. After which date such offers have been withdrawn, and other negotiations will be sought for its disposal.

In view of the repeated offers made by this city to induce the Federal Government to accept League Island as the naval depot for the construction of iron-clad ships, and in the belief that the manifest advantages of that location will yet overcome sectional jealousies and private greed, and cause its selection for national use, I recommend Councils to enact the authority necessary for the purchase of this property. Should the expectations which have for two years past been reasonably indulged prove fallacious, the premises would be still a valuable acquisition to the city for various purposes, such as a park, or a location for any public institution, and would afford the control of a large part of the city river front, which must, at no distant day prove of great value and importance.

Mr. STERING (U.) offered an ordinance authorizing the purchase of League Island for naval purposes. $340,000 is appropriated for the purpose.

Mr. WETHERILL (U.) hoped he would not be misunderstood as desirous to have the ordinance referred to the Committee on League Island. No man could be more sincere in his advocacy of League Island than himself. We have for years been impressing this as the proper site, and we think we have nearly succeeded, but suppose New London is selected. We certainly have the advantage of being able to use to put it to, and will increase our expenses $15,000 per annum. It seemed to him that if the owners of League Island were made acquainted with the present position of affairs they would not attempt to force us to take action at this time. At least, some extension of time might be secured. Certainly, the committee will have opportunity to ascertain why there has been an increase in the price of the property.

Mr. SPERING (U.) thought no stronger reason for the purchase could be urged than that contained in the letter of the Commissioner of the Water Works,