

For the Pennsylvania Inquirer.
The Naval Asylum.

MR. EDITOR.—You are doubtless aware, though all your readers may not be, that among the "lions" of "the fair city of Philadelphia," there is the surpassingly attractive, in its immediate vicinity, founded by and under the patronage of the General Central Government, and which redounds so much to its honor by the liberal and humane manner of its management. This is the "Naval Asylum," on the Gray's Ferry Road, reached by the Pine street line of omnibuses. This noble establishment is now under the superintendence of that fine old sailor and excellent man, Commodore Storer, of the U. S. Navy, who, like the flag he represents, I trust may yet "brave a thousand years, the battle and the breeze."

With much courtesy and kindness, the Commodore politely accompanied me throughout the premises, which, as a good housekeeper would say, were in ample *apple pie order*. Cleanliness, which is, doubtless, next of kin to godliness, was the presiding genius of the domain, and neatness, order and system, her handmaids and auxiliaries.

The unmistakable air of contentment and quiet repose and happiness that beamed in their countenances, as the veterans replied, in respectful and confiding terms, to the kind inquiries of their commandant, spoke volumes in praise of their comfort and enviable position; and with whom I conversed, gratefully acknowledged the considerate kindness of their country in providing them with such an admirable asylum in their declining years.

The building is a beautiful, chaste structure, designed by Strickland, with every convenience for the comfort and pleasure of its inmates; the dormitories admirably ventilated and embellished, according to the tastes of their occupants, not exactly with the *chefs d'œuvre* of the Italian school, but with the less *recherché* style of gay engravings of the more modern school of Nassau Street, New York! All, however, and far better than either, were characterized by spotless nicety and comfort.

The culinary arrangements, as well as the laundry and the refectory indicated the most punctilious regard to neatness, order and cleanliness. Every day has its bill of fare of the choicest viands of the provision market, so that variety, which is the spice of life, needs only that "good digestion wait on appetite" to give a zest to their "daily bread."

A neat and handsome chapel occupies the centre of the building. Opposite the preacher's seat stood one of the quaintest specimens of antique art, designed for an organ, which afforded a subject for a clever *jeu d'esprit* from my friendly *cicerone*, the Commodore.

Such an institution in our midst tends greatly to disabuse the minds of controversialists of the relative action of free and legal government towards the faithful and meritorious, who have done their duty with constancy and fidelity.

That "Republics are ungrateful" has been, at most, reduced to an axiom, as well as a vituperative theme for many a "penny-a-liner."

To prove the contrary, we might proudly point to the "Naval Asylum" at Philadelphia, and patriotically add, "*Eccce signum!*"

I have visited several similar houses of refuge for decayed and aged seamen in Europe, particularly that of Greenwich, near London; in some respects they were inferior, but in none do they surpass this model asylum of the

Jan 2. 1856

AMERICAN UNION.

THE NAVAL ASYLUM.

SECOND ARTICLE.

The number of pensioners at present in the Asylum does not exceed one hundred and thirty or thirty-five; and this, upon a fair estimate, is about the average year after year. Those admitted to the benefits of this institution are each entitled to, and receive, the sum of one dollar per month and their clothing washing and board. This dollar per month, though seemingly a small sum, as an allowance to a sailor for a whole month's expense, has, nevertheless, proved to be amply sufficient. There are many, however, who receive more than this amount, being employed in various petty official capacities in the superintendence of the building, or in attending to such duties as may, from time to time, be required of them by the commanding officers. The salaries or wages of such as are so engaged range from

five to ten or twelve dollars per month. Thus many are afforded the means of relieving the tedium of the slow-paced hours which attend the aged.

There is one who has a sort of *carte blanche* to do odd jobs inside and out of the institution, and who is chiefly remarkable for a constant disposition to grumble at everything and everybody. He is a Scotchman by birth, and, although pretty well advanced in the vale of years and occasionally afflicted with the rheumatism, seems as hale and stout and hearty as though he were calculating on an extension of life into the next century. He is the licensed grumbler of the building, and none presume to invade his province by a rivalry in that particularly uncomfortable line. There is nothing and nobody that has not received his condemnations. Nothing pleases him; and, according to his interpretation, everything is going to ruin, and will continue so to do. He won't be pleased with that which in reality does please him. Grumble, grumble—nothing but grumble. From the Governor and Commodore down to the pet flat-iron of her majesty, the laundress, all are bound to submit to his inflexible and inevitable censorship. Yet, withal, he is a favorite among those who receive his worst beratings, and they would probably be miserable and lonesome without his presence. He—so we were informed—indulges in the belief that the institution could not and would not exist without his fatherly care and friendly suggestions concerning things that *should* be and things that *should not* be: a sort of discontented Baillie Nichol Jarvie, prowling around with a red-hot poker of complaint, watching an opportunity to drive somebody into a corner with it. For his services (a tinker master general and doer of odd jobs about the place) and his wormwood attributes, he receives an income of one hundred and twenty dollars per year, or ten dollars per month, which, with the proverbial generosity of an old sailor, he gives as regularly as he receives it to a poor family living a short distance from the Asylum. Innumerable are the "yarns" told of this eccentric mariner—yarns which, continuing to increase day by day, render him a sort of famous character, and add to his desire possibly to become more inveterate in his peculiar province than ever.

