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The New York Fire Department.

VISIT OF THE COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEE TO CINCINNATI—RESULT, &c.

[From the Cincinnati Gazette, July 17.]

A few weeks since, Mr. Benj. F. Pinckney, member of No. 22 Phenix Hoise Company, and member of the City Council of New York, introduced a resolution into the Common Council, authorizing the appointment of a committee of five, to enquire into the practicability of organizing the fire department and changing the present system. The resolution was adopted, and Messrs. Pinckney, George W. Varian, George H. Raymond, F. E. Mather, and cx. Alderman R. J. Smith, were appointed said committee. These gentlemen upon consultation determined to visit Cincinnati at their own expense, and gather what information they could of our pay department systems. The committee left New York city on Monday Imorning last, and arrived here on Wednesday evening. The chief engineer of the New York department was expected on Thursday, and the trial of the steam fire engines, and the calling out of the entire fire department, was deferred until yesterday (Friday) afternoon. In the meantime the committee visited the several engine houses, and a number of our public institutions, Miles Greenwood's foundry, and Clifton, Mt. Anburn and Walnut Hills.

According to previous arrangement, on Friday afternoon, the committee were stationed in a prominent position on the corner of Sixth and vine streets; at half past three o'clock, and in a few minutes after the steam fire engine "Uncle Joe Ross," was stationed on the intersection.

At 4 o'clock precisely the signals, four large red bals in the look-out on the Mechanics' Institute, were elevated, and every fire alarm bell in the city was tapped, and each company started with their apparatus for the corner of Sixth and Vine streets. The "Citizens' Gift" steam was raised sufficient to work the engines, wassix minutes and forty-three seconds, and nine minutes and three seconds when the water was passed through two line of hose and leaving the nouzle.

The several companie

The several companies located on the streets be-low named came up on the following time:— 1's. On Vine, between Front and Columbia—ahead of time.

2's. George, between Plum and Western row-1 min.

Sec. 3's. Fourth, between Walnut and Vine—1 min. 6 sec. 4's. Sixth and Sycamore—not out. 5's. Vine between Canal and Court—1m. 13 sec. 6's. Lest Front street—0m. 21 sec. 7's. Webster between Sycamore and Main—4m. 29 sec. 8's. Cutter between Laurel and Betts—5m. 17s. 9's. Raca between Fourteenth and Fifteenth—3 min. sec.

cc. Ps. Corner Lawrence and Symmes—4m. 9 sec. Ps. Sixth between Preeman and Carr—6m, 8 sec. Ps. Intersection of Vine and Hamilton road—5

l sec.
13's. Bank between Western row and Linn—5m. 39 sec.
14's. Corner Fifth and Smith—Im. 13 sec.
Hook and Ladder. Race between Fifth and Sixth—0m.

Hook and Ladder. Race between Fifth and Sixth—0m. 10 sec.

It will be seen that within seven minutes after the first alarm was given, every company in the city was on the ground, ready for work. The steam in the Uncle Joe Ross was also raised in a very few minutes, and both engines were set to work throwing water through one hundred feet of hose, one, two, three, four, ive, six, seven and eight lines at the same time, and through 2, 13, 14, 1 and 2 inch nozzle, distances ranging from ninety to one hundred and sixty feet.

Each engine threw water through two line of hose into one short section, and out of two inen nozzles, above the high pinnacles on the Institute building, a perpendicular height of about one hundred and twenty-five feet. Both engines also threw eight streams through three quarter inch nozzles a distance of one hundred and twenty feet. The engines were tested in every possible way, and the committee, we understand, are well pleased with what they witnessed. They say that the working of the engines exceeded anything ever saw or imagined, and will amply repay them for their visit to the West. They will return to New York city on Monday.

The Chief Engineer of the Gas Works is to have \$3000 per annum; the Chief Engineer of the Water Works a like sum. Mr. Graeff, late the superintendent of the city works-as good an engineer as the new city will appoint-has served faithfully, for a number of years, for \$2000 salary. Mr. Cresson, of the Gas Works, we imagine gets no more.

