

### The Illumination.

The celebration of the victories of our Army and Navy in the war with Mexico took place yesterday, and the city was full of life from rosy morn until 12 o'clock at night.

The day was ushered in by the ringing of the bells of St. Peters and Christ Churches, and by a grand salute of 100 guns, fired from Noble street wharf, under the direction of the corporate authorities of the Northern Liberties.

There were an immense number of visitors in town—every conveyance coming loaded and so full that many were left behind from inability to find room for them.

At noon a salute of one hundred guns was fired from Penn Square; another at the corner of Eleventh and Fitzwater streets, by the citizens of Moyamensing, and a National Salute from the Navy Yard.

Throughout the entire day preparations were afoot for the illumination, and every where were seen transparencies and pyrotechnic ornaments in a state of forwardness. As soon as it was dark, the City began to light up and in a few moments was one perfect blaze. Flags and streamers were pendant across the streets—lanterns of various elegant devices, colored fires, &c. were brought into requisition from various quarters; elegant military bands poured forth the inspiring national airs, and the crowds every where collected responded by shouts.

It would be impossible to give a detailed account of the various points of interest when the tout ensemble was so beautiful. The general effect throughout the city was really magnificent, and the illumination was far more general among our citizens than we had reason to believe it would be.

The Navy Yard and shipping added to the interest of the scene by displaying a great variety of bunting.

All the Halls of the Incorporated Districts of the County, the Districts of Penn, Port Richmond, and the Borough of West Philadelphia, were illuminated.

The places of amusement, newspaper offices, hotels, armories, engine houses, &c., were all most tastefully decorated. Many private houses also displayed transparencies and emblematic mottoes.

Even and anon, fireworks were discharged from Smith's island; Broad and Willow, by the workmen of Mr. W. Baldwin, and by citizens of Spring Garden, at the corner of Ninth and Callowhill, and various other places. Rockets sent up their brilliant jets, which descended in elegantly colored rains. Balloons were sent up also, and we saw several floating magnificently over the city.

It was our intention to lay before our readers a full and particular account of the various decorations, transparencies, mottoes, banners, inscriptions, etc., but we found it impossible to make headway through the densely packed crowd, which rose to oppose our progress like a solid wall of upturned faces.

The office of the North American we can speak for. We had on front a large and elegant transparency of the Battle of Buena Vista, painted by P. Grain, in a style to add to his well established reputation—and also another, "Gen. Taylor bound to the White House," painted by Mr. Gleesner. On the Fourth street side, another fine transparency by Grain, represented the Bombardment of Vera Cruz by Gen. Scott, and a fourth was much admired, being the full length likeness of the principal hero of the day, old Rough and Ready himself. From our roof a large Drummond Light sent wide over the city its brilliant rays, and was thrown at times upon a screen and depicted various striking national scenes, such as the Declaration of Independence, the Battle of Banker Hill, the Engagement on Lake Erie, Gen. Taylor at Buena Vista, &c. &c. At a lower window there was a brilliant display of Pyrric Fires, which seemed to arrest most strongly the attention of passers by, and the corner of Chesnut and Fourth street, seemed the focus of attraction for the evening.

There never perhaps was such a crowd of persons congregated together in our city as on this occasion.—There never was a packing press invented which could have stowed them more closely, and what seems truly wonderful, we have not heard of a single accident, either from the immense number of lights burning in public and private buildings or from the vast concourse drawn together. And the crowd was composed of persons of all ages—tottering eighty, blooming eighteen and laughing eight—nay, many an indulgent mother carried her infant in her arms and many a young son and heir made a ladder of fathers arms and shoulders to get a view above the sea of heads, of the illumination.

There was an orderly, quiet spirit prevailing—joyous, but not boisterous—shouting, which came from the heart, but no rowdiness. Unprotected females were in the crowd, but met no molestation. In fact our city deserves credit for the manner in which the whole festival was got up and for the perfect decorum which pervaded the whole proceedings.

We annex a few more details, hastily thrown together by our reporters, without having time to correct or alter some few repetitions allusions. We have attempted to give descriptions before now of all kinds of public excitements—firemen's processions and Odd Fellow's jubilees, political conventions and military displays, but we candidly own that there never appeared to us so much difficulty in determining where to begin or where to end a description, as on the occasion of this illumination.

