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OBER 20, 1857.

[For the Public Ledger] Fairmount Park.

Messrs. Editors:—The views and wishes of the tax payers of Philadelphia have been fully made known by their recent liberal contributions towards the introduction of public grounds for the people. The only question now before Councils is whether the northern part of Fairmount Park shall be sold by the Sheriff. The mind, the heart, the soul of the Councils will come to the rescue. The following letter from Mr. Graff will be read at this time with interest.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 12, 1857.

To THEODORE CUYLER, Esq., Chairman Committee on City Property.

DEAR SIR:—In view of the present and future purity of the Schuylkill water supplied to our citizens from Fairmount, I certainly consider it of vital importance that the city should retain the entire control by ownership of the shores immediately bordering upon the pool formed by the dam.

The impurities thrown out from the shores upon the south side have at present a pretty good chance of finding their way into the thread of the stream, and being carried over the dam, or of passing through the canal to the river below. This is not the case with those from the Sedgely Park side of the river, they cannot be sufficiently deflected from the banks to reach the rapid current of the river, but hug the shores as such matters generally will, and are carried almost directly toward the mouth of the forebay of the Water Works, there to be pumped up and supplied to our citizens.

The very judicious purchase of the property on that shore exhibited commendable foresight, and I much regret to hear any doubt expressed of its remaining entire in the hands of the city corporation forever.

I consider the retention of the Sedgely Park portion of it to be of the utmost consequence; inspection of the whole river front of that estate, from Guard Avenue Bridge to Pratt's Point, will show that it forms a deeply indented cove, the river thereby becoming much wider at that spot causes a sluggish retardation of the current at the shores, by no means calculated to carry off such impure matter as would be discharged from breweries, slaughter-houses, or similar establishments, such as may be built upon the property should the city be induced to abandon its ownership.

Such a cove as is here formed will retain these impurities for a longer or shorter time, according to the height of the water upon the dam, and will in fact form a natural receiving reservoir from which a new supply of impure matter would be constantly, slowly but surely, distributed and conducted to the forebay of the Water Works.

That this would be the natural result, I think any one can convince himself by an inspection of the formation of the shores at this place.

It is to be hoped that the city will allow no consideration to deprive them of the ownership of any part of the shores which they now possess as high up as the upper line of the late Spring Garden Water Works, and that every exertion will be made to strictly guard it from tenants whose business would cause any contamination whatever of the water supply; also, that the sewers and natural water courses which are already permitted to discharge their filth upon parts of the river front above designated be suppressed as early as possible. For if the shores be guarded there is no difficulty in carrying all such objectionable drainage to a point below the dam. Very respectfully,

FREDERIC GRAFF, Consulting Engineer.

and superb globe lights, will add greatly to its beauty. On the Locust street side a light and graceful roof will be thrown across the pavement, so that people may get in and out of carriages, in rainy weather, without getting wet.

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The shape of the auditorium is such that there will be a good view of the stage from every seat in the house, and it is believed that the construction will prove to be as good for hearing as for seeing. The decorations of this part will be rich and elegant, without being too extravagant. The colossal caryatides to support the proscenium will be of carved wood, instead of papier mache, as in the New York Opera House. This will be a little more costly, but at the same time more durable, as the papier mache ornaments of the New York house have already been broken and damaged to a considerable extent. The painters have already made considerable progress in finishing the walls of the vestibules and stairways from top to bottom, in imitation of Sienna marble, which has a very pretty effect. Contracts have been made for the finishing and furnishing of the auditorium, and even the scene painter is at work preparing some of the scenery necessary for the stage. It is expected to have new and beautiful scenery for five operas ready when the house is opened, and an artist from Europe, to assist in this department, is expected daily.

It is impossible to say when the building will be finished, but, with the same energy that has been exhibited thus far in carrying on the vast structure, it may be completed in the coming autumn. Some additional funds are needed, which we doubt not will be easily raised, for the sake of completing what we believe to be the best constructed opera house in the world, and one that every Philadelphian ought to take pride in, not merely because it will be an architectural ornament, but because it will be a noble school of art, and is destined, under proper hands, to be a useful agent in refining the taste of the population and winning them away from less profitable and less reputable amusements.

Our Water Works.—During the past winter the different water works of our city were more or less damaged, and the spring freshets added to the injury done. As a consequence, all the works have been undergoing repairs. At the Kensington works about 14,000 bricks have been laid in the basin, and the embankments strengthened at top and bottom. By such repairing and cleansing of the works, the water now is as clear and pure as could be desired. The Spring Garden works are in excellent condition. Nearly all the brick work of the Fairmount establishment has been relaid, and the basin puddled, so as to prevent the water from finding its way through the banks. Two of the large wheels have been entirely rebuilt, and the others repaired, as well as the forcing pumps, while a new cap log is being laid on the dam, the old one having been removed by the ice of last winter. The fullest supply of water may now be had from all these works. The receipts into the department have been \$50,000 greater than last year, a fact which is, to some considerable extent, attributable to the system of making new searches, adopted by the present chief.

