

Evening Bulletin

Dec. 18 54

the course of a few days. We must not forget to add that at the trial on Saturday, a member of the New York Street Commissioners was present and expressed himself as highly gratified. Dec. 18, 1854.

STREET SWEEPING BY MACHINERY.—Yesterday afternoon, Whitworth's patent street sweeping machine, lately imported by Smith, Seckel & Co., was tried around Independence Square, in the presence of the Members of Councils, and a number of citizens. It performed to the satisfaction of all, and may be regarded as one of the most useful inventions of the age. An American machine constructed on the same principle, was tested at the same time, and proved as efficient as that made by John Bull.

After the trial, the proprietors gave a handsome entertainment to a number of invited guests, at Sanson Street Hall. The tables abounded with good things, to which full justice was done by the persons present. Good cheer prevailed, and a number of speeches were made by gentlemen who had a knowledge of the qualities and usefulness of this new invention for doing the scavenger's work. The lateness of the hour prevents us from giving a detailed report of proceedings. Dec. 16, 1854.

THE STREET SWEEPING MACHINE.—A great deal of curiosity was evinced by our citizens on Saturday last, in the experiments with the street sweeping machine introduced by Smith, Seckel & Co., for the purpose of keeping the streets of Philadelphia in a much more cleanly condition, at a much less cost of labor. The performance is altogether mechanical, and is another step forward in the use of machinery to relieve man from the severer toil which his necessities impose upon him, and give him time to devote his intellect and his industry to greater achievements in the arts, and in discoveries which will advance the good of the race. Though the operation is new to our citizens, street sweeping with machinery is no new or doubtful experiment. It has been in successful operation for years in the principal cities of England, and with precisely the same kind of a machine as the attempt on Saturday was made with. The apparatus consists of a series of brooms on a cylinder, about two feet six inches wide, attached to two endless chains, running over an upper and lower set of pulleys, which are suspended on a light frame of wrought iron behind a cart, the body of which is near the ground. As the cart wheels revolve, a rotary motion is given to the pulleys conveying the endless chains and series of brooms attached to them, which being made to bear on the ground successively, sweep the surface and carry the soil up an incline or carrier plate, over the top of which it is dropped into the cart.

As soon as the members of Council had placed themselves in a favorable position in Walnut street to view the machine, the horses were started, the brooms commenced to revolve, and the endless chain and slide performed its part by placing the mud into the body of the cart. The street was in the most unfavorable condition for the machine working, as the street had been partially sprinkled, and the mud was in a semi-fluid condition. The machine performed its work, but unfortunately one of them gave out in a weak part, and stopped its operation. This is incident to all new machinery, and by no means affects the principle of the machine or its applicability to the purposes for which it is designed. The machine made in this city is somewhat larger than the imported one, and sweeps a larger space. It was this latter machine which gave out.

Between five and six o'clock the members of Council and a number of invited guests sat down to a handsome supper, at the Sanson street hall, given by Messrs. Smith, Seckel & Co. After the removal of the cloth, the guests were called to order, and Mr. John P. Verree, President of Select Council, was called to the Chair, and a number of Vice Presidents and Secretaries were appointed. Several speeches were made and sentiments given, all of which were well received.

THE STREET SWEEPING MACHINE.—No little excitement was created on Saturday afternoon, by the announcement that the street sweeping machines, "John Bull" and "Young America," were to be tried in Walnut street, in the rear of the State House. Some little delay was occasioned by the failure of Councils to attend at the appointed time, and the sovereigns were kept in anxious expectation. There must have been two or three thousand persons on Sixth from Walnut to Chestnut streets, and on Walnut street, from Fifth to Sixth. The best of order was observed. Finally, the Councils made their appearance, when the machines were soon got in operation.

