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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 Hose 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 ex-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 morning 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. Auburn and Walnut Hills.

41-1
 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 balls 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 fire engine was just five minutes and 14 seconds coming from their engine house, on Eighth, between Plum and Western Row, a distance of six squares. From the time the torch was applied until steam was raised sufficient to work the engines, was six minutes and forty-three seconds, and nine minutes and three seconds when the water was passed through two line of hose and leaving the nozzle.

The several companies located on the streets below 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. 3 sec.
 3's. Fourth, between Walnut and Vine—1 min. 6 sec.
 4's. Sixth and Steamore—not out.
 5's. Vine between Canal and Court—1m. 13 sec.
 6's. East Front street—6m. 21 sec.
 7's. Webster between Steamore and Main—1m. 29 sec.
 8's. Cutter between Laurel and Bell—5m. 17s.
 9's. Race between Fourteenth and Fifteenth—3 min. 43 sec.
 10's. Corner Lawrence and Symmes—4m. 9 sec.
 11's. Sixth between Freeman and Carr—6m. 8 sec.
 12's. Intersection of Vine and Hamilton road—3 min. 31 sec.
 13's. Bank between Western row and Linn—5m. 39 sec.
 14's. Corner Fifth and Smith—1m. 13 sec.
 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, five, six, seven and eight lines at the same time, and through 2, 1 1/2, 1 and 3/4 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 inch nozzles, above the high pinnacles 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. Graef, 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.

41-2
 The number of officers in all these departments seems to be unnecessarily large. For 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.

SARATOGA.—Doubtless, of the thousands who resort to Congress Springs, at Saratoga, during the "heated term," and quaff its waters, few know anything of its history. Congress Spring was discovered in 1793, by John Taylor Gilman, of Exeter, N. H., then member of Congress, and subsequently Governor of New Hampshire. While gunting upon the stream, issuing from a fissure in a rock. The singularity of its appearance attracted his attention; the water was drank, the mineral qualities discovered, and, being a member of Congress, he gave it the name of Congress Spring.

41-3
 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 building 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.

41-4
 The alterations in progress have rendered it necessary to remove 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 is a very different article from the mixture too frequently used at the present day, and it sticks to the bricks as though the burnt clay, lime and sand had become an indivisible amalgam. The workmen engaged in removing this wall complain of the difficulty of the task; they say it is the best specimen of masonry they ever saw. Messrs. Thomas Boude, John Palmer and Thomas Redman, were the bricklayers employed upon the State House in 1729. The bricks of which the old edifice was constructed cost 31s. 3d. (Pennsylvania Currency) per thousand; they were laid for 10s. 6d. per M.

A STEAM FIRE ENGINE FOR ST. LOUIS.—The City authorities of Saint 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 1st of December. It is to be built according to the following plan:

- 41-5
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 horse power.
 3. The track of wheels to be seven feet in width.
 4. The weight of the engine entire to be about six thousand pounds.
 5. The steam cylinder to be 11 3/4 inches in diameter, and 26 inches stroke—the water cylinder to be 7 3/4 inches in diameter, 26 inch stroke—to have supply engine for operator, with steam cylinder 2 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 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.

When will Philadelphia take a step forward in a matter of so much importance to the community?

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.—Sealed Proposals will be received until the 25th day of December next, 8 o'clock P. M., for erecting a WATER WORKS for the West Ward Water Company of the Borough of Easton.
 The proposals will embrace an engine of seventy-five horse power, and also an engine of one hundred horse power, (low pressure,) whichever may be adopted, with the necessary pumps, to elevate the water from the river Lehigh to the reservoir; the water pipe, the excavation for, and the laying of the same, to the distance of about 30,000 feet; the construction of a double reservoir, to cover three acres of ground, and all the necessary fixtures for a complete set of waterworks, for the supply of the inhabitants and the extinguishment of fires. Plans and specifications for the work will be furnished on application to the President. HENRY KELLER, President.
 Easton, November 21th, 1855. 4029-2w*23

41-6
 States.—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 un-dermining 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 PENNSYLVANIA. 41-8

Hon. 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.

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 Loxley 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 donations 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. Pringle:
 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.

Year.	Pop. of State.	Increase.	Rate.
1790	434,373		
1800	602,355	167,982	38.74
1810	810,091	207,736	34.50
1820	1,049,398	239,307	29.54
1830	1,348,223	298,825	28.49
1840	1,724,083	375,860	27.87
1850	2,318,308	594,225	34.49

Year.	Pop. of City.	Pop. of Co.	Mean Average, Total.	Incr. Rate.
1790	41,220	39,789	81,009	26.18
1800	53,722	57,438	111,210	30.201
1810	63,902	73,295	137,097	25.887
1820	90,477	108,509	188,986	51,889
1830	95,685	154,372	238,087	69,051
1840	121,381	237,492	408,373	150,036
1850			594,553	40.40

Estimated Population from 1850 to 1900.
 At the mean rate of increase. At rate of increase from 1840 to 1850.

Year.	State.	City and County.	Total.
1850	3,066,793	574,057	3,640,850
1870	4,055,448	805,978	4,861,426
1880	5,365,463	1,131,590	6,497,053
1890	7,006,897	1,583,752	8,590,649
1900	9,387,065	2,230,607	11,617,672

Average number of residents in each dwelling, 6.68.
 Dwellings as per Census of 1850. Area in acres.

City.	Area in acres.	Population.
Northern Liberties,	16,272	1,402
Spring Garden,	9,254	320
Kensington,	9,150	1,103
Richmond,	7,555	1,238
Penn.,	1,025	1,163
Southwark,	1,302	1,198
Moyamensing,	6,451	503
Seven Boroughs,	4,096	1,486
Twelve Townships,	4,251	5,594 est.
	4,246	63,000 "
Total,	61,202	76,800

Average number of residents per acre, 5.23
 The following paper was communicated by Rev. G. T. Headly, who copied it from a manuscript in the hand-writing of Gen. Clinton and endorsed by 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 Wounded.
2d Regiment British Guards,	1740
2d do Light Infantry,	612
2d Brigade British Foot,	2240
1st do Hessians,	800
Ferguson Rifle-men,	80
Total,	4880
Middle Ford, under the command of Major General Gray.	
2d Battalion Guards,	500
2d do 42d Highlanders,	700
2d do 70th do	700
Total,	1900
Lower Ford, under command of Lieut. General Knyphausen:	
2d Brigade, consisting of the 4th,	
5th, 10th, 15th, 23d, 27th, 28th,	2240
40th, 49th and 55th Regiments,	580
Hessians to the amount of,	800
Queen's Rangers,	430
	3520
	1906
	4860
The whole British force,	10,280
The meeting was then adjourned by the presiding officer.	1976."

THOMAS BIDDLE, JR.,
 Recording Secretary.

Cleaning Boiler Flues. 41-9
 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.