

LOCAL MATTERS.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and the Coal Trade.—The following is the preamble and resolution presented to the City Council by Mr. Gordon, from the committee on internal improvements. The matter is regarded as a most important one, especially to the coal trade of the city:—

"The joint standing committee on internal improvements, to whom was referred the resolution requesting them to inquire into the justice and expediency of instructing the directors on the part of the city of Baltimore in the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company to urge a reduction on the transportation of coal over said road to all coal companies using the said road, respectfully report, that whilst they do not deem it expedient that the City Council should give positive instructions to the directors on the part of the city, who in this matter have a better opportunity of forming a correct opinion than the City Council can have, nevertheless think it proper to express the opinion that the past history of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, its transactions with the city of Baltimore, (particularly in the matter of the \$5,000,000 loan,) and the inducements it has held out, from time to time, to encourage the development of the coal region of Maryland, which has been partially accomplished at great cost, impose upon the railroad the obligation to keep the tariff upon coal at the lowest remunerative price. They therefore submit the following joint resolution:

"Resolved by the first and second branches of the city council of Baltimore. That the directors on the part of the city in the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company be requested to urge upon the said company the reduction of the tariff on coal to such a point as may, in their judgment, be expedient consistently with the view stated in the above report."

The report has been laid upon the table for subsequent action.

A Novel, Melancholy Funeral Cortege.—A most novel sight in the matter of a funeral was yesterday witnessed on Baltimore street, it being a German man and woman making their way on foot towards a burial-place in the western section of the city, the latter bearing upon her head a small coffin. This novel spectacle attracted the attention of an officer, who made some inquiries concerning their movements, but they being unable to understand English, and the officer likewise being unable to understand the German tongue, no progress could be made toward explanation. A number of persons were soon attracted to the spot, among whom was Milton Whitney, Esq., who procured a hack and had them conveyed to the western station-house with a view to the escaping of the crowd and quietly inquiring into the case. It was there ascertained that the parties were man and wife, and had lately arrived here from their Fatherland. The body contained in the coffin the woman bore was that of a still-born offspring. Upon its birth the father had made application to the Rev. Mr. Hurlzberger, of the German Reformed Church, and from him obtained leave to bury the child in the ground belonging to that church, and they were accordingly conducted to the grave in the only mode known to them in their native land in the case of a still-born infant—the mother, whose health would permit such a course, bearing it upon her head. The poor old man told his tale in a most melancholy manner, stating that if he had done a wrong it was without a knowledge of its being so, and plead earnestly that he might not be punished. Upon acquiring this knowledge of the case Capt. Linaweaver, of that station, humanely made a collection among his men in behalf of the mourning parents, obtaining sufficient to defray the expenses of conveying the corpse to the grave in the manner recognized by our customs, which was by them accepted with every manifestation of gratitude, when they took their departure upon their mournful errand.

Death of a Citizen.—Mr. Washington Hopper, well known to this community as one of the clerks in the establishment of R. Q. Taylor, Esq., North Calvert street, and also as an officer of our citizen soldiery, departed this life yesterday morning about six o'clock, at his residence, on Britton street, near Madison. Mr. Hopper, at the commencement of the war with Mexico, received a commission as lieutenant in the Maryland and District of Columbia regiment, and served until the close of the campaign, having in the meantime been drafted as a captain in the Illinois regiment. The deceased was an excellent officer and a good citizen. The field, staff and company officers of the fifth regiment, the officers and members of the Law Guards, in which corps he was the first lieutenant, and the Maryland volunteers in the Mexican war, held meetings last evening and resolved to attend the funeral. They also resolved to invite the commissioned officers of the First Light Division to attend the funeral which will take place at three o'clock this afternoon. The interment will take place at the Baltimore Cemetery.

The Maryland Cadets.—This old and well-disciplined corps of light infantry, in response to a public call, held quite an enthusiastic meeting at the Fataw House on Wednesday evening, on which occasion nearly forty of the old and original members were present. It was unanimously resolved to participate in the ceremonies to take place in the coming month, on the occasion of erecting a monument in memory of the late Wm. B. Ferguson, who died of yellow fever at Norfolk in the summer of 1855. They also resolved to continue the formation of the company upon regulations similar to the ancient and honorable military companies of the eastern States, to have a citizen's dress parade once per annum, on which occasion they will carry muskets, and terminate the day's proceedings with a dinner.

