

## The Pittsburgh Gazette.

## OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT.

BY ONE OF THE B'BOYS.

Wrapped in the slumbers of early morn  
The city slept while the flames crept on.  
Mischiefous splittles of red and blue  
Quickly and silently changing the hue,  
Now of a corner, then of a room,  
Till out through the window they lighten the gloom.  
Quickly tapping, the watchman's mate  
Rings out the alarm, as he quickens his pace.  
Ringing, rushing, breathless with speed,  
Thinking of the danger, but not of the need,  
That's told by the shadows he sees of himself,  
As the danger brightens grow in his wealth.  
Click, click, click, the dial revolves,  
Three times three, and the news is told;  
Over the house tops, over the streets,  
Flashes the number the watchman greets,  
And still in the darkness of early morn,  
The flames grow brighter and still creep on.  
A tone to his ear that beacons the gloom,  
The watchman starts at the first alarm,  
A silver key and a paper scroll  
Tell him his duty and face behold!  
The lightning heart in the marble case,  
Sends a strange thrill forth into chest and space.  
On each shadowy tower a spark of life  
Goes up a ledge, and with Titans might  
Flashes hundreds of above at the foot of the stair,  
Till sleeping thousands awake at the knell,  
And know that the danger of fire is near,  
Working destruction, rejoicing at fear.  
Down in the stalls where the horses rest,  
There's an angry growl of heavy hoofs,  
Out from their blankets a hundred men  
Rush to their duty and face behold!  
There's a battle and work while the engine glows,  
Sends a strange thrill forth into chest and space.  
Into the gloom of the silent street,  
Thunder the wheels as the horses leap,  
Their iron shoes from the cobble stones  
Dash dry sparks while they throw the spray  
Back through the frosty night, to the door.  
A speaker handles a throttle with care.  
Like battle chargers the giant steeds  
Leap to their work and increase their speed,  
Like some grim monster from Tabor's forge,  
The engine flows forth with heavy surge,  
Screaming, hissing, rumbling along,  
Breathing and beating at the fire ring on.  
In the ready light of the furnace jaws  
The steam, gray race of the fireman glows,  
As he feels the heat of the furnace glow,  
While the jolting monster still onward rolls,  
Leaving a wake of smoke and steam behind,  
And a trail of smoke to blacken the night.  
Ten minutes have passed since the watchman ran,  
A dozen, perhaps, and the engine is near,  
The building's front is bright with the smile  
Of the fireman's face, and the engine is near,  
But his engine is brief, for the strife begins  
Twirl water and fire, — Cincinnati Commercial.

## EPHEMERIS.

—Scott Siddons in Cincinnati.  
—California is cultivating many olive trees.  
—Bishop Simpson and his wife have gone to Texas.  
—Chicago is now trying to get rat-proof buildings.  
—The Financial Editor of the Revolution is a woman.  
—Mrs. Crick, nee Muloch, is busy writing a new novel.  
—Chicago is called the city of winds and cheap houses.  
—Colorado has a new city called Dirty Woman's Ranch.  
—Italians in San Francisco are building a hospital for themselves.  
—\$20,000 a year is the salary of one of Eugene's dress makers.  
—Ten cents a pound is a good retail price for choice beef in Alabama.  
—The salt mines of Austria are said to be worked by a million miners.  
—A "corner in opium" is the latest speculation dodge in New York.  
—Victor Hugo's new novel has already been translated into English.  
—John Bright is threatened, not with his peculiar disease but with asthma.  
—Velocipedes have arrived in San Francisco, where they are not popular.  
—Mrs. Scott Siddons did better financially in Washington than any place else.  
—A negro preacher of Oberlin, Ohio, has recently married a white Boston girl.  
—Gov. Hoffman is the youngest Governor New York ever had excepting Seward.  
—Miss Kellogg is said to have a charming green dress and an overpowering head.  
—Philadelphia has two new and immense skating rinks, with which she is well pleased.  
—The light from the recent great fire at Bangor, Maine was seen for sixty-two miles.  
—Offenbach is coming to America. If he comes once he will probably come Offenbach.  
—Paris has three female public lecturers now, and unknown numbers of private ones a la Cauda.  
—Boston is going to move the Hotel Pelham fifteen feet westward from its present position.  
—A monument to Sam. Houston is proposed in Boston, to cost not less than five thousand dollars.  
—Some Virginian young ladies have been having a good time and a rifle shooting match at Stanton.  
—Natchez has a hairless squirrel with a soft, smooth skin, which evidently never had any hair on it.  
—One of the gentlemen of the jury which tried Aaron Burr for treason is still living at Chillicothe, Ohio.  
—The Mikado of Japan left his palace in November, the first time such a thing has happened in 2,000 years.  
—The New York Cooper Union has established a school for the practical instruction of women in telegraphy.  
—Mr. Thomas Carlyle has carefully re-vised all of his works, and will soon issue a new and complete edition of them.  
—Providence has a one-legged skater. The ways of the skater, like those of the city he dwells in, must be inscrutable.  
—During the present year, Newport, R. I., has lost fifty-eight citizens who had lived more than their allotted three score and ten years.  
—Cincinnati proposes to change the names of some of her streets so as to have twenty-three, instead of nine, numbered streets.  
—Great damage has been done by the frost to the orange groves in Florida. In some parts of Eastern Florida the trees have been killed.  
—The Darien canal will be about thirty miles in length, including a seven mile tunnel, and the estimated cost is about \$65,000,000.  
—An Indianapolis paper discloses the secrets of the sacred in stating that most "editorial quills" are "stubs of pencil chewed at the end."  
—Cyrus W. Field slipped and slid down an icy hill at Irvington the other day, striking a tree at the bottom, and receiving severe but not dangerous injury.  
—Prussia is thinking seriously of having a World's Fair at Cologne, knowing probably that it would be the sure of the prizes for cathedrals and unpeppared odors.  
—Sixty-seven female teachers in Cin-

