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AY, MAY 21, 1857

**CITY MATTERS**

[Reported for the Daily Pennsylvanian.]

**Laying Water Pipe.**—Workmen have commenced laying water pipe on Nineteenth street, from Green to Thompson, so as to connect the 10 inch pipe on Green with the 30 inch main on Thompson street. This work when completed, will afford an abundant supply of water to the residents in the Fifteenth Ward—particularly that portion of the Ward known as "Bush Hill"—at all times. As it is now, the citizens of Green, Washington, Wallace, Coates street, and the streets crossing at right angles west of Broad street, suffer great inconvenience on Saturdays from a want of a sufficiency of water. The resolution passed by Councils on Thursday last, to meet this exigency, was promptly approved by Mayor Vaux, and we are pleased to learn that the Chief Engineer of the Watering Department is determined to push the work forward with all possible despatch. In the annual appropriation to this Department, approved March 6, 1857, \$5000 was appropriated to this object.

104-6 For the Pennsylvania Inquirer.

The recent action of Councils in the removal of Mr. Frederick Graff from the position of Chief Engineer of the City Water Works, has occasioned a feeling of general regret. For the situation he occupied, Mr. G. was admirably qualified by his industry, integrity, talents and scientific acquirements, all of which were brought to bear in the discharge of the various and arduous duties which devolved upon him. When a man so competent in every way to fill the office is removed, we are at a loss to know what good is to be effected by the change. The importance of having the City Water Works well and ably conducted in all its departments is obvious to every one, and no man more faithful or competent in this respect can be found than the late incumbent. His removal will be a public loss.

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been repeatedly driven away from the track and the cars, by the superintendent and others connected with the road.

The little sufferer died about 7 o'clock, last evening. Coroner Delavan will hold an inquest to-day.

**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.

**The Kensington Water.**—No wonder the people of Kensington and Richmond complained of the bad smell and taste of the water with which they have been supplied. Mr. Ogden, the Chief Engineer of the water department, had the basins at the reservoir emptied of the water yesterday, and one of the basins had from nine to twelve inches of black, filthy and stinking mud in the bottom, with any number of cattles and other fish. It is said these basins have not been emptied and cleaned since the water was first put into the reservoir. The work of cleaning out will be accomplished in a few days. It would not be amiss for the institution of inquiries by the head of the department of water to ascertain the inferior condition of the several basins of the other city water-works.

Superintendent's house. Major Delafield has made several changes for the better since his appointment as Superintendent, and he will, no doubt, bring to bear upon this institution the extensive knowledge he acquired while traveling in Europe and examining the Russian, English and French military works, especially during the close of the Crimean war. He very properly requires a strict and punctilious compliance with all rules and orders, although at times permission is given to the student to indulge in the amusements peculiar to cadets. Among these is the "stag dance," which was performed on Tuesday evening for the first time this season. It consists in enclosing a certain amount of space in a rectangular form, with candles placed about a foot apart, and stuck into the ground. At each corner is a tripod of muskets with a candle stuck upon the point of the bayonets attached to each. The "fun" consists in the cadets performing a variety of ridiculous dances within the circumference of the lighted candles, and finally dancing them all out, when one of their number produces a violin, banjo, or some other musical instrument, and is accompanied by the cadets in a variety of songs, humorous or sentimental. The performance was certainly very ludicrous, and the visitors congregated around much amused. Several of the cadets sang uncommonly well, and their solos were greeted with loud applause. At tattoo all scatter to their tents, visitors return to the hotel, and the next morning brings a repetition of the routine duty previously described. The encampment commenced on the 20th of June, and will continue until the 28th of August, on the evening of which a grand ball has heretofore taken place, and the time honored custom will, it is not likely, be omitted on the approaching breaking up of the present encampment.

**ROWING AND SCULLING.**

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2. SCULLING is practised exactly on the same principle as rowing, except that both sculls being managed by one man, he has only one hand for each. He sits in the middle of the boat, and pulls them exactly as described in rowing with the oar, taking especial care to pull alike with both, and entering, as well as feathering them, precisely at the same moment. A neglect of this precaution is attended with danger; and, in fact, in light outrigger-boats it is only by the practised hand that the time can be so nicely regulated as to admit of their use without an upset. The sculler is, first of all, obliged to have recourse to a wide and steady boat; and when he can manage her well he may venture upon an outrigger; carefully stepping into which, while she is held by a waterman, he sits down and gets all right, while still steadied by his assistance, and he only ventures to give up his aid when he has his sculls out ready balanced, and at first lying with the blades flat on the water. After once getting away, he had better row on pretty hard, as these boats are more difficult to paddle in than to row fast—that is, short of a spurt, but rowing with good power. A straight course is kept partly by watching the stern and keeping it in a line with some object; and partly by turning the head round (not the shoulder), when, having taken a sight, the stern is set to some fresh object, and maintained in a line with it till the next look a-head. This is one of the most difficult parts of sculling, and few men are able to steer well in a race without the assistance of a man behind them in another boat, or, if in narrow rivers, running on the bank, who keeps directing the course, by calling "Pull your right," or "Pull your left," as the case may require. In matches, an eight-oar generally accompanies each sculler, with a man of light weight in her bows, who is able to direct to a nicety the course to be kept, and the sculler has only to lay out to the utmost of his power; and if this done by both it is fair enough, and leads to an avoidance of fouls which are the bane of the rowing match.