Ladies' High School Concert.—The concert given last night at the Maryland Institute by the pupils of the Eastern Female High School, under the direction of Prof. C. S. Root, was a most interesting affair and passed off with fine effect, enhanced by the array of beauties which adorned the occasion. The program was well-selected, and the rendering of the several pieces bespeaks great care and preparation on the part of both teacher and taught. Several solos, duets and concerted pieces, and some of the choice operatic gems were given with very fine effect, heartily applauded, and occasionally warmly encored. The choruses were remarkably fine, particularly the closing one, "The Earth is the Lord's." Mr. Thos. H. Smith, by the skill with which he presided at the piano, contributed much to the enjoyment of the evening.

Culpable Negligence.—A milkman who resides in Baltimore county lost a valuable horse yesterday afternoon through the negligence of some parties who had been fixing water-pipes on Oregon street, between Holland and Lombard sts.—They had removed a covering from what is known as a stopcock box whilst making repairs, upon concluding which it had been left open, and the first intimation the owner of the horse had relative thereto was from his animal stepping into the open space, falling and breaking one of his hind legs. The case is indeed a sad one, as the owner of the horse is a poor man, and one entirely unable to sustain such a loss without great inconvenience.

An Omission.—In every development of progress there is very likely to be an important part of the labor unseen and consequently overlooked. And so it happened in our notice of the new structure of Messrs. Hamilton Easter & Co.—The cellars were excavated and the foundation prepared by Mr. Thomas Gahagan and assistants, and we learn that this really indispensable and comparatively important task was well and satisfactorily performed. We can also endorse the fact by some personal knowledge of Mr. Gahagan's experience in this business.

Baltimore Firearms in Russia.—It is stated that our townsmen, Mr. Merrill of the firm of Merrill, Latrobe & Thomas, who has been for the past two years in Russia, has forwarded to the firm here an order from the emperor of Russia for a number of his celebrated rifles, to arm a regiment with in order to give them a fair trial. Merrill's improved rifle is said to be one of the very best inventions of the age, and we have no doubt the Russians will really appreciate its great advantages to the military of that country.

Death from Paralysis.—Yesterday morning Mr. Miles Taylor, of New Orleans, was in the act of stepping on the train at the President street depot, was attacked with paralysis. He was at once conveyed to Barnum's Hotel where he received proper medical attention. He had had an attack before, and one side of his person was paralyzed, but getting better, was on his way to Europe with his wife, for the benefit of his health. He remained in a comatose state until about 7 o'clock last night, when he expired.

The Peabody Institute.—A meeting of the committee of the Peabody Institute was held yesterday at the rooms of the Historical Society, for the purpose of discussing the location and plan of the building to be erected. There are several propositions with regard to the site, one of which is to carry it out to the neighborhood of the Chase reservoir. There was but little done yesterday, and we learn there will be an adjourned meeting to-day.

Dredging the Harbor.—The port-warden is now actively engaged in dredging the harbor, and especially in the back basin, where the water had become so shallow that none except vessels of the lightest draught could enter it. There is a two-horse dredge at work at the foot of Chesnut street, where a good depth of water is required for the shipping which begins to land at that part of Fell's Point.

Severe Accident.—A daughter of Mr. Henry Leibeger, residing on Millman street, near Bond, was severely burned on Wednesday evening by the upsetting of an ethereal oil lamp. She attempted to fill it while burning and accidentally threw it over, most of the fluid falling on her clothing. Her face and hands were much injured, but she will probably soon recover.

The Schooner Liberty.—This vessel, commanded by Captain Gray, which left this port on the first of the present month for Saco, Maine, and before reported ashore off the lighthouse at Cape Island, has since gone to pieces and her cargo washed out. About sixty barrels of flour much damaged have been saved. Neither vessel nor cargo were injured at this port.

Stamps.—The number of stamps sold at the Baltimore post-office during the quarter which ended 21st March amounted to \$22,523 49.