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would be announced in the papers on Monday.

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TROUBLE IN THE WIGWAM.—The clerks and messengers of Common Council, who went into office in triumph, so recently, have illustrated the familiar figure of the rocket and the stick. For some time the American members have been growling about the inefficiency of the new officers, and the latter have now got their own party "in their wool." On Friday afternoon the Democratic members of Common Council met in caucus, with Judge Kindley in the chair. The qualifications of the officers were handled without gloves, and a resolution was adopted calling upon the entire batch to resign! Col. Wm. C. Patterson offered the resolution, which was adopted after some debate. The following named gentlemen were appointed a committee to wait upon the officers who have got in such bad odor:—Wm. C. Patterson, Andrew Miller, Wm. Bradford, — Kershaw, and Perce Butler.

The caucus will meet again to-morrow night to receive the report of the committee. It is sagely surmised that the officers will decline according to the request of their Democratic friends. Whether they will be ousted by some other process, remains to be seen.

cure the liberties of our native land at all hazards, or perish in the attempt, we cannot fail of success. Our cause is a righteous one, the motives which actuate us are of no ordinary character, and we trust that no brother amongst us will ever be found absent from his post in the hour of danger."

The candidate is then again taken to the Instructor, who gives him the signs, pass-words, and grips of this degree.

He pays a dime to the secretary at the initiation of each degree, and 50 cents on first entering the ante-room for examination. After the third degree has been thus administered, the secretary gives him a travelling card like this:—

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RICHMOND, VA., August 1, 1854.
JOHN SMITH is a member in good standing of
of MOLLY STARK COUNCIL, No. 40, of the State
of Virginia.
No. 40, Rich- JOHN STILES, Sec'y.
mond, Va.

This card is carried in the pocket book, and admits a member into any council in the State.

Such is Know Nothingism. It out-Jesuits Jesuitism. It makes its council greater than the State. It makes of its President more than Catholicism makes of its Pope. It enslaves the conscience, the heart, the mind, the tongue, the pen, the purse—it enslaves the soul. The freeman will not bow his neck to the yoke. Alas for him if he does.

Such is the picture. It is too true for a jest. The Know Nothings must keep their temper. We mean to keep ours. We are not done with the subject.

Our New Opera House.

A visit to the huge and elegant building now in process of construction by the Academy of Music, at the corner of Broad and Locust streets, will well repay the visitor at the present time. Externally it is finished, and the beautiful and substantial stone and brick work, and the general architectural effect, on Broad and Locust streets, will be admired by every one. The interior presents a busy scene, but even in the present state of confusion and incompleteness, one can form a good idea of what the appearance will be when finished. The stage is immense, and it is provided with every new contrivance for the shifting of scenes and the production of striking effects. The audience part contains a parquet, parquet circle, first, second and third tiers, and although there will be seats for about three thousand persons, every one will have perfect freedom of movement and will not be cramped or uncomfortable as in all the other establishments of the kind in the country.

The whole building is to be heated by steam from boilers placed in a vault south of it, and there will be several miles of iron pipes to convey the heat to every part of the vast structure. Of gas pipes there will be nearly two miles, and water will be conducted through the edifice on an equally liberal scale. The dome of the auditorium is of an entirely novel construction. The frame work is of wrought iron and the whole ceiling is of wire-work interlaced, on which is to be placed the plaster that is to receive the fresco painting. Lightness and additional security in case of fire are obtained by this novel and elegant mode of constructing the roof. Around a large circular opening in the centre of the dome, will be globes and hundreds of gas burners, which will shed a flood of light upon the whole interior, without interfering with the eye-sight of spectators. At the same time, this mode of lighting will much assist the ventilation, which is further provided for by openings in the ceilings and floors in various parts of the house. The walls are of enormous thickness and the wood-work of the galleries and the roof is the most massive and substantial that we have ever seen in any building.

In the front part of the house, looking on Locust street, is a superb saloon, to be used for promenades, or for concerts, lectures or balls, which will seat some eight hundred people comfortably. This saloon is to be decorated in the highest style of art. There is a most liberal supply of retiring rooms, cloak rooms and refreshment rooms, and nothing that can contribute to the comfort and convenience of the public seems to have been neglected. The stairways throughout the building are spacious and easy of ascent, and there is such an abundance of wide door-ways, that a full audience can be discharged in a few minutes. The grand vestibule on the Broad street front will be very handsome, and a flight of stairs at each end, fourteen feet wide, with handsome balusters