

THE PUBLIC LEDGER.

A GRAND banquet was given at the Continental Hotel in this city on the 20th of June by Geo. W. Childs, Esq., to commemorate the completion of the splendid building S.uth West corner of Chestnut and Sixth Sts., opposite the office of GODEY'S LADY BOOK:—

The building is one of the largest printing houses in the Union, and is constructed in the shape of the letter E, and is located on the corner of Sixth and Chestnut Streets, eighty-four feet on Chestnut Street, one hundred and sixty-five feet on Sixth, and one hundred and sixteen feet on the southern end portion of Chestnut Street. Every portion of the *Ledger* establishment is complete with regard to light, heating, ventilation, and other comforts. The office and editorial rooms are furnished splendidly. The composing room is on the upper floor, which, by aid of a Mansard roof, has a height of twenty-one feet, and is twenty-three by one hundred and twenty-seven feet. The main entrance is ornamented by a sculptured coat of arms of Pennsylvania, and over the doorway at the corner of the streets is a pedestal sustaining a statue of Franklin. In his right hand is a lightning rod. At the base of the pedestal are public drinking fountains. The press-room is a model one, having ninety-one hundred and eighty-three feet of space, and a height of over twenty-three feet. The room contains three Hoe's presses.

The banquet was as brilliant as if the genius of Aladdin had called it into existence. The elaborateness of the preparations must have been exceeding. The "bills of fare" were printed upon white satin; a splendid band of musicians discoursed operatic airs during the continuance of the feast, and the banquetting hall was decorated in such manner as we have never yet seen banquetting hall decorated before. Pictures in the London Illustrated News have given us an idea of banquetting chambers in palaces and baronial castles; but not one of them gives us an adequate idea of the spectacle that met our vision in the grand dining-hall of the Continental.

The chief in charge must have had an arduous task. The entire room was filled with tables, seating seven hundred people, and there was not one vacant chair. The walls of the hall were decorated especially for the occasion by Mr. Walraven, with the American colors, by patriotic emblems, by medallions, and by various insignia representing the interests of the Union.

So elaborately decorated tables are very rarely, if ever, seen. In front of the post of honor, in the material of the confectionery made at the Continental, and in a form to be preserved, was a splendid model of the new *Ledger* building, some feet in dimensions, as valuable as it was perfect. At intervals all down the long lines of tables, interspersed with corresponding ornaments, stood beautiful emblematic designs in the same material. Commerce, navigation, art, science, the army and navy, were the subjects represented.

The Old Mannerchors were present, and varied the entertainment by the same music that, in competition with other musical societies, has won for them, time and again, medals and banners almost innumerable.

The most conspicuous persons of this city and from neighboring places were present. Editors, governors, members of congress, mayors, and generals were in delightful profusion. Harmony, as well as Mayor McMichael, presided; and everything went off (including the wines and eatables) charmingly. Speeches were made by Mayor McMichael, of Philadelphia, General Meade, Joseph R. Chandler, Charles Gilpin, Wm. V. McKean, Theodore Cuyler, Judge Kelley, of Philadelphia,

Mayor Hoffman, of New York, Mons. Du Chaillu the great African traveller, General Walbridge, General Roberson, of New Jersey, Joseph J. Stewart, of Baltimore, and others.

The crowning glory took place on the Fourth of July, when Mr. Childs gave a dinner to all the persons in his employ, and also to those engaged on the building. The carrier boys were not forgotten; a separate table was prepared for them, and a jolly lot they were. We wish that our space would permit us to give the whole of these proceedings, as we approve of giving the artisans a good dinner. We have done it twice. Mr. Childs being unavoidably absent, the indefatigable, untiring, able, and efficient manager of the *Ledger* establishment, W. V. McKean, Esq., presided. Speeches were made, and excellent ones they were. One of the greatest compliments to the liberality and charitable disposition of Mr. Childs occurred in the speech of Col. Muckle, the cashier, who said: "Here is another proof of his kind disposition: During the two years of Mr. Childs' proprietorship I have dispensed more money in charity than was giving during my twenty-three years connection with the former administration." The company parted, after having toasted Mr. Childs, with cheers upon cheers. The noble press-room seated about six hundred guests, and even with this number the whole of the room was not occupied. Some idea may be formed from this of its immense size.

Personally, we thank Mr. Childs for the erection of this building. It is a goodly sight to look at. See how delightfully we are situated! Old Independence Hall on one side, and the magnificent *Ledger* building on the other. We pioneered this neighborhood. First, we moved to Sixth and Chestnut; next came the *Press*, Seventh and Chestnut; next the *Bulletin*, Chestnut above Sixth; now the *Ledger* at the opposite corner.

THE following, when one considers the exactions of servants at the present day, is not amiss:—

"Wanted, a general servant in a small family where a man is kept. The housework and cooking all done by the members of the family. The gentleman of the house rises early, but prepares breakfast himself. All the washing is put out, and the kitchen is provided with every comfort and luxury. Cold meat and hash studiously avoided. Wages no object to a competent party. References and photographs exchanged."

We lately published a request inquiring where "Consistency, thou art a jewel" originated. We cut the following from the *Sunday Dispatch* of this city:—

"'Consistency, thou art a jewel,' is the refrain to an old-fashioned satirical song, published in a miscellany of bacchanalian and political ditties in the old country, about the commencement of the last century. The conclusion of the refrain ran:—

"'Then let it pass, upright's upright;
Honesty, thou'rt a diamond bright;
Consistency, thou art a jewel.'"

An actress in Paris, receiving a salary of \$720, recently refused \$1200 from another theatre because she would have to play old women's parts.

Just so. We remember an instance where an actress left the theatre because they would not let her play Little Pickle in the "Spoiled Child." "Take a part from me that I have played for sixty years. No, I will leave first!" and she did. Little Pickle is a child's part.

POETRY.—We never purchase poetry. We receive ten times more gratis than we can publish.