Were we to do justice to all who with zeal and liberality entered upon the display, we should be compelled to take a Directory and proceed from A to Z. Not being able to do this, we cannot individualize, for if we should say that friend A showed great public spirit and patriotism, why then neighbor Z, equally our

good friend, would think it invidious that his display was not noticed also. So we make a virtue of necessity and refer only to generalities, and candidly confess that the hardest subject to throw light upon that we ever came across, is a description of a general illumination! It was a blaze, a glare, an aurora cut up into little bits, as Juliet did or would have done, the stars, and scattered over the city! It was a general outburst of enthusiasm—an occasion that will long be remembered by old and young.

The various places of amusement were handsomely illuminated, and all displayed one or more transparencies, with mottoes and devices appropriate to the occasion.

The principal Hotels in the city and county, and indeed we may say, all the public houses large and small, seemed to vie with each other in the splendour of their illumination, and the beauty and brilliancy of their decorations.

The United States, Columbia House, Jones' Hotel, Congress Hall, American House, Washington House, Merchants' Hotel, Minor's, Brown's, Indian Queen, Gray's, Douglass, Doherty's, and many others were very attractive.

At the United States a beautiful and striking feature was exhibited by throwing open the blinds of the windows on the entire front at once, and simultaneous with the striking up of a national air by a band provided for the occasion.

There was a band of music at the Merchants' Hotel, which had the effect to enliven the scene and make that section of Fourth street quite attractive.

A large number of private dwellings were beautifully illuminated, particularly in Arch, Chesnut, Walnut, Spruce, Pine, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and most of the streets immediately east and west of Broad, including the blocks of elegant residences on the several public squares.

Many of them were decorated with transparencies, stars, and various fancy devices greatly heightening the effect of the hundred plain and variegated lamps and candles that shed their rays into the crowded and animated thoroughfares.

The several newspaper and publication offices, through Dock, Third and Chestnut streets were brilliantly illuminated, every one displaying flags; and handsomely set off with transparencies, mottoes, &c., characteristic of the jubilee. A drummond light from the roof of the Ledger Building, added greatly to the effectiveness of the display in that vicinity. *Am. B. 47*

### THE ILLUMINATION.

Philadelphians will long remember the Illumination of last evening as the most splendid, tasteful and patriotic affair ever witnessed here. The City and the Districts were in a blaze of light, and a more general and glorious compliment to the illustrious leader of a small but chivalrous and daring army, cannot well be imagined. The just praise of Taylor and his brave compatriots was noisily sounded yesterday by the loud booming of cannon—the ringing of glad bells, and by the strong and willing voices of four hundred thousand people. Thousands upon thousands had gathered here during the day from the neighboring cities and surrounding country, until at nightfall, every street in the city became wedged, literally wedged, with humanity, of all sorts, colors and sizes—men, women and children, aye, even babies—and such pushing, crowding, elbowing, jamming, scolding, fretting, fainting, crying, laughing, joking, smoking, yelling and cheering was never heard or seen before, and may never be heard or seen again. Chesnut, Walnut, Market, Arch, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth streets, "poured their living streams" each into the other, until the crowd became so dense that the hope of making one's way through it might with fairness be likened to the attempt to wade the Atlantic. It was indeed a grand spectacle. With a few exceptions, every one, great and small, contributed in some way or other to make the occasion a bright epoch in our city's history. The day had been raw, gloomy and threatening, and it was feared that rain would check festivity, but towards night clouds fled from the Heavens, the atmosphere softened to a charm and the fun went on as "merry as a marriage bell." In conformity with the request of his Honor the Mayor, the streets were early cleared of Omnibuses and all other vehicles—horses were housed for the night, and all out doors fairly given up to the good people, who were filled with delight, and criticised, admired and applauded to their hearts' content. Admiration for the brilliant spectacle was everywhere expressed.

The illumination was more general, by far, than many thought, or expected it would be. All the public buildings, theatres, hotels, printing offices, and a large majority of our private residences and stores were liberally ornamented with well-executed transparencies—all bathed in a flood of light. Ingenuity was taxed for something novel to swell the triumph of this gala-day. Flags floated proudly in all directions, and every species of ornament was devised to heighten the general effect. There seemed to be a generous rivalry to see who should make the best display. Bands of music were heard at every turning of a corner, and ever and anon, as the people caught a view of the transparencies of Taylor and Scott, or the different battle scenes, there went a long, loud shout, that made the firm earth tremble. Patriotism swelled almost to bursting—women fainted, and were taken into houses and stores—(some half dozen were brought into this office)—children cried—up went the cheers again at sight of some new spectacle, and thus we were on the night.