Destructive Fire.—The Maryland Penitentiary.—Incendiarism.—At seven o'clock last evening one of the watchmen on duty in the yard of this institution discovered smoke issuing from the northern end of the large building occupied as a cedar ware and corn broom manufactory and weaving department. He immediately sounded the alarm bell, and in a few minutes the firemen were on their way to the place. Mr. Merryman, the warden, ordered the large gate of the south wall to be opened for the purpose of admitting the fire department, at the same time stationing an extra guard thereat. The flames soon burst forth from the second story and the left of the structure, and threatened a very destructive conflagration. Owing to the timely arrival, however, of the fire companies, especially independent and Putapsco, who are located near it, as well as the excellent management of the other companies, the fire was confined to the building in which it originated.

About eight o'clock the wind blew with considerable violence from the northwest, and broad sheets of flame leaped wildly from the long range of windows communicating with the heavy stock of cedar wood and the frame structures on the east side, whilst heavy flakes of burning embers in great numbers alighting upon the roofs of the other large buildings, greatly endangered the whole of them. The wind, however, lulled, and by the concerted action of the hose-pipe men, all fears were soon relieved and the valuable property rescued from destruction. The building, which is now in ruins, was about 155 feet in length, two stories in height, the upper one being appreciable from large wooded stairs from without. It contained nearly twenty doors and eighty windows, through which the flames raged furiously for nearly two hours, not only entirely destroying the building, but consuming nearly all its contents.

These consisted of 226 weaving looms, bobbins, &c., in the second story, of which 136 were in operation; the balance were not in use. As it was in the latter end of the week the active looms contained considerable quantities of cotton and woolen merchandise, besides other unfinished stock. The first story was used exclusively for the purposes above stated, and, with the machinery, owned by Mr. Charles Murdock. Much of the cedar-ware was saved, but all of the machinery was destroyed.

The engine and boiler were contained in a small building adjoining the north end, and were very considerably damaged. Mr. Murdock has a policy of \$1,000 in the Farmers and Mechanics' Insurance Company of Philadelphia—his loss will not exceed \$1,000. The institution has a policy on the building of \$1,000 in the Firemen's Insurance Company, and \$2,500 on the stock in an office in Philadelphia.

The building originally cost \$15,000 and can now be erected for \$12,000, with the present brick. The aggregate loss may be estimated at \$25,000, exclusive of the loss entailed upon the institution by the consequent loss of time of the convicts, who are thus thrown out of employment.

There are now 460 convicts in the building, none of whom escaped. The strictest investigation will be made to-day to discover the guilty parties. The city police, headed by Mayor Swann, in their full dress, rendered the most in valuable services.

There is no doubt of the fact that some of the convicts set fire to the building with the intention of escaping from the prison whilst at supper, and it was undoubtedly fired in two places. Combustible matter had been placed near the roof of the building and fired, and a quantity of oily sweepings of the weaving department also set on fire.

The Fountain.—Once more we think the proper authorities ought to take a look at that fountain or hydrant at the head of Centre market. It furnishes no water, nor has it done so for weeks past. It was in former days a most capital place for the wayfarer to stop and quench his thirst in a hot day, and as the warm season is expected to be along shortly, if not sooner, some effort should be made to make it perform its legitimate duty. At any rate the broken up pavement at that spot should be repaired, and we are sure if no one else does the ladies will most heartily thank those who do the repairing.

Pugilistic.—Policemen Schaper and Lucas yesterday arrested George Graham and A. Meier upon the charge of engaging in the science of pugilism in the streets. Both were committed to jail by Justice Meairs in default of security to keep quiet for the next six months.

A Hardened Boy.—Officer Rutherford, of the middle district police, arrested yesterday a lad about 16 years of age, named Joseph McDonough, as a vagrant beggar. Though so young his faculties are stupified by the use of liquor. He will be sent to the almshouse for three months.

Charge of Passing Counterfeit Money.—Officer C. Brown yesterday arrested Susannah Hurd upon the charge of passing a counterfeit half dollar for upon Mrs. Borgait. Being taken before Justice Carl she was held upon security to answer at a further examination.

Shameful.—Officers Welsh and Gram yesterday arrested Henry Kurtz and J. Baxley upon the charges of assaulting and beating and threatening their wives. In default of security for more manly conduct on their part they were committed to jail by Justice Root and Grove.

Appointment.—W. H. H. Evans has received the appointment of adjutant of the first rifle regiment, Col. Babb. He has experience and will doubtless make an excellent officer.