



Our Market Houses.—We give below a table showing the number of market houses, number of clerks, their salary, and the revenues derived from each under the old city and district governments, besides the amount of salaries proposed to be given under the new ordinances passed by Common Council. According as the tables are made up, it would appear that the expense under the new department will be less by \$3315 than under the old. But in the new account the watchmen necessary to guard the markets are entirely left out. Supposing that the same number will be required under the new city as under the old governments, and the expenses of the present markets will be increased over \$3000. The expense of watchmen may be thrown into the police department, but they must be incurred somewhere. Taking the present policeman's salary, \$500, and twelve watchmen, the number required, under the old system, and \$6000 expense will have to be added to the sum above mentioned, as the expenses of the new department.

Districts.	No. of Clerks.	Ann. Sal'y	Whole am't sal'y	Revenue.
Moyamensing,	1 Clerk,	\$400	\$400	\$2,543-00
Southwark,	1 do.	540	540	4,820-5
City,	4 do.	700	2,800	36,282-00
Do.	4 Wth'n		1,750	
N. Liberties,	1 Clerk,	500	500	8,641-00
Do.	3 Wth'n		885	
Spring Garden,	1 Clerk,	350	350	9,195-00
Do.	3 Wth'n	200	600	
Penn.	1 Clerk,	300	300	2,218-00
Kensington,	2 do.	320	640	
Do.	2 Wth'n	300	600	3,475-12
Richmond,	1 Clerk,	250	250	
		300	250	241-66
Dec. 2 1854.	12 Clks.		\$9,615	67,416-28
	12 W'n.		6,300	
	24		8,315*	

*In favor of New Department.

NEW DEPARTMENT.			
1 Chief Clerk or Commissioner,			\$1000
7 Clerks,		\$500	3500
2 Do.		400	800
2 Do.		350	700
1 Do.		200	300
13 Clerks,			\$6300

Our Markets.—There was an abundance of almost every thing in our various produce markets yesterday afternoon. Poultry, game, and meats sold at reasonable prices; venison commanded 14a20 cents per pound. Some of the finest beef ever displayed, is that of Mr. George Severn, Second and Lombard streets; it is unsurpassed. Terrapin were worth from \$6a\$12 per dozen; canvass back ducks sold at \$2a\$2-50; turkeys ranged from 87a. a \$2 each; geese 87a. a \$1; ducks \$1 per pair; chickens 62a. a \$1-12a; squab pigeons 25a31a. Oysters have advanced, and now sell at from \$3a\$8 per thousand. Butter was held at 28a40 cents per pound, for roll and prime pound. Eggs were scarce at 28a30 cents per dozen. Common Potatoes sell at \$1-12a\$1-25 per bushel.

Dec. 19. LOCAL ITEMS. 1854.
Reported for the Pennsylvania Inquirer.

The Navy Yard.—This place now presents a scene of more than usual activity. From November, 1853, to November, 1854, inclusive, the number of workmen employed in the Dock, Yard and Naval Station at this port has been as follows:

November, 1853,	420 men.	Amount paid,	\$14,000
December,	350 "	"	12,000
January, 1854,	275 "	"	10,000
February,	275 "	"	8,800
March,	190 "	"	7,000
April,	137 "	"	6,100
May,	350 "	"	10,500
June,	450 "	"	16,000
July,	350 "	"	13,300
August,	365 "	"	16,700
September,	400 "	"	16,200
October,	450 "	"	17,500
November,	500 "	"	20,300

The number and grade of the men at present employed in the Navy Yard, may be classified somewhat in the following manner:

Carpenters,	112	Plumbers,	3
Sawyers,	16	Coppersmiths,	2
Carpenters' laborers,	24	Steam Eng. & Firem'n	12
Blacksmiths,	35	Gunners' Crew,	10
Joiners,	41	Wharf Builders,	13
Caulkers,	16	Masons,	7
Spinners,	5	House Carpenters,	5
Sail Makers,	6	Laborers,	215
Painters,	8	Teamsters,	5

