

LOCAL ITEMS.

Reported for the Inquirer.

Destructive Fire in Philadelphia.—On Saturday morning, about half-past three o'clock, a fire broke out in the office of the Presbyterian Board of Publication, No. 265 Chesnut street, above Eighth, which, before it was entirely subdued, resulted in the destruction of a large amount of property.—The fire originated, it is supposed, on the head of the stairway leading from the first story floor, and soon spread through the whole of the upper interior, destroying the second and third stories, with the garret and roof, and consuming in its course a large stock of books and other publications, besides paper and other kinds of material.

The flames soon spread to the adjoining three story building, No. 267 on the west, owned and occupied by B. Jones, which was demolished as far down as the second story floor, causing great damage to the furniture.

At the same time, the fire extended to the house No. 263, adjoining the publication office, on the east, occupied by Mrs. Harriet Wright, as a boarding establishment, and owned by Dr. William E. Horner. Here the flames were confined to the garret and roof, but notwithstanding, the loss in the destruction and damage of the furniture, &c. was serious.

The dwelling of Mrs. Sarah W. Twelves, No. 269, adjoining Mr. Jones, on the west, also took fire, and was slightly injured on the roof.

The fire raged for several hours, and during its progress the whole of the buildings were deluged by water, which, of itself, contributed much to the destruction of the effects in each of the buildings. Many of the books, &c. in the publication office, that escaped destruction by fire, were rendered worthless to the Board from the injury they sustained from the water.

We understand that the Board of Publication own the building in which their office was located, and that their loss, though heavy, is entirely covered by insurance.

All the other properties were insured, and we believe that the household furniture of the occupants of the dwellings was also partly covered by insurance.

Some portion of the stock and other property of the Board was rescued by removal from the building. We are glad to state that all the stereotype plates, as well as the account books of the Publication, were saved. Their loss, as nearly as can be estimated, is about \$15,000. The total loss by the conflagration, we are unable to state with any accuracy.

A good deal of the valuable furniture in the dwellings was removed, and, in the confusion, suffered not a little from breakage and soiling. The officers of the night police, we are informed, succeeded in removing, in entire safety, from Mrs. Twelves' house, a library valued at \$5,000, belonging to Mr. Twelves.

The buildings thus destroyed were among the oldest edifices in Philadelphia, and their appearance yesterday was most painful.

The firemen, throughout the whole conflagration, acted in the most praiseworthy manner, laboring like good fellows to stay the devouring element.—Up to ten o'clock many of the companies were still upon the ground, and we never witnessed a better or more cheerful spirit prevailing. Long may it continue.

The Board of Publication held a meeting at their office, Sansom street, below Eighth, on Saturday evening, for the purpose of investigating the origin of the fire and the condition of their affairs. A committee of three was appointed to make a report, which we presume will be submitted to the public in a few days. We believe nothing further was definitely acted upon, at least so far as we could learn.

Jan. 8 1849.

Cab Stands.—For the information of our readers, and strangers visiting the city, we annex the several locations where Cabs are allowed to remain by act of Councils. They are as follows:—Dock and Second streets; Fifth and Walnut; Sixth and Chesnut; Sixth and Walnut; Ninth and Walnut; Ninth and George; Ninth and Chesnut; Eighth and Chesnut; Tenth and Chesnut; Broad and Walnut; Broad and Market; Franklin and Race.

An Estimate.—It has been estimated that the distance from the Delaware to the Schuylkill is twelve thousand four hundred and forty-eight feet and three inches. Jan. 10. 1849.

EVENING BULLETIN.

Philadelphia:

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 1849.

Growth of Philadelphia.

Old men are still living, who can remember when the vicinity of Independence Hall was a succession of open fields; and we ourselves in habit a house, in what is comparatively the heart of one of the districts, but built on a spot where, less than twenty years ago, we loitered an idle lad, on holidays, to shoot sparrows. Like a mighty giant, the city grows on every hand around us. If we should attain the ordinary age allotted to man, and the prosperity of the city increases in the same ratio it has done heretofore, we shall live to see Philadelphia with its population of a million, or a million and a half!

Until we descend to statistics, it is impossible to know how rapidly the city grows; and by the city we mean the whole mass of buildings, inclusive of the suburbs. The returns of building permits for the last year have lately been published, and from these we can form some idea of the vast increase of Philadelphia. No less than two thousand seven hundred houses of various kinds were erected in 1848. Many of these were large and spacious dwellings, stores, hotels, &c.; though the majority were probably houses of a medium size. Still, when we consider the comparative stagnation of affairs during most of last year, this number seems extraordinary. What will it be, however, when the Central Railroad is finished, and Philadelphia becomes in fact, what geographically she has always been, the great heart of the internal trade!