nat have petitioned for the same salary as males, on the ground that they find no reduction in board bills on account of sex.  
—The person sent East with the electoral vote of California was quite well when he boarded the steamship at San Francisco, but died of small-pox before reaching Panama.  
—General Splaner is so absurd, he actually says he thinks female treasury clerks ought to be paid the same as males for doing the same amount of work of the same kind.  
—In Magdeburg, Germany, a widow of seventy recently married her seventh husband. This unusual circumstance naturally recalls the question of the Sadducees, whose wife of them all will she be?  
—A man in Portage county, Ohio, has scirrhus of the liver. He has been tapped forty times in eighteen months, and yielded between six and seven barrels of water. He would be better than a camel to travellers in the desert.  
—Reverend Johnson has been photographed recently with a group of his new English friends. The artist is supposed to have had some difficulty in getting a distinct picture on account of the constant shaking of Mr. Johnson's hand.  
—Melbourne, Australia, is badly drained and during the heavy rains is dangerous, numerous instances being on record of children being drowned in the raging gutters and their bodies being carried out to sea and irretrievably lost.  
—Lesseps, of Suez canal fame, is a veritable iconoclast; he actually wants now to destroy the classic, heroic, poetic and historic peninsula of Greece by putting a canal across the Isthmus of Corinth, thus making an island of the peninsula.  
—The obelisk in the Place de la Concorde in Paris, is said to be decaying. It withstood the climate during thirty centuries in Egypt, whence it was transferred, but under the action of the weather in Paris it is beginning to crumble and pulverize.  
—Miss Louisa M. Alcott, who wrote the most successful and the most original juvenile book of the last season, has already completed the manuscript of the sequel, which is to carry the fortunes of her "Little Women" to their proper dramatic conclusion.  
—An Omaha paper says that "the scene last night at a mass meeting in the Academy of Music, in one of the passages of Mr. Train's speech, where, on bended knee, he took an oath to devote his energies, fortune and life to making Ireland free, beggars all descriptive powers."  
—It is the fashion now to sneer at and run down everything new that Lord Lytton writes. Whether it be because he is a Lord or because he don't write as well as formerly, or because tastes have changed and he has not, we shall not undertake to decide, but certainly he was once the most popular living author and now is by no means so.  
—The famous poisons of the Borgias were very simply concocted. With a few cents' worth of arseniate of soda any one may manufacture a quart of them without claiming to be considered an eminent chemist. The poison employed by Brinvilliers and the *poison de succession* were merely arsenious acid, the effects of which vary with the manner of administering it.  
—The Philadelphia Ledger says: The following vessels cleared from this port during the past week with petroleum: Bark Ann and Alice, for Bilbao, with 91,000 gallons; brig Van Horn, for Antwerp, with 114,803 do., and brig W. H. Bigelow, for Cork, with 87,264 do., making a total of 293,067 gallons. There are now loading and chartered in the same trade ten bark.  
—The police of Paris recently arrested a young man who was drunk and beating people over the head at the station house. He proved to be William Alexander, Louis Stephen Hamilton Douglas, Duke of Hamilton, Marquis of Clydesdale, Earl of Angus, Earl of Arran, Earl of Lanark, Baron Hamilton, Baron of Aven, Polmont, Machanure and Innerdale, Baron of Abernethy and Jedburgh Forest, Duke of Brandon and Baron Dutton, aged twenty-three.

ONE Albert is the new hairdresser of Paris. Albert begins his rounds of heads at 10 A. M., but Worth never sends in a toilet for hair or soles more than ten minutes before it has to be put on. A toilet delivered on the morn of a fete would cease to be a new one before night, and the belle who has had to sit erect all day for fear of disarranging Albert's edifice has such implicit faith in Worth that she does not mind waiting. I have seen some thus wait until two in the morning, while the beauty's husband was snoring in full dress on the sofa, the coachman fresh on the box, the footman wrapped in his lady's furs in the servant's hall, and still the wife and mistress so serene and calmly secure that it was like a sermon on resignation to look at her. And this faith in Worth was so immense that when the things did come they were put on without inspection; and when they were on, although the Countess could not sit down on the carriage seat because of the panner, but had to kneel forward, nor lift up her head because of the roof, still when she entered the blazing ball room victory was on her features and hopes of an ice and biscuit within her heart. Nothing more than an ice and biscuit, for everything else would add color to her complexion and anything less would be too great a tax on human nature after a day's fast or so little nourishment that it amounted to absolute fasting. —Paris Cor.

NABBY has lectured one hundred nights this season, and is said to have received fifty thousand dollars therefor. The New York Sun remarks: This is a good deal for one journalist to earn in a year, even if he is as smart as Mr. Locke and as good a fellow, and it may excite the envy of the inexperienced. But when we reflect upon the tough breakfasts, the corn coffee and the leathery buckwheat cakes that the devoted lecturer must swallow in awful haste; when the imagination conjures up the cold and cheerless spare rooms at deacon's houses, where he is put to sleep in unaltered sheets, and where the water is frozen solid when he tries to wash his face in the morning when we think of the tea-tables where he is lionized by the old maids of the whole neighborhood, who interrogate him about theology, or the last number of the Atlantic Monthly, we must cease to look upon his hoard with any feeling but compassion for the dreadful sacrifice and the alarming labors by which it is amassed.

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