3. THE MANGUEVRES in all boats are alike in principle, and consist of holding water, backing water, paddling, rowing hard, spirting, easing (or stopping), and starting, each of which shall be separately described.

4. HOLDING WATER is necessary when the boat is to be suddenly stopped, in which case both sides of her crew reverse the blades of their oars, and, according to the pace at which they have been going, drop them more or less into the water, holding their arms straight, and keeping the inside hand firmly upon the loom to prevent the water sinking the blade too far under, and thus causing "a crab." It is a very difficult manœuvre to execute well, and is not often wanted in racing, except when a buoy is to be turned, in which case the object is to row rapidly up to it, then "Hold water all" till the way is stopped, after which one side still holds, or even backs water, and the other rows the boat rapidly round. Practice is the great point here, as the principle is simple enough, and nothing but long practice will enable a crew to turn a boat in the small space and time which I have seen at Manchester, where the boats row at a racing pace up to the buoy, and, if possible, the stroke-oar catches hold of it. At all events, they stop as if by magic, and are round in about 15 seconds. Sometimes one or two oars hold water to enable the other side to row them round; but in confined spaces this is generally effected by one side backing and the other side rowing, which brings a boat round in her own length, or nearly so.

5. BACKING is effected by the oar held as in the last manœuvre, and used as in rowing, but exactly in the opposite direction, pushing the blade through the water, and pulling it through the air. The blade should be neatly feathered at the moment of leaving the water; and great care should be taken not to dig too deep, and to back in good time, and with the same length of stroke. There is no possibility of swinging beyond the perpendicular, and it should not be attempted, but all the work must be done before the thwart, reaching well over the toes. When a whole crew back-water neatly and in good time, it is a very pretty sight, and the boat goes a better pace than might be expected; indeed, I once saw a "Leander four," at Brith, back-water as fast as an ordinary boat could row, and with a neatness and good time which I have never seen equalled.

There are six sentinels who walk back and forth from sentry box to sentry box, the camp approaching in its outline somewhat the form of a hexagon, and containing between two and three acres of ground. It is located within a short distance of Roe's Hotel, and near the ruins of old Fort Clinton. The first, second, fourth and fifth classes are encamped, the third being absent on furlough. The total number of cadets present are one hundred and seventy-seven, viz:—First class, 26; second class, 23; fourth class, 56, and fifth class, 72. These being divided into four companies, sixteen tents are allotted to each. Besides these there are eight officers', four army officers', three orderlies', six guard, two barbers', the commandant's, quartermaster's, a janitor and three black's tents, making in all ninety-one tents pitched within the encampment. Just outside of the lines, near the water tank, is also a large reception tent for the accommodation of visitors. The tents for the first class contain two cadets each, while the others have severally three occupants. An inventory of the tent furniture would be very short, as it consists only, besides the bedding, of a locker containing four boxes for clothes, &c., a looking glass, wash basin, towels, comb, brush and a tin candle box. Their wardrobe is rather scanty, no clothing being allowed but that which is absolutely needed. Each cadet is required to bring with him from home two pairs of shoes, two pairs white gloves, seven shirts, six collars seven pairs of worsted socks, seven pairs of cotton socks, four pairs of summer drawers, four pairs of winter drawers, four pocket handkerchiefs, six towels, one clothes bag made of ticken, a clothes brush, hair brush, tooth brush, comb, leather trunk two pillow cases, and two pairs of sheets. He is, in addition, supplied at the Academy with one black stock, two sets of white belts, a mattress, pillow, pair of blankets, &c., quilted bed cover, chair, tumbler, candlestick and an account book, besides the regular uniform. On very hot days, when engaged in drills or on duty, they wear the fatigue jacket, consisting of brown linen drilling for privates, and white for the officers.

