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# SUNDAY DISPATCH.

SUNDAY MORNING, JULY 13, 1856.

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## King Caucus Resisted.

A disposition has lately been shown in various branches of the city government to resist the tyranny of that imperious monster, Caucus, when his demands are altogether unreasonable and not dictated by any considerations of public good. For this independence the people owe their thanks to those members of the dominant party who are firm enough to prefer their duty to their constituents, to the arbitrary directions of some of their associates who assume a right to speak for the whole party. This disposition was shown in the Councils upon the vote for heads of departments. Caucus declared that Mr. Frederick Graff, Chief Engineer of the Water Department—a gentleman of science and reputation, in whom all have confidence—should be deposed, and that Mr. Samuel Ogden should be elected instead. Mr. Ogden is a practical mechanic, but it has not been asserted that he is a scientific engineer, or that he has many qualifications possessed by Mr. Graff, and which are most necessary for the superintendent of the important works of the city. Yet Caucus declared against Mr. Graff because the latter was not a pure, unadulterated, howling Democrat. He was not a Know-Nothing. The latter party tried hard to displace him last year, but were defeated by a combination of Democrats and old line Whigs. Mr. Graff politically represented the latter section, and the present majority having been put in power by the aid of old line Whig votes, the retention of Mr. Graff ought to have been a matter of policy and gratitude. The more independent and sensible members of Councils felt this, and they resolved to disregard the oppressive dictation of Caucus. Fifteen of them did so, and, although Mr. Graff was not elected, those who stood by him deserve credit for having preferred their duty to the public to the unauthorized attempt made to control them by their associates.

The new members of the Board of Health have also had a wrestle with Caucus, in which the latter was thrown and badly worsted. According to rumor, some of the nominations agreed upon by Caucus were scandalous and not to be borne. If ratified by election, they would have been received by the community with groans of disapprobation. Attempts made to induce Caucus to be reasonable, were in vain. He was absolutely inflexible and not to be moved. Some of the persons selected were well enough, but their fealty to Caucus ruined them. The result was that a number of Democrats, who believed it to be their duty to elect unexceptionable men to the offices in the gift of the Board, combined with the minority and killed Caucus outright. Of ten Caucus nominees, but two were elected. This punishment was just. If proper men had been selected for all the posts, there would have been no difficulty. Politicians generally do not like to set themselves up in opposition to their own friends. It requires a deal of moral courage to strengthen them in a resolution to do so. When they do assume such an attitude of independence, it may be imagined that there is good cause for it. There has been much indignation vented upon the honest contemners of Caucus tyranny; but those who have vituperated upon that account are small politicians and clamorous office-hunters, who consider moral worth as of no account in possessors of office, and who in fact deprecate the test of honesty, when applied to place-seekers, as personal affronts aimed at themselves. The denunciations of such people are the best certificates that the persons scandalized by them have done their duty, and that citizens who value independence and integrity sustain them.

The nominations for the Alms-house have been but partly made, but a portion of them have been postponed. Rumor says that one or two persons have been chosen by Caucus for situations in that institution who are not suitable for the designated trusts, in consequence of deficiencies in moral character. The delay made in the appointments may have been induced by those circumstances. If Caucus has made improper selections, we hope that he will be defeated.

The Directors of the Girard College have re-elected the Secretary, whose fidelity, intelligence, usefulness and thorough acquaintance with the economy of the institution, rendered his services extremely valuable. For the responsible post of Steward, rumor says that a person has been selected who was once a Guardian of the Poor, and who was implicated in the "tobacco and blanket" transaction in that institution. Such a choice would be an outrage upon every honest principle. We trust that there will be sufficient regard for their duty among the Directors to defeat this improper aspirant, and teach another lesson to Caucus.

