

CLAIM FOR DAMAGES.

In the trial which is now going on to recover from the county of Philadelphia, the value of St. Augustine's Church and of the parsonage house, destroyed in the famous, or rather *infamous* riot in 1844, various curious and interesting particulars relative to both have been brought forward, for the most of which we are indebted to the report of the Ledger. There was a large library in the parsonage house, composed of theological, controversial polemical, and historical books, many of which were very rare and valuable. A copy of the Bible, printed in 1480, was among them; also a Bible in forty volumes, written in six different languages, and five hundred other Bibles. There was a complete collection of the works of the Fathers of the Church, from the third century down. The complete works of Luther were in the collection, as also Protestant, Catholic and Infidel works. The library was of the choicest works, and valued at \$12,500. The books were thrown into the street and destroyed on bonfires. The church contained many fine paintings, and a full length representation of the crucifixion, sculptured in wood, and esteemed the master-piece of the Philadelphia artist, Wm. Rush.

The history of the latter building was given in the opening of plaintiff's counsel; it was erected in 1802, the funds being raised by subscription. General Washington headed the list with \$50; Governor McKean and others subscribed, but the greater amount was raised by the contributions of the poorer portion of the Catholic population. During the last war the clergymen connected with the congregation, repaired to the trenches below the city, and aided in throwing up breastworks against threatened attacks by the British. In 1832, the parsonage house was opened as a cholera hospital, and the attendance of the clergymen given to the victims of disease. No distinction was made on that occasion as to religion; of 460 patients there, 402 were Protestant, and only 58 Catholics.

In 1836, a cupola was erected at an expense of \$3,000, in which were placed the clock and bell which were in the State House steeple during the Revolutionary War. The damages claimed of the County were in all over eighty thousand dollars, forty of which were for the church; but the amount awarded was only forty-seven thousand. The church was quite a large building, seventy feet front by one hundred and twenty-four deep. We were present at the conflagration, and while we felt overwhelmed with sadness at the madness of the people, we could not but acknowledge that it was one of the most awfully splendid sights we ever beheld. The fire raged in unchecked fury—not a drop of water being put upon it, though the engines were busily employed in preventing the adjoining buildings from being consumed. It would astonish a stranger, who was ignorant of the ease with which a torrent of water can be thrown upon a fire in this city, to mark with what safety the largest class of buildings can be burnt up in our midst. In this instance, one fierce broad sheet of flame curled and quivered around and above the devoted building, springing up occasionally as something more combustible than common came into its way, and scattering its glittering load of sparks high in the heavens. The wild light of the conflagration fell upon a hundred thousand upturned faces, on the most of which were painted exultation and triumph. Occasionally a fierce shout would roll over the scene like thunder, as the flames burst forth at some new opening, or as some heavy piece of timber fell into the body of the building. Truly it was a most painful, terrific and yet sublime sight, and one which will ever live in the recollection of all who saw it.

PROSPERITY OF THE DISTRICT OF RICHMOND.

There have been erected in the district of Richmond within the last year, 123 buildings, viz: 65 three story brick dwellings, 54 frames and 2 of stone and 2 churches. The Messrs. Lemnig & Co., have established an extensive gun-cotton manufactory. There will be erected during the coming season probably three hundred dwellings many of which are already commenced. In addition to these evidences of the prosperity of the growing district of Richmond, Robert Paquer has a ship yard, from which has been recently launched a schooner of 200 tons burthen, and another of 220 tons, we understand, will be launched during this week. Truly, Richmond is a great District.

KRISS KINGLE'S HEAD QUARTERS.



The New Market-House in Franklin street, between Germantown Road and Second street, is now completed, and the stalls will be sold at public sale, on Monday next. **Dec. 9 1848**

The sudden change of the weather has caused much sickness in our city. The Influenza is very prevalent. The Doctors have just as much as they can attend to. **Dec. 9-1848.**

Oct. 9. Dogs in the City. 1848

We have ascertained from official documents that during the current year, there has been 1806 dogs captured while running at large, contrary to law, within the city proper. Of this number 258 were redeemed, and 1548 killed. The season for "taking up" dogs usually commences at the first of June; but an extraordinary excitement prevailing in relation to "mad dogs" in the month of February last, hence the early vigilance of the city authorities, and increased number of dogs captured.