The number of officers in all these depart ments seems to be unnecessarily large. instance, in the Water Works department there are to be eighteen officers beside the chief, and in the Gas Works four assistant engineers, three registers, ten clerks, an inspector of gas fittings, an indefinite number of assistants, and an inspector of meters.

Siratoga.—Doubtiess, of the thousands who resort to Congress Springs, at Saratoga, during the ti-heated term," and quast its waters, few know anything of its history. Congress Spring was discovered in 1792, by John Taylor Gilman, of Exeter, N. H., then member of Congress, and subsequently Governor of New Hampshire. While gunning, he came upon the stream, issuing from a fissure in a rock. The singularity of its appearance attracted his attention; the wayer was drank, the mineral qualities discovered, and, being a member of Congress, he gave it the name of Congress Spring.

The New Chambers of Councils.—The work of altering the second story of the main building of the State House, for the accommodation of the City Councils is rapidly progressing. The west wing, recently occupied by the United States Circuit and District Courts, has been completely dismantled, and the partitions which divided portions of it into smaller rooms, have been demolished. This apartment will be fitted up as the Chamber of Common Council. It is designed to have it handsomely furnished. The seat of the President will occupy a platform on the western end of the room, and the desks for the clerks will be in front of the chair. The seats of the members will be placed in a semi-circle, having the chair of the President for their centre. In this respect the seats of the officers and members will be upon the same plan as the representative halls at Washington and Harrisburg. Desks for the Reporters of the Press will be placed upon each side of the clerk's desk, in front of the members, and not in their rear, as they are now located in the Select Council Chamber in the Spring Garden Hall.

The work of demolition has already commenced in the eastern wing, now occupied by the officers of the United States Courts, the United States Marshal, &c. This portion of the brilding will be occupied by the Chamber of Select Council. The heavy uncouth stairway which leads to the steeple from the second floor is to be demolished, and a new stair-way will be constructed from the gallery of the grand stair-way to the tower under the steeple; this arrangement will greatly increase the available space in the apartments appropriated to Councils.

The alterations in progress have rendered it necessary to romove down to the second floor an eighteen inch wall, which divides the centre from the west wing of the main building. This wall, although one hundred and twenty-five years old, is as solid and almost as hard as granite; the bricks are thoroughly burned, and not one can be found that is not completely imbedded in mortar. The latter

the bricklayers employed upon the State House in 1729. The bricks of which the old edifice was constructed cost 31s. Sd. (Pennsylvania Currency) per thousand; they were laid for 10s. 6d. per M.

A STEAM FIRE ENGINE FOR ST. LOUIS .-The City authorities of Saiat Louis have contracted with Mr. Abel Shawk, of Cincinnati, for a steam fire engine. It is to cost \$7500, and be delivered at St. Louis on the lst of December. It is to be built according to the following plan:

1. The engine is to be 15 feet in length, exclusive of tongue, and to be so constructed that it may be turned about within the distance of thirty feet.

2. The power of the engine to be equal to sixty

2. The power.

3. The track of wheels to be seven feet in width.

4. The weight of the engine entire to be about sixty thousand pounds.

5. The steam cylinder to be 113 inches in diameter, and 26 inches stroke—the water cylinder to have

meter, and 26 inches stroke—the water cylinder to be 7\(\frac{3}{2} \) inches in diameter, 26 inch stroke—to have supply engine for operator, with steam cylinder 2\(\frac{1}{2} \) inches in diameter, and 10 inches stroke.

The capacity of the engine to be at least equal to that of the "Citizens" Gift" steam fire engine of Cincinnati, and to be furnished with all the equipments necessary to work the engine including

Cincinnati, and to be furnished with all the equipments necessary to work the engine, including nozzles, pipes, &c.

The said engine to be so constructed that steam may be raised from cold water sufficient to work the engine in five minutes from the time of lighting the fire—there shall be an hundred pounds of steam to the inch to work the engine and pumps. The engine shall be capable of discharging thirty barrels of water per minute, upon the fire, through either one or four lines of hose, to throw water two hundred and twenty-four feet distant from the mouth of the nozzle. The whole engine to be of the best materials and workmanship, and warranted to run one year without repair. ed to run one year without repair.