The Inspectors of the Prison appointed by the Courts have also entered upon their duties. They have made no removals, and it is announced that they will not do so unless experience shall satisfy them that some of the present officers are unfit for their duties. This determination will meet general approval. This business of displacing faithful and experienced persons, upon every change of administration, is not for the public good. Besides producing great confusion in every department, and causing detriment by the induction of ignorant and oftentimes incompetent persons into important situations, it encourages the breeding of office-hunters by trade. Those who follow that business are among the most intriguing, dishonest and servile among men. King Caucus may be entitled to respect when his mandates are right; but when they are wrong, every one should rejoice when his subjects rebel and declare their independence.

**Towne, S. Morris Wain, Isaac S. Waterman.**  
**Thawing Frozen Fire Plugs.**—On Saturday afternoon a very successful experiment was made by the Chief Engineer of the Water Department, for thawing frozen fire plugs, on a plan first suggested by Marshal Murphy. The contrivance used for the purpose consists of a boiler and tank, with a hand forcing pump and gutta percha hose. The fire is built in the furnace with kindling wood prepared with camphene, and steam is thus generated in a few minutes. The "nut" is taken from the fire-plug, and a small hose is screwed in, and the other hose, to which a long branch-pipe is appended, is thrust down to the bottom of the plug, outside the pipe. The steam, at a pressure of from five to seven pounds to the inch, is now put on, and in a few minutes the ice becomes melted and the water flows. This is ascertained by the cold water rushing from the plug into the boiler. The heat of the iron plug and pipes is so great as to completely dry the straw which is usually packed around the pipes of the plugs in the cold season. The whole apparatus is very portable, and it is not expensive, while it is so effective that a frozen plug can generally be thawed out in a very few minutes.

**BAD WATER IN KENSINGTON.**—For eight or ten days past the citizens of Kensington have experienced a very bad taste and smell in the water supplied from the Kensington reservoir. The complaint is general throughout the district, and as the cause of it continues to grow worse the citizens have resolved to hold a public meeting, which will take place this afternoon at King's Hotel, to see what measures are necessary to remove the origin of this impurity. The stench from the water is said to be intolerable, and no person is willing to use it for drinking or cooking. The fact that citizens yesterday were drawing their water for domestic purposes in casks from the river and having it carted to their residences, is proof that the annoyance must be very great to induce them to take that trouble. The Board of Health and the Superintendent of the Works have been applied to, we are informed, but the nuisance is not abated, probably from the difficulties which must be experienced in ascertaining its cause.

**Scarcity of Water.**—The complaints from many of the wards in the city in reference to a scarcity of water, are becoming very general. In the Second Ward on Saturdays, the hydrants run but feebly, and scarcely afford sufficient of the aqueous fluid for ordinary purposes. Why the complaints should be greater this summer than previous years, we are at a loss to understand. The evil should be remedied, if possible, as this is the season and the time water should be used plentifully, purifying gutters, sewers, &c.

right, to what appeared to be his personal advantage. He took the risk of defeat, and perhaps unexpectedly met with success. Apart from the fact of his being the fittest man in Philadelphia for the situation which he held, his noble conduct under the strongest pressure, merited a re-election, and we rejoice to know that our own party friends greatly aided in its accomplishment. Had Mr. Graeff been defeated, his fine scientific attainments and unequalled experience, would probably have been lost to the City, and the public interest suffered thereby. Mr. Erdman, the caucus nominee of the Secret Order, may be a proper person for the post of Chief Engineer of the Water Works, but even his warmest friends will scarcely contend that he is the equal of the Engineer who has just been re-elected. The success of Mr. Graeff proves, that there are gentlemen in Councils who have been drawn into the Secret Order, and feeling their false position, will occasionally vindicate the right of private judgment in the matter of choosing public servants. Here is an instance in point, and they should not pass without words of commendation. Good came out of Nazareth in days of old, and much may yet flow from individuals belonging to the Order. We give credit for what has already been received, although Mr. Graeff is a Whig, and shall not fail to recount each meritorious act in the order in which it may happen, and still continue to hope that all is not evil, even where it appears to be so.

