

Sweeping the Streets at Night.

The new system of sweeping our principal thoroughfares at night was commenced last night, and worked admirably. The bright moonlight, to say nothing of the gas-lamps, enabled the sweepers to do the work as thoroughly as in the day-time; while the cessation of travel rendered it a far more easy task. Shop-keepers, house-keepers, and day-pedestrians will rejoice over the reform, which saves them from the annoyance of the dust that is invariably stirred up by the operation of street-sweeping. The night is the proper time for such work, when windows and doors are closed, when people are or ought to be at home, and when the heaps of mud and dust gathered by the sweepers are not likely to be scattered again over the pavement by passing vehicles. We congratulate our citizens on the reform. *Moil 22, 1853*

THE FIRST DAY OF SPRING.

March came in yesterday, but the new month brought no change in the weather, the thermometer at noon being one and a half degrees below the freezing point. The present month, though chronologically the beginning of spring, is in fact, in these latitudes, the close of winter. In north England, the spring weather begins the time that vegetation here is developing signs of life, it is there in the full vigor of early growth. March hereabouts is commonly one of the most disagreeable of the twelve, cold and high winds being prevalent to the very close, and sometimes far into April, and not unfrequently we have severe snowstorms in the latter month. On last Easter-day, when the peach trees were in blossom, there was a considerable fall of snow hereabouts, which did much damage to the fruit. The severity of the past winter has led many to hope for an early spring. While we trust they may not be disappointed, we confess to a want of confidence in any promises the weather may have held out. *Mar 2, 1853*

Fires During the Present Year.

Philadelphia, although not visited perhaps with more than the average number of fires during the present year, has suffered from several of unusual severity which will leave the locations in which they occurred lumbered with unsightly ruins for a considerable period. The greater part of the ground devastated by the great fire of July, at Ninth and Chestnut streets, still continues unimproved, and will probably remain so much longer, as the owner of the Museum and Circus lots, will neither build upon them, nor sell the ground except at prices beyond the reach of those willing to purchase. Most of the owners of the neighboring property that was destroyed or injured, have made additions to their damaged structures, or replaced them with handsome modern stores. The ground of the disastrous conflagrations at Eighth and Cherry streets, and Fifth and Chestnut streets, must necessarily continue in its present condition until the spring opens. In the meanwhile, preparations are on foot for rebuilding at both locations, and no time will be lost when the weather will permit the resumption of active building operations. *Dec 1854*



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PHILADELPHIA SKETCHES - TARR'S MARBLE YARD.

no. 300 Green, below Franklin St.