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At nine o'clock the drills for the day commence. The 1<sup>st</sup> class, during the forenoon, are exercised with the dismounted light artillery battery, and the fourth with the same mounted. A portion of the first class are detailed to assist the army officers in command at their drills, which are quite exciting, and oftentimes dangerous, particularly in the case of the mounted artillery. The cadets are obliged to keep their respective stations on foot at the guns and caissons even when the horses attached to the same are flying across the field at a gallop, turning in short curves and various evolutions. Sometimes these curves are made so sharp that the gun carriage overturns, and either the dragoons or cadets run no small chance of sustaining an injury. This is known sometimes as the flying artillery, and is the arm which performed such wonders in the Mexican war, on account of the rapid and effective service it renders when properly worked. The instructors in this department are Brevet Lieut. Col Wm J. Hardee, who also has charge over the infantry and cavalry tactics, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. J. H. Gibbon and 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. Geo. L. Harris. The remainder of the first class in the meantime are exercised at the siege and seacoast batteries, together with the second class. During the encampment they are also practiced at target firing with the gun, howitzer and mortar. They have finished their practical instruction in pyrotechny—such as the making of all kinds of musket, rifle, pistol, cannon and howitzer cartridges, preparation of strap, graps and canister shot, priming tubes, fuzes, slow and quick match, port fire, rockets, carcasses, fireballs, light balls and incendiary composition, loading shells and grenades, casting musket balls, putting up stores for transportation, loading caissons, the manner of proving powder, &c., &c.

At half-past ten o'clock the first class are drilled in practical engineering, under the direction of First Lieutenant Andrew J. Donnan and First Lieutenant Thomas L. Casey. A portion of the class are employed in the construction of fascines, gabions, sand bags, hurdles, trawls, and fascine pickets, all of which are trench and battery materials. They also receive instruction in the manner of tracing or laying out batteries, field intrenchments, parallel and zig-zag approaches, the setting up of profiles of both cords, &c., to guide in throwing up batteries and other field works, the construction of revetments, the laying of gun and mortar platforms, constructing various military obstacles, such as palisades, fraises, abatis, stone fortresses, mines, &c. Another portion of the class are at this hour practised in throwing out the pontons and tressel bridge—the rapidity with which such bridges can be constructed being at times of vital importance to an army. The cadets are assisted in these labors by a detailed body of sappers, two companies of whom, regularly enlisted, are stationed at the "Point." The bridge exercises now takes place after the Austrian model, and consists of tressels, which can only be used in shallow water. In throwing the same across large streams after the depth reaches fifteen feet pontons or boats must be used, in which case not more than one third of the bridge itself rests

upon tressels. In forming it, tressels are placed in the water, resting upon the bottom of the river about eighteen feet apart, on which are laid five "balks" or beams for supporting the flooring. Upon this skeleton platform are then placed the "oboeses" or planks, that constitute the flooring. These are again secured by side rails which are firmly lashed to the "balks" beneath, and in this manner is rapidly formed a spacious roadway about ten feet in width. When the bridge is carried out in deep water boats are secured at proper distances and the "balks" laid as before, the ends resting upon the boats instead of the tressels. The cadets are exercised at this repeatedly until they can work with remarkable speed, as they have thrown out a bridge for a distance of one hundred and fifty feet within seventeen minutes and a half. All the appliances for forming a bridge of this character are carried in time of war in the train of the army.

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At one o'clock the cadets assemble at the mess hall again for dinner. At three o'clock the first class goes to recitation in infantry and military tactics until five o'clock. They also recite from time to time portions of the general regulations of the army. The instructors of infantry tactics are First Lieut. C. M. Wilcox and First Lieut. John O. Keaton. The instructors in cavalry are First Lieut. C. W. Field and First Lieut. John Pegram. In the afternoon there are sometimes cavalry exercises. From five to six o'clock are members of the first and second classes drill the new cadets in the schools of the soldier and company. Dress parade takes place at retreat which is held at sunset. This parade is merely a repetition of that in the morning, after which the cadets march to supper at seven o'clock.

Every other evening the battalion is allowed to give a hop at one of the end rooms of the Academic Hall, where dancing is kept up with considerable spirit until tattoo strikes at ten o'clock. Fifteen minutes a torwards taps are struck, which is the signal for extinguishing the lights in the camp. The guests at both hotels are invited to the hops, and they are generally quite crowded unless there should be a counter attraction in the shape of a ball or hop at Cozens' Hotel. The first fancy ball of the season took place at Cozens' on Wednesday evening. Gen. Scott was present part of the time, and we noticed among the guests a large number of New Yorkers. On all other evenings tattoo is held at half past nine o'clock. Visitors on these alternate evenings are regaled very frequently with a serenade from the band, which is one of the best and largest in the country, they performing on the plain in front of the