When will Philadelphia take a step forward

in a matter of so much importance to the com munity? HIT WAY YERREST. . THE

NOTIOE TO CONTRACTORS—Sealed Proposite is a will be received until the 2sth day of Dece unbernext, at 3 o'clock, P.M., for erecting the WATER-WORKS for the West Ward Water Company of the Borough of Easton.

The peoposals will embrace an Engine of seventy-five horse power, and siso an Engine of one hundred horse power, (low pressure,) whiche ere may be adopted, with the necessary Pumps, to clevate the water from the river Leinigh to the reservoir, the Water Pipe, the excavation for, and the laying of the same, to the distance of shout 30,000 feet; the construct of a dauble receivoir, to cover three acres of ground, and all the necessary Fixtures for a complete set of Water-works, for the supply of the inhaditants and the extinguishment of fires. Plans and specifications for the work will be furnished on application to the President.

HENRY KELLER, President.

Easton, November 2tth, 1855

States. If The basin of the waterworks of Lancaster, Pa, has been leaking for some months, and a loss of \$40.000 has been caused by the undermining of the walls. All search for the leak had proved ineffectual until within the last week, when it was fortunately discovered and stopped.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYL-VANIA. 1 - 8 Han George Sharswood presided at the meeting

on Monday.

Letters were read from Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Panuzzi, of the British Museum, regarding the non-existence of a portrait of Gen. Braddock, and from Major William Bradford, accompanying his donation of the manuscript non-importation resolutions of the merchants of Philadelphia, with their signatures.

donation of the manuscript non-importation resolutions of the merchants of Philadelphia, with their signatures.

Mr. Granville John Penn presented a set, in twelve volumes, elegantly bound, of his father's writings. Mr. Jos. M. Bennett presented the carved brackets which supported the balcony of the Lox-ley House. Mr. Edward Bowers presented a finely executed three-quarter length portrait, on canvass, of Gen. John Cadwalader, of the Revolution. A number of other denations were made.

The Librarian reported that the Publication Fund had reached the sum of three thousand dollars. Mr. Charles Morris read the following paper, prepared by Mr. Jas. S. Pringte:

Past, Present and Future.—A table showing the population of the State of Pennsylvania, from the year 1753 to 1850: also, the population of the City and County of Philadelphia, from 1790 to 1850, together with the ratio of increase every ten years, to which is added a table showing the probable population from 1850 to 1900.

In the year 1753 the Colonial population of Pennsylvania and Delaware was estimated at 250,000.

In the year 1753 the Colonial population of Rate.

434,573

1801.

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the hand-writing of Gen. Clinton and a manuscript in him, "Taken from the enemy's ledger, captured by Gen. Washington's army at Germantown: "State of the British troops and positions they were in when'they made the attack at Brandywine, the 11th of September, 1777.

The upper Ford, under the command of Lt. Gen. Lord Cornwallis, where Lord Sterling's (American Division fought.

Killed and

i	2d Regiment British Guards, ¿	No. to decade for	Wounded.
4	2d do Light Infatry, } 2d Brigade British Foot, - 1st do Hessians, -	1740	612
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Total, 1900
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The whole British force, 10,220 1975."

The meeting was then adjourned by the presiding officer.

THOMAS BIDDLE, jr., Recording Secretary.

Cleaning Boher Flues.

The cleaning out of boiler flues when they get foul, is both a troublesome and a disagreeable business. Any good improvement for accomplishing this work without going into the flues in the usual way, we consider to be both a humane and an economical invention. John Leinweber, of Covington, Ky., has taken measures to secure a patent for an improvement which promises to be the very thing desired. It consists in placing within each and any flue of a boiler, a perforated pipe, in which steam can be admitted when desired from the boiler, and from which it escapes in jets which strike the interior surface of the flue and loosens the soot, &c. By giving the perforations in the pipe a slanting direction, the jets of steam will not only loosen the soot, &c., in the flues, but will also drive it out of the flues.