

WASHINGTON, August 30.

*The Chicago Convention—General McClellan and the Republicans—Increase of Pauperism—Fire Commissioner—The Democratic Association—Suit Against Surgeon General Hammond—Sentenced to Fort Delaware—Georgetown Affairs.*

The interest in military news is entirely eclipsed here now by the Chicago Convention. All attention is centered upon the question of the probable nominee and proceedings of that body. There is an evident impression here in political circles that McClellan is most likely to be the nominee for President; and so far as the administration element is concerned, the indications are that his nomination would be regarded as the most formidable that the opposition could make.

It is probable that the nomination of any other of the persons which have been named by the democracy would be preferred by the political managers among the republicans. — It seems to be expected that the army is to be an important element, in some way, in the coming election; but evidently the main consideration with those having affinities with Chicago is the *modus operandi* for "uniting all the elements of opposition."

The increase of pauperism in this city, and its attendant burden upon the community, is shown by a communication from the commissioners of the Washington Asylum presented to the city councils last night. — They ask that the proposed appropriation for the current year be increased from \$15 000 to \$30,000. In the years 1850-60, the institution supplied daily 125 persons; 1860-61, 142 persons; 1861-62, 144 persons; 1862-63, 195 persons; 1863-64, 209 persons. This increase of inmates, together with the exorbitant prices of every article of subsistence, renders this application necessary. It was referred to the committee on the Asylum.

The mayor has nominated Thomas Berry, as fire commissioner, vice J. J. Peabody, resigned; but the aldermen have not yet acted on the nomination. Both boards of councils have appointed committees of conference on the bill amending the act for organizing the Steam Paid Fire Department. The common council passed a bill fixing the salary of the canal commissioner at \$800 per annum.

The National Democratic Association, notwithstanding the absence of the most of their officers at Chicago, had a large meeting last night at their rooms in Parker's building; but as nothing definite had come from Chicago they meet again to-night. Mr. Thos. Thornley presided, and a considerable number of new names were added to the rolls of the Association; after which the committee on the flag announced that they had secured the permission from Mr. Dubant to stretch a line diagonally across the street to his building, whereon to stretch the flag. Speeches were made by John E. Norris, John F. Eanis, Esq., Mr. Schmidt, and others.

Suit has been entered in the Supreme Court of this District against William A. Hammond, late Surgeon General United States Army, to recover \$450,000, the amount which, it is alleged, the government has been defrauded of by his blanket purchase from W. A. Stephens, and by his purchase of supplies from John Wyeth & Brother. Of the total sum \$50 000 grows out of the first case, and \$400,000 out of the second. District Attorney Carrington enters the suit in behalf of the United States. William Canby, a citizen of Montgomery county, Md., tried by court-martial, and found guilty of secreting officers and soldiers of the rebel army within our lines, has been found guilty, and sentenced to be imprisoned in Fort Delaware during the war. He is at present confined in the Old Capitol prison.

Lieut. Wm. Thomas, of the First Maryland Veteran Volunteer regiment, who was tried by a general court-martial upon the charge of being absent from his command without leave, and sentenced to be cashiered and confined for one year at hard labor on some government fortification, was taken from the Old Capitol yesterday and sent to the Dry Tortugas.

Wm. Brenner, a dealer in clothes, on the

avenue, between Ninth and Tenth streets, was arrested yesterday for expressing disloyal sentiments. He gave bail to appear and take the oath of allegiance.

Lieut. Conner, of Jeff Davis Legion, was brought up from the army a prisoner of war, and committed to the Old Capitol.

At Georgetown, the citizens subject to draft are quite active to secure substitutes, and carry out a plan, proposed by Mayor Addison, to organize an insurance club. Members of the club are to deposit in the Bank of Commerce the sum of one hundred dollars each, and the whole amount is to be divided equally among those who are drafted. Thus several hundred dollars, perhaps five or six, will accrue to each drafted man, with which to procure a substitute or be rewarded for going into the service himself. Those who fortunately escape will only lose the one hundred dollars.

POTOMAC.