The grand point of attraction was at the corner of Chesnut and Third streets, and here the avenues were so choked up that the small and weak were in danger of being trampled under foot and sorely hurt. Indeed, some few fell from exhaustion. Those who were not in the crowd can form no correct estimate of the density of the throng.

The Hall of Independence was illuminated at every point, and called forth the liveliest expressions of applause from the numerous spectators. Great taste was manifest in the whole arrangement. Over the central doorway was placed a full length portrait of Washington, standing at the head of his charger, with one hand resting on the neck of the noble animal.

The County Court House was gaily tricked out with banners, wreaths and stars, and brilliantly lighted. All the buildings and offices in the row were "halls of dazzling light."

The Custom House presented a very interesting spectacle. Copper gas pipes had been attached to the pipe, at the rear of the pillars in front of the building, which, being handsomely arranged into semi-circles between the pillars, and each supporting a large star, containing reflecting glass, gave out twenty jets of light, and six of the stars thirty. In the centre was placed a star larger than the others, which threw out forty-five jets. The Star Spangled Banner was festooned gracefully over a neat transparency, having these inscriptions: "Tears for the Dead"—"G attitude for the Living"—"Palo Alto"—"Resaca de la Palma"—"Monterey"—"Buena Vista"—"Vera Cruz." Above this was a large stuffed American Eagle, bearing in his beak a beautiful wreath of flowers. Other ornaments were there, which won praise from the people. In the rear, the building, was lighted at every pane.

The United States Hotel, immediately opposite to the Custom House, looked grand indeed with its numerous windows all splendidly lighted, and many of them showing cunning devices of the painter's hand. A large transparency was placed on the portico over the main entrance, on the right of which were the words "Volunteers both Rough and Ready;" on the left, "West Point Graduates;" on the front, "The United States Delights to Honor the Brave." Mr. Mitchell displayed much taste in the arrangement of his building.

The Ledger building gave out seven hundred and fifty lights, and a beautiful transparency representing Scott and Taylor, with the glorious fields of Buena Vista and Vera Cruz in the background, and the whole surmounted by the American Eagle. On top of this fine building a staging had been erected, from which Professor Grant displayed the Drummond Light, which sent forth an intense brilliancy, rendering the streets for squares almost as light as at noon day. Thirty American flags were displayed from the third story windows, representing the thirty states of this great Union.

Immediately adjoining the Ledger building, Messrs. T. B. Peterson, Charles J. Peterson, Mr. Gibson and S. D. Patterson, Esq., Navy Agent, had put up a magnificent transparency of about twenty-five by eighteen feet, which covered the whole front of the building and the two upper stories. The significant expression, "A little more grape, Capt. Bragg," arched a handsomely executed picture of General Taylor, on horse back, near Bragg's battery, and the Mexicans in overwhelming numbers rushing to the charge. In front of this picture was suspended a beautiful ship, hung with lighted Chinese lamps. Exclamations of "beautiful," "beautiful," were liberally lavished on this tasteful exhibition.

Seguin and Frazer did themselves much credit by the skillful manner in which they ornamented the front of the Opera House. Over the door was placed a spirited sketch of the castle of San Juan de Ulloa, immediately after it surrendered to our forces, with the whole American fleet firing a salute to our flag, which has just been hoisted, together with a clear view of the tents of the army, and the whole surmounted by an eagle holding in his beak the motto, "Honor to the Brave."

Jones' Hotel was brilliantly illuminated. Over the entrance was placed an excellent painting of Taylor.

The Bolivar House looked well with its four transparencies, representing Vera Cruz, Monterey, Palo Alto, and Liberty.

The Columbia House, by Bagley, Mackenzie & Co., was ornamented with marked taste. Chinese lamps were burning in profusion over the whole outside front of the building, which, when lighted and contrasted with the light inside, produced a very happy effect. Wreaths were liberally distributed. Every one fell in love with this Hotel.

A transparency in the second-story of the building at the corner of Seventh and Chesnut, called forth the merriest humor of the gay thousands that passed and repassed it in the course of the evening. As it is a happy conceit, we have copied it:—

"Santa Anna's Despatch to the Governor of San Louis Potosi:—

FEBRUARY 23, 1847.

Most Excellent Sir—

That Northern Barbarian, Don Zachary Taylor, met us to-day with his Volunteers at the Pass of Buena Vista, and played the very devil with the army of the great, magnanimous Mexican nation.

Yours, on the full run!

God and Liberty.

ANTONIO LOPEZ DE SANTA ANNA."

Hartwell's Washington House was lighted at every pane from the parlor to the gurret, and the building looked remarkably well.