Philadelphia's Taxes.—The assessments for the year 1846 have been completed, and the assessed value is as follows:

Real Estate,	\$100,314,374	10
Horses and Cows,	453,205	
Personal,	1,357,771	
Furniture,	1,904,528	
Carriages,	125,942	
Offices,	164,408	
Moneys at Interest, &c.,	17,856,278	16

Making the total value of \$122,176,506 26

One hundred and twenty-two millions, one hundred and seventy-six thousand, five hundred and six dollars and twenty-six cents.

In addition to these respective amounts, which are taxed accordingly, there were returned Gold Lever Watches 3,333, making

tax of	\$3,333	
Other Watches,	2,200	"
The State Tax on the foregoing	1,624	50
values, being	\$379,710	43

Making the total State Tax of Philadelphia—\$384,667 93

Three hundred and eighty-four thousand six hundred and sixty-seven dollars and ninety-three cents.

In addition to these direct taxes, Philadelphia will pay to the State a very large amount for Retailers of Merchandise, Auctioneers, Public Offices, Licenses to Tavern Keepers, Pedlars and Brokers, Bank Dividends, Collateral Inheritances, with several minor subjects her contribution, which will swell her contribution to at least six hundred thousand.

About Dogs.—The death of the celebrated fire dog "Cash," was noticed yesterday. He died at a good old age, surrounded by biped friends, and that his memory may the longer live, his skin will be stuffed and preserved. Yesterday another of the canine race, bade adieu to the world; but he went hence by ungentle means. Poor fellow! he deserved a better fate. About a month since a man was arrested in the streets at night, much intoxicated, and placed in the lock-up, beneath the Mayor's office. The next morning he was fined and discharged. When arrested he was accompanied by a very fine dog, which watched at the door until near 8 o'clock next morning, for the re-appearance of his master, who, however, upon his discharge missed him. Since then the dog has paid a daily visit to the Mayor's office, lingering about some two hours each day.—From his fine appearance, and great evident affection for his master, he excited much interest, and various efforts were made to become familiar with him, but were always rejected with a snarl. He refused all food that was offered him, and had latterly become very much emaciated and more snappish, so that it became advisable, lest he should become rabid, to catch and kill him, which was accordingly done yesterday, and his spirit is now with that of "Cash."

A Beautiful Retreat.

A correspondent of the Horticulturist gives quite a glowing description of the sumptuous rural residence of Mr. Cope, on the Delaware, a few miles above Philadelphia. There, he says, may be seen, as on the estates of the Duke of Devonshire, all climates realized by the aid of Conservatories and horticultural skill—so that the luxuries of summer are produced in profusion in the midst of the frosts of winter. "Spring Brook is eight miles north from Philadelphia, on the Bristol turnpike, and near the new depot of Tacony. It is situated on rising ground, commanding an extensive view of the adjacent country, Delaware river, the Jersey shore, and the city. The elegant mansion is surrounded with a spacious lawn, kept in a masterly style; and the pleasure grounds are enclosed by a light iron fence, about half a mile in length, and studded with many varieties of hardy trees, backed by a natural piece of the most majestic woods,—giving a fine sylvan character to the place. To the left of this grove is a sheet of spring water, rising on the farm, which farm contains upwards of 100 acres, that supplies a powerful hydraulic ram, diffusing the water over the whole place, supplying reservoirs, fountains, waterfalls, &c. Connected with the dwelling is a span roofed conservatory, filled with plants in bloom, including a carriage entrance, under glass, for the convenience of taking up the family in time of rain or sickness. Farther south is another span roofed house, 32 feet long; one side for Geraniums, embracing sixty of the finest sorts, and the other side for choice fancy roses, many of them now in full bloom. Connected with this house is another, similar to it, for Azaleas, Rhododendrons, and other showy blooming plants of like treatment. We now sally forth into the flower garden. The flowers are grown in beds and masses, and consists of sorts that are either continually in bloom, or such as are succeeded by others from a reserve garden, producing a magnificent display the entire season. Among them, beds of Salvia speciosa, Plumbago, Tweedia vinca, Bouvardia and Lantana, were very conspicuous among the more common varieties that are generally grown. Contiguous to the flower garden is the "Cactus house," 81 feet long, heated by water pipes, and containing a collection of Cactii, far surpassing any other collection in this country; and for health and beauty of specimens, equal to that which I saw in the "Garden of Plants" at Paris. The large Cereus are trained up the rafters, producing thousands of gorgeous flowers; Echinocactii, 9 or 10 feet in circumference; Monkey Cactii, 5 feet high; "Turk's Heads," that are bigger than the sultan's; as well as Cactii in the guise of rats and snakes, porcupines and pin cushions, with every other imaginable and grotesque form—making a scene entirely unique and wonderfully grotesque." **1849.**