

NOTICE.

In consequence of the rapid and daily increase in the circulation of THE EXCHANGE, requiring greatly enlarged accommodations and more extended facilities for the transaction of the business of the paper, and the convenience of the public, the PROPRIETORS of THE EXCHANGE have removed their OFFICE to the building formerly occupied by the Franklin Bank, on the NORTH-EAST CORNER of BALTIMORE AND NORTH STREETS. The Counting-Room of the paper is in the corner office on the ground floor, where all advertisements and notices may be left.

Our prediction yesterday of a small vote and quiet Election in the City of Baltimore, has come true. Not more than one-third of the whole vote of the City was polled, nobody was killed, and the Majority for the Convention is 1,447. The smallness of this majority renders the success of the Reform movement, in the State, exceedingly problematical. In the Counties the feeling in favor of a Convention was by no means so strong as it was in Baltimore. In the rural districts the defects of the present Constitution have not been experienced to the same extent that they have been felt in the City, and consequently the necessity for a change is not so generally appreciated. In some portions of the State, as we suggested, local interests and party prejudices are so strongly arrayed, and so deeply seated, and doubtless make the contest much more lively. Here, in fact, there was no very decided expression of the popular desire for change, there was certainly no evidence given of any great affection for the existing Constitution. The general feeling of the community was, as we have stated, one of profound indifference. We do not know, therefore, whether we are to ascribe the perfect tranquillity, and absence of all disorder, to the distinguished administration of our present excellent and most exemplary Chief Magistrate, to the very efficient measures taken by His Honor to preserve the public peace, or to the popular apathy upon the subject of the Election. We wish to give credit where credit is due. We are charitably inclined, and are rather disposed to refrain from any nice investigation of this delicate question. We will take for granted that the peace of the City was entirely owing to the admirable arrangements of His Honor, his judicious disposition of the Police force, and his happy selection of the most patriotic citizen to secure to the right of suffrage. We can only regret, therefore, that similar success should not have attended His Honor's laudable efforts to the same end, during the Elections last fall, and that so small a proportion of our fellow-citizens should have availed themselves yesterday of the rare opportunity, so graciously afforded, and so infrequently occurring in these turbulent times, of voting without peril either of life or limb. We trust that the lesson will not be lost upon the community, and that having thus demonstrated to the world the possibility of there being a peaceable Election in the City of Baltimore, we will not degenerate shortly into the state of barbarism from which we yesterday happily emerged. We will not be too sanguine, but we really begin to hope that if the MAYOR will only adopt the same efficient measures at the Elections next fall, that he took yesterday, that provided the contest then shall excite no more interest than did the question of a Constitutional Convention, the lists of "Killed and Wounded" will not be more than half as long as they were last October and November, and the painful necessity of putting down "the infuriated Irish of the Eighth W. M. B. Co." to the point of the bayonet, will be most effectually obviated.

The application for the widening and extension of the Holliday street, which is pending before the City Council, appears to have created considerable excitement on the floor and in the lobby of the interested or enlisted, out of doors. We are not all surprised at this, let the merits of the question be what they may. On the contrary, it seems to be but the necessary result of what we have always regarded as a radical vice in our street legislation. So long as we continue to assess upon one set of property-holders, under the name of "benefits," what is really another set in the guise of "damages," we may rely, with perfect certainty, whenever an important improvement is in contemplation, upon the recurrence of the natural struggle between those who desire the change and those who expect to pay for it. Patriotism and public spirit, no doubt, are often very controlling motives, but they rarely descend to the more municipal sphere, and the balance of opinions, in such every-day matters as streets and highways, is very apt, in the main, to coincide with the balance of accounts.