Last New Year's day the inmates were regaled by the contractor, who furnishes the provender, or rations, for the institution, with a turkey dinner, at which, of course, our grumbler, the Scotchman, made himself particularly agreeable. The matron, knowing one of his failings to be a love for the luxuries of life, in order to prevent his having the least cause for complaint, served him with a goodly portion of the breast (his favorite selection) of one of the largest and finest of the turkeys, which, with the dressing and other incidental "fixins," heaped his plate. But he mastered it all, and for once in his life did not grumble. His plate, in an incredibly short space of time, was thoroughly divested of its contents—which feat of gastronomic enterprise was something rare with him, inasmuch as on all ordinary occasions the victuals never suited him, either the beef being too tough or the veal too tender, and the whole table in some way or other out of order, according to his ideas. His fellow-pensioners wondered; the matron marvelled much that the old Diogenes had crawled from his tub of philosophical ill-nature into the broad sunlight of good-humor, and probably exclaimed to herself, or assistants, "There's a miracle! Old Growler's pleased at last!"

"More turkey!" was his only exclamation, smacking his lips, and looking half-way jovial out of his dim old eyes—"more turkey!"

The matron administered "more turkey," giving him, as before, an extra share of breast.

"More stuffin', if you please!" he added, with the air of a king conferring blessings by the condescension of his smile.

Turkey and stuffing came and disappeared. Again the request was repeated and complied with, and again went the turkey and stuffing the way of all well-relished edibles. Those around him were astounded. The matron satisfied his turkey-cravings until the old gentleman became

See next page.

Sylvester Blackballed
by Common Council

Reported for the Daily Chronicle.
Proceedings in Councils—Last Evening

THURSDAY, June 8th, 1843.

Select Council.—A communication was received from the Mayor, expressing a wish to co-operate with Councils in any demonstration of respect due the President of the United States, on his arrival in Philadelphia.

A preamble and resolutions were offered in relation to the same, when the following resolution was adopted.

Resolved, That the Hall of Independence be placed at the disposal of the President of the United States, to receive his fellow citizens.—Concurred in by Common Council.

Common Council.—A communication of the same tenor was received from the Mayor in relation to the reception of the President.

Another from J. Stimpson in relation to curves in railways.

A petition was presented from sundry citizens, asking that Schuylkill Fifth street, between Pine and South, be paved. Referred to the committee on city property.

Another from the Fame Engine Company, asking for an appropriation, to aid them to liquidate their debts. Referred to the Committee on Legacies and Trusts.

Another from sundry victuallers in High street Market West of Broad, praying Councils to prevent or abate a nuisance frequently committed by persons upon the stalls.

Another from the West Philadelphia Fire Company, asking for a donation to aid them in purchasing apparatus, &c. Referred to Committee on Legacies and Trusts.

The Building Committee of Girard College, made a report, accompanied by an ordinance, making an appropriation of \$55,000 for the construction of the Girard College Buildings. Passed.

This ordinance was passed at a previous meeting of Council, but not being recorded according to law, was obliged to be acted upon again.

Mr. McCall offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That Select and Common Councils will wait in a body on the President of the U. States, and pay their respects to him.

On the question of the passage of the resolution, the ayes and noes were called, and resulted as follows: Ayes 8, noes 9. So the resolution was lost.

And then Councils adjourned.

FRANKLIN SWIMMING
BATH,
NO. 65 SOUTH TWELFTH STREET.



The exercise of swimming is one of the most healthy and agreeable in the world.—FRANKLIN.

JOHN K. MURPHY, Proprietor.
TERMS OF THE BATH.

Season Ticket, which includes instruction in the art of swimming, - - - - - \$5.00
Single Ticket admitting the bearer once, - - - - - 12
Or ten Tickets for - - - - - 1.00

All subscriptions and Tickets must be paid in advance.

N. B.—Open from sunrise to 10 o'clock in the evening.

J. K. M. will guarantee to learn a person to swim for \$5.00 or return the money—but this arrangement does not give permission to the Bath longer than the time required for instruction. je5-2m

June 8

Reported for the Pennsylvania Inquirer.

First Associate Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia.—This church is situated at the corner of Broad and Lombard streets. The lot is 78 feet front by 92 feet in depth. The building is 55 feet wide by 78 feet long, of brick, rough-cast, an imitation of granite, with a marble base-course 4 feet high. The basement contains a lecture-room about 55 feet square, neatly fitted up. It will seat three hundred persons, and answers the purpose of a Sabbath school room. Back of this are three small rooms, intended for a trustee room, a library room and pastor's study, from which a private stairway communicates with the pulpit above. The audience room is 66 feet long by 55 feet wide, with gallery all round, and calculated to seat 1000 persons.—The ceiling is 31 feet in the clear. The pews are all lined and cushioned with beautiful moreen, imported for that purpose. The aisles and pews are neatly carpeted. The furniture for the pulpit was made to order, and is of the finest quality. The front windows are of stained glass, of a peculiar kind, and such as to prevent any glare from the reflection of the sun. All the other windows are fitted with pivot blinds, and make a very neat appearance. The walls and ceiling are painted fresco. The audience chamber is entered by means of four large stairways leading from the vestibule, thus preventing any throng.

July. 1856