It can thus be seen that there are now 535 men employed in the Navy Yard, and the amount expended per month for labor will be about twenty-five thousand dollars. The amount disbursed in the same department from November, 1853, to November, 1854, inclusive, was \$165,600. This, it must be borne in mind, is for the single item of labor. An equal, if not greater amount, is yearly expended by the various departments of the Yard for the necessary materials and stores, which are not included in the ordinary contracts from abroad. All this is thrown directly in the channels of our city trade, and thus stimulates the home market, and builds up our merchants and traders in their several callings and occupations.

Within a very short time the following vessels have been repaired and equipped for sea at this dock yard:—Steam frigates Saranac and San Jacinto; steamer, first class, Fulton; sloop-of-war Vandalia, St. Marys, Cyane, and Jamestown, besides several vessels belonging to the coast survey. At this time the coast survey steamers "Walker" and "Bibb" are being prepared for sea; while the workmen are actively engaged in preparing materials for constructing the "Wabash," a steam frigate of the very largest size, which is ordered to be built at this station. Two light boats for the Treasury Department are also under way at the present time, and the utmost activity prevails throughout the whole establishment. The skill of our artisans in shipbuilding, when united with the undisputed fact that vessels of the same size can be constructed at a less cost at Philadelphia than at any other dock yard in the United States, fully justifies

the concentration of a full share of the National labor at this station. The evidences of what we have done in constructing vessels of war is the best guarantee of what will be done in the future.—While, therefore, full justice should be accorded to Secretary Dobbin for his impartiality in distributing the patronage of the Government, the return for that liberality can be pointed to with just pride by every man who appreciates the skill and ingenuity of Philadelphia mechanics.

A FINE IMPROVEMENT ON CHESTNUT STREET.—REMOVAL OF AN OLD ESTABLISHMENT.—McAllister & Brother, the well known Opticians, have recently removed from their old quarters, No. 48 Chestnut street, above Second, to their new and spacious building, 194 Chestnut street, nearly opposite the Masonic Hall. Their new structure is quite an ornament to the section of the city in which it is located, and highly creditable to the enterprising firm who have reared it. The building, which has been constructed throughout in the most substantial manner by Mark Balderston, builder, is of fine pressed brick, four stories in height, with windows elliptically arched. Above all is a tasty brick cornice, instead of the miserable wooden affairs which have recently proved such efficient fire-traps. The store is 85 feet in depth, with lofty ceilings and large skylights, which furnish the clear and steady light required in the Optical and Philosophical departments of the business of the house. The entire arrangements furnish unmistakable evidence that the business will be conducted with that strict regard to system which has always characterized this establishment. As an instance of their systematic mode of doing business, we may mention that every pair of Gold Spectacles sold by the firm is privately marked and registered in a book prepared for that purpose; the number, the name, and residence of the purchaser, as also the Karat, Focus, Pattern, Price, &c., &c., are all carefully recorded. We are informed that this mode of registering, which was adopted in 1815, has proved invaluable, particularly as a means of restoring lost property to its rightful owners. The same large thermometer from which a Register of the weather has been made for thirty years, and which is so often referred to as "McAllister's Thermometer," will be removed to their new location on the first of January. The record so generally consulted will continue to be placed convenient for public inspection. We observe that the old gilded bust of Franklin, (carved upwards of fifty years ago) and which for many years was a prominent object at "48," is honored with a conspicuous position at the new store.

The establishment of the Messrs. McAllister is one of the oldest in the United States. It was founded in 1783 by the grandfather of the members of the present firm, in part of a building on Market street, owned and occupied by Robert Aitken, who about that time published the first edition of the Bible in the United States. In 1796 the business was removed to No. 48 Chestnut street, where it has been continued up to the present period. The removal has been rendered necessary by the increasing business of the house, and by the desire to keep pace with the progress westward of trade and fashion. *

Decem-30, 1854.