The largest number of buildings erected in any one of the suburbs, in 1848, was in Kensington; but these were comparatively small. Next to it comes Spring Garden, where the houses put up are larger and finer, and where in addition, numerous handsome churches have been built:—we may mention especially the one being erected by the Catholics in Spring Garden street, above Eleventh. The number of new buildings in the city proper is five hundred and thirty-one, or rather more than those in Spring Garden, and but seventy less than those in Kensington. These, of course, are generally more spacious and costly than those of the suburbs; and it may be fairly estimated that the expense of constructing them is, in the aggregate, double that of those even in Spring Garden. In the western part of the city especially, there are crowds of new and elegant mansions, some of them almost deserving to be called palaces. The house of Mr. Bailey, in Chesnut street, opposite the Mint, is a noble structure, combining utility and taste in a way creditable alike to architect and to proprietor. The fine, double mansion of Mr. Florence, in Chesnut street, near Schuylkill Seventh, is, with its grounds, a *chef d'œuvre*. The new dwelling of Mr. Edwards, opposite Rittenhouse Square; that of Capt. Paleske, in the same vicinity; that of Mrs. Dr. Rush, in Chesnut above Schuylkill Fourth; and numerous others, in what may be called the West End of Philadelphia, bear testimony to the increasing taste as well as opulence of our citizens.

The improvement in the architectural beauty of private dwellings is indeed very remarkable. A few years ago, the houses of Philadelphia were all built upon the same pattern, so that the city presented an appearance of painful monotony. Nothing would be more beautiful than the effect of our rectangular streets, provided their uniformity was relieved, in a measure, by some variety of architectural design in the houses; but when we see square after square of plain brick dwellings, each as like the other as one new coined penny is like its fellow, the effect becomes tiresome. But this eye-sore, we are glad to see, is being removed, at least partially. There are scores of dwellings,

with no great pretensions to cost, being erected, or already built, in different parts of the city and suburbs, which are very beautiful. The new churches, too, show a vast improvement on the old ones. Formerly, a church in Philadelphia looked like a big, brick barn, pierced with windows: now, very many elegant, and several costly ones, that would serve for models, have been erected. This advance in taste characterizes nearly all sects. The Presbyterians have put up a beautiful Gothic church, built of stone, on Green Hill; and the Episcopalians are now erecting one, in Locust above Schuylkill Seventh streets, which, when finished, will be the most costly, as well as correct, specimen of that order in the city.

We notice these evidences of increasing taste and wealth with pleasure. We may have occasion to notice further improvements in our editorial walks about town.

EVENING BULLETIN.

Philadelphia:

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1848.

Return to Quiet.

Now that the election is over, the return to quiet will be speedy. The successful candidate has been chosen by a majority of the voters, and even those who opposed his election, will now resign themselves to the result. Party feeling has raged with unusual violence, at least for the last fortnight; but past bickering will now be forgotten, and both sides will only remember themselves as citizens of the same republic. This is the result of our glorious institutions. The whole policy of our national government, perhaps, has been changed within the last forty-eight hours. Yet, all has been done peacefully. What a triumph of true freedom!

The Scene Last Night.

The enthusiasm of the Whigs last night surpassed every conception. As return after return came in, each more favorable than the last, the victors rent the air with huzzas, which, dying off, were renewed again at some fresh intelligence, until the cheers, passing from street to street, and district to district, shook the city, and rolled continuously around the suburbs. The defeated party looked as men look in a sudden storm in summer, when thunder-clap after thunder-clap bursts above. But amid all the enthusiasm, we were glad to see good order preserved. Nor has to-day changed the aspect of affairs in this respect. The Whigs "bear their honors" discreetly, and the Democrats, with excellent sense, join in the jokes that such an occasion produces. The large majorities for Taylor in this State have surprised even the victors. They hardly know what to say in their glee, except that old Zach, who, for so many months, has been "coming," has now come with a vengeance.

We refer to the returns from the different States for details. The free-soil vote in the western and in some of the Eastern States, has been comparatively large, Whigs and Democrats both supporting Van Buren; but in this State, so far as heard from, the free-soil Whigs appear to have voted generally for Taylor. The poll has been very heavy everywhere, thousands voting who rarely exercise that privilege. In this city and county the increase has been ten per cent. over the October election. While on this subject, we call attention to the fact that the votes of this city and county are as numerous as those of the city and county of New York, thus verifying an assertion we have frequently made, but which has been doubted, that the population of the two places is about the same. The case is thus:

Full vote of New York, 53,158
" " Philadelphia, 53,167

We are not sorry that this great contest is over. The excitement would be too much for all of us, if it recurred oftener than four years.