Whenever authority is given by ordinance for the exercise of the powers which the corporation possesses in respect to the streets of the city, it is made the duty of the Commissioners to assess the net amount of damage which the improvement will cause to the owners of adjacent property, and to make an estimate, likewise, of the expenses which will attend the execution of the project. These damages and expenses the corporation is authorized, but not required, by the Act in relation to the streets, to assess "on the whole assessable property in the city." The general ordinance, by which the Act of Assembly is carried out—availing itself of the loophole which the law affords—directs the Commissioners to assess and levy the aggregate damages and expenses, not upon the city at large, but, specially, upon the property, "the owners of which they shall decide and deem to be benefited." Having discharged this somewhat difficult duty, with the aid of a surveyor, and according to their peculiar ideas of the proportions in which the neighboring population is to be damaged and benefited by the improvement in hand, the Commissioners are required to put it all down in a book, with an explanatory map, and accurate descriptions of all the parcels of property upon which they have passed sentence. This is deposited in the Register's office, for public inspection, and those who are dissatisfied with the result have the right of appeal to the Criminal or the Superior Court. Should an appeal be taken, the matter is heard before a jury, and either during the progress of the trial, or when it is over, or perhaps several times, both before and after the submission of the "good men and true" go out and view the premises. They take with them a surveyor, if they need one which of course they need, and if they differ from the Commission-ers, even to the extent of one hundred dollars, in their estimate of the damages or benefits assessed to a single individual, the whole cause that Jack built has to be built over. An infinite number of new sums in the single rule of three have to be worked out—new grids must be consumed in the laborious and complicated operations, with much laboring and sweating, of this, of course, has to be paid for, and nobody can afford to bill. The per diem of the jurors and their "good men and true" refreshments, at some neighboring "saloon," and the charges of the surveyor, must not be added to the "expenses." If it were a railroad, these would go into the "sinking fund," and only pay themselves, but some day or other, but only a new track and extinguish nobody knows how much debt. As it is only a street, however, these additional demands must be provided for in some less transparent way, and there is no other way provided by the street-law, they are added to the "damages," and collected from somebody as additional "benefits." The singular phenomenon is thus regularly and invariably developed—that there is always some person or collection of persons benefited, to the precise, identical amount in which it is discovered that some other persons are damaged—and that when additional expenses come in, no matter to what amount, to increase the demand, the supply spontaneously and miraculously expands, in the identical ratio—not a quarter of a cent more, not a quarter of a cent less!

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THE ELECTION YESTERDAY.

Table with columns for WARD, CONVENTION, and VOTES. Lists ward numbers and corresponding vote counts for the Convention.

Majority for the Convention... The vote in this city was 217 for the Convention. This city was a majority of 210 against the Convention. The City of Baltimore is a majority of 210 against the Convention in 1858.

ANNUAL CONVENTION.

PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

MORNING SESSION.

Yesterday morning at 9 o'clock, the Seventy-Fifth Annual Convention of the Maryland Diocese of the Protestant Episcopal Church, was commenced at the City of Baltimore, in the morning session.

The usual session before the Convention was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Norwood, the church being well filled. His sermon, which was most eloquent and impressive, was directed to the people of the diocese, and was a most timely and practical discourse.

The congregation was then dismissed and the convention called to order by the Bishop, at whose request the roll of clergy was read by the Rev. Geo. A. Leakin, the Assistant Secretary of the last Convention, and a quorum being found present the chair announcing the first business in order the selection of secretaries.

On motion of the Rev. Dr. Kerfoot, J. H. Alexander was chosen for the next meeting, and the Rev. Dr. Kerfoot, J. H. Alexander was chosen for the next meeting, and the Rev. Dr. Kerfoot, J. H. Alexander was chosen for the next meeting.

The chair before appointed the following standing committees: On the Pastoral Charge—Hon. Brie J. Goldsborough, J. S. Sellman and Dr. J. W. Reed.

On the State of the Church—Rev. E. F. Dashiell and Henry Edwards, and Messrs. Manadier and J. W. Reed.

On the Pastoral Charge—Hon. Brie J. Goldsborough, J. S. Sellman and Dr. J. W. Reed.

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AMUSEMENTS.

HOLLIDAY STREET THEATRE.

MR. JOHN T. FORBES, Manager.

Thursday Evening, May 27, 1858. FOURTH NIGHT OF THE ENANGEMENT OF THE KELLER TROUPE.

By the Young America Ballet Corps—concluding with THE TEMPLE OF LIBERTY.

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BANKERS AND BROKERS.

JOHNSTON BROTHERS & CO.

EXCHANGE AND BROKERS.

Securities bought and sold at the Broker's Office, and investment orders promptly executed.

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LEGAL NOTICES.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN.

That the undersigned, JAMES B. HARRIS, of the County of Baltimore, State of Maryland, do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of the original of the same as the same appears in the records of the Court of the said County.

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