Though the street was very wet, the watering machine was used in addition, which made

the refuse of the consistency of Schuylkill water in time of freshet. By and by John Bull came along, having a clumsy appearance, looking not unlike some of the winnowing machines, with enclosed sides nearly down to the pavement. It was drawn by two stout horses, the driver being encased in a suit of india rubber, a necessary precaution, for he was covered before he got through with mud from head to foot. Mr. Bull did not make a very great sensation unless it was among those who stood too near the curb stone and were well bespattered with filth. Young America followed, not in the same track, but towards the middle of the street. Neither machine cleaned the course well, owing, we should think, to the watery character of the mud. The brushes were unable to keep it up after it was lifted upon the inclined plane. Bull tried it again, in the middle of the street, and did much better. Young America was withdrawn after the first heat, owing to the breaking of a chair. The test was not considered satisfactory, owing to circumstances beyond the control of those who had the matter in charge. In the evening, Councils were finely entertained at the Sanson Street Hall, by Messrs. Smith & Seckles, the gentlemen through whose enterprise these machines have been brought into public notice. The supper was served up by Col. Joseph B. Neal, and was really creditable to his taste as a caterer. After the viands had been heartily discovered, several speeches were made. Mr. Verree, of the Select Council, spoke, as also Hon. John Robbins, Jr., and Mr. Wm. M. Swain, of the Ledger. These gentlemen did not doubt of the ultimate success of the machines, and attributed the partial failure of the first experiment to various causes.

STREET SWEEPING MACHINES.—We attended the trial of the street-sweeping machines round Independence Square, on Saturday last, before the members of the City Councils, and a throng of thousands of our citizens. The experiment evidently excited great interest, and certainly if such inventions be successfully employed, they would prove of great advantage in promoting the cleanliness of the streets. The two machines in question were the property of Messrs. Smith, Seckel, & Co., one being English, and the other American. They were started at about half-past three o'clock, and by the agency of a well-constructed and strong broom, which fed a number of small buckets that rotated, large quantities of mud were cleared up and shot into an immense box or receiver. But although it is said that "new brooms sweep clean," yet we observed that the mud was not so completely swept out from the interstices between the cobble stones, as it would have been by manual labor with besoms and spades. Still some allowance must be made for a first attempt, and it is probable that the machines might yet be improved up to perfection. The American took the widest space in sweep, and appeared to us to be the better of the two. One or two progresses certainly effected nearly all that could be desired. The American unfortunately broke down before the close of the experiment. The boxes or receivers hold more than a cart-load each, and the American possesses the advantage of a contrivance by which its receiving box can be taken off and emptied at any time, without the necessity of hauling the entire vehicle to a distant mud heap or deposit. The members of Councils and a large number of guests were subsequently entertained in the most sumptuous manner, by Messrs. Smith, Seckel & Co., in Sanson Street Hall. After the viands had been discussed, a meeting was organized, at which addresses were delivered by Messrs. Grayson, Swain, Robbins, Hartman, Coleman and others, and resolutions were adopted, highly recommending the new contrivances to the favorable consideration of the City authorities. We learn that another trial will be made before the Committee of Councils, in



Dec. 20, 1854 For the Pennsylvania Inquirer.

Our City—Its Progress and Improvements.
No one can have failed to have observed the marked change in the appearance of our city within the few years past. In the path of many of our enterprising citizens—old dilapidated buildings—the relics of past ages, have given place to beautiful structures—both ornate and useful in their character.

Two years since—with a commendable enterprise our fellow citizens, Messrs. Thomas & Son, erected their beautiful edifice on South Fourth street—since then the character of that section of the city has been so changed in appearance that it can scarcely now be recognised as the same old fashioned, dull Fourth street. Now its all life and business.

On the corner of Fourth and Library street, within a few months, through the enterprise of our esteemed citizen, Howell Evans, Esq., a fine four storied building has risen—and now adds greatly to the beauty of the street. It stands as an evidence of the prosperity which has resulted from the owners' industry and taste in his profession. The fame of his model printing establishment is too well known to need any notice here. The second floor of the building is occupied by his workmen, and is well worth a visit. The spirit of comfort and neatness reigns throughout the spacious room. The entire building is finished in a beautiful, neat style, and is replete with all modern conveniences.

The spacious office on the first floor, fronting on both Fourth and Library streets, has been leased to, and is now being handsomely fitted up, for the use of the "DIME SAVINGS," an Institution chartered by the Legislature of Pennsylvania in 1854, and intended as a daily, weekly, monthly or other depository for such small sums as may be saved from the earnings or income of Tradesmen, Mariners, Clerks, Laborers, Seamstresses, Servants, Minors or others, and investing the same in substantial securities, such as to guarantee the safe keeping and proper return when desired, of the money deposited together with interest thereon.

A praiseworthy Institution and will be opened to the public about the first of January, 1855.

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