Is Mr. Graeff less worthy to-day than he was a year ago? Is he less honest, or less capable? has he in the interval so conducted himself as to give offence to any one in the community? If not, why do we hear no condemnation of his decapitation from the organ? But no, Whig votes are not wanted just at this time to elect members of Councils, and therefore, there is not room for a single Whig "Old Limer," as he may be, in the administration of the City under Loco Foco rule.

We congratulate Mr. G. on the fact that he retires with honor from a post which he has so long filled with distinction; but we say to him and every other Whig, put not your trust in Loco Focos.

## EVENING BULLETIN.

FRIDAY, JULY 11, 1856.

The following communication was read, and on motion referred to the Committee on Water:

To the President and Members of the Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia:

GENTLEMEN—I consider it my duty to communicate several matters which experience has taught me should have early attention, and which, had my official connection with the city continued, would have been presented to your notice much more in detail. I propose to step beyond the proper borders by reference to matters which may be considered as the duty of another; but my great interest in the works, and the vital importance of the subject, must be my excuse for troubling you with the following communication:

In my report made to Councils, April 19, 1855, (see Appendix to Journal of Select Council, in the volume for January 4th to May 7th, 1856, No. 42, page 340.) will be found the following:

"A slight settlement however, has been noticed in a part of the Fairmount Dam, near the eastern stone pier, where the water is the deepest. This settlement has taken place very gradually, indeed, and has been going on since its erection. It amounts to but a few inches, and no fear of failure is anticipated, as such a settlement is probably not more than might be expected to take place when the large mass of timber at this point is considered, and when we remember that, beside its own weight, it has been subjected to the enormous pressure of nearly eleven feet in depth of water upon it. The old crib, moreover, were not so well put together as they might have been, and some stone may have escaped from the front of the work. As early as the stage of the water in the river will permit, an examination, as complete as it is possible to make, will be instituted, and should it be found necessary, such repairs as will then suggest themselves will be made."

And again, in my report to Councils, made January 17th, 1856, this remark occurs: "By the last report it will be seen that some repairs were then contemplated to the dam; upon further examination, it was not deemed necessary to make them. The work will, however, be carefully examined from time to time, and should there be occasion an appropriation for the object will be asked."

I have accordingly kept careful watch upon the settlement mentioned in my first report, and have satisfied myself that it is slowly increasing. The quantity of water running over the dam has not, within a very few days, admitted of as thorough an examination as I desired to make of the foundation of the dam, which, at that point, is from fifteen to nineteen feet below the surface of the water. I had, however, made arrangements for doing this effectually; and if deficiency was found at the point (which there is reason to apprehend) I had determined to ask an appropriation for effecting a permanent repair.

I take the liberty to suggest that a close and rigid examination be made, whilst the water is sufficiently low for the purpose; as any failure of the dam must result in sad disaster to the city.

Councils are aware that suit was instituted against the Schuylkill Navigation Company, and defended by the City in connection with that Company, for an alleged raising of the dam by means of temporary strips of timber placed upon it. Considerable damages were finally awarded to the parties interested, which have been paid by the Navigation Company; it is necessary that a permanent structure should be substituted for, and of the same height as these temporary strips.

A communication upon this subject will doubtless be addressed to Councils by the Navigation Company in a few days.

I take the liberty further to state that there is urgent necessity for an early enlargement of all parts of the Waterworks now supplying the late Districts of Spring Garden, Northern Liberties, and Penn, upon a comprehensive scale commensurate with the very rapidly increasing demand for water, the magnitude of our city, and such as the convenience and safety of the residents of that part of Philadelphia demands.

The Delaware, as well as Fairmount Works, also require a much increase.

All of which is respectfully submitted by  
July 10, 1856. FREDERICK GRAFF.

A communication was received from the City Controller, containing the semi-annual statement of the affairs of the department, from Jan. 1st to June 30th; communication from the City Treasurer, stating the amount of