THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH.-PHILADELPHIA, FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 1866

## Eveniug Eelegraph

## , mation

 Subscribers out of he oity at Nine Doltars Per
Annum On Dotar rand Fith COnts for Too
Months, invariably in adoamee for the period To insure he Insertion of Adeertisements in a
of our Ditions, hley must beforemarded to our
owice not later flan 10 oclock each Morning.

FRIDAY, MAROH $2,1866$.


The Chesnat street Bridge. in our local history as a monument of slow Work. We do not belleve it took the Egyp
tians as long to build one of their pyramids,
ns it has taken the contractors for the above named structure to get it to its present hall-
completed stage. The thiag has been so long in course of erection, that wo seriously doubt
Whether mony of our citizens ean remember that the origin of the Chesnut Street Bridge may, before it is flaished, attain to the ven
rable antiquity of those prescriptive laws Old England, whose whole authority lies
the fact that they have endured so long the memory of man runneth not to the con-
trarg. On one of the grantee stones of the
centre pler of the bridga, some arcist has engraven the fagures 1865 ; but if that hascrip-
ton was intended to cxpreas the date tion was intended to express the date whe
the ediffee was commenced, It will, moatt ce
tainly, publish a gross falsehood in chr nology.
The public
cerned to
pleted than when it was begun. That has,
for some time past, been an uppermost ques tion in the popular mind, to which, unfortu-
nately, no one tris yet been able to give a posive answer.
the subject, made by the contractors and
others withn the that four or five years, have
been unrealized; and the consequence is that been onrealized; and the consequence ts that ${ }_{4}$
nobody now seems to bo willing to take the
re ponsibility of saying when the briage will become an accomplished fact, or whether it
will ever, within the lifetiae of tuls and the
next next generation, at
The old proverb, so frequentrily used to rebuke
those who expect great uudertakings to be
carried through with impossible expedition,
to wit, "Rome was not bullt in a dayy," is to wit, "Rome was not bullt in a day," is
Hikely, to be superseded, in this eity at least,
by this saying:-The Chesnut Street Bridge was not built in flve years!
There is noth'ng like having old apothegms,
which have lost their force by age, replaced Which have lost their force by age, replaced
by new ones, which come homene more fammestanding of the people. They "point a moral"
much more effectively, and delight the mind with so lively a sonse of their meaning and
pertinency, that we almost laugh at an affliction by reason of the ridiculonsness of the
illustration. And this is really the state of ing the Chessut Street Bridge. The thing is scarcely ever named in public without ex-
citing a gexeral ha! hal all round, and procompany.
ing matter. It is greatily peeded as an avenue of communication botween tho east and west
ends of the city, and ought, by all means, to
be opened to runs out. And it is quite probable, if the work is only pressed for ward benceforth with
the same vigor and promptrens with which it the same vigor and promptrens with which it
has been pushed hitherto, that wo shall be permilted to crose the Bchuylkill, al Chesnut
street, without the ald of a boat, before the year 1900! The spectator will observe, any ployed in the builling of the structure, and energy with which they are straining, every and stuews to work impossibilities. He must make allowance for stress of weather; for the dilflculty of getting competent workmen; for the enormous rise sinee the Rebellion in the
wages of labor; for the unapyreciable time it requires to cast and ralse to their places hage masses of iron arebes, and columns, and braces; and, Anally, the fearful perploxity to
which the contractors for such works are subjected, in having so much other work on subjected, in having so much other work on
hand that they cannot possibly get throagh hand that they cannot possibly get throngh
with their engements to the public without sacrificing their private custom. Theas, and other like considerations, should always be borne in memory by those absurdly impatient
"old fogies" whe foolishly imagine that it is as easy to build a bridge over the Schayikill as it is to bulld a monument to the "Father of his Country." Is it not notorions, that the corsexatone of a structure in honor of the
sage and patriot of Mount Vernon was in the Washington Square more than
quarter of a century ago, and
well known that a national edifice, of the same
chasracter and purpose, was bgan at the
Federal Captal many yeura sincge, and to still Federal Captal many yeara ulince, azd is stilil
standing, in ragged incompletonss, right under
the shadow of the very wall sithin the shadow of the very walls within which the
Congress of the Republic daly assembles?
Why, then, should it be supposed lor a moWhy, then, should it be supposed lor a mo-
ment that, a bridge across ooo of our intra-
mural rivers shouid be buil in a briefer perio mural rivers should be built in a hriefor periad
than the whole people of the United States
can arect one complete monum sut to Wash-
tagton? The idea is slimply proposterous.
 SPECIAL NOTICES. M I N I N G COMPANY
Office, No. 32\% WALNUT Street. over, is worthy of close favestigation; and we may yet thooser for the public beneft why
itis that those egaged ia buiding the bridge
are hurrying the work so precipitately to a

## How it wh Opyate

 in perfecting an ordinance, should have in-sured a model law, the Councils of our cit yesterday adopted a plan for the cleansing of at least complex. In a previous article we
opposed the particular torm in which the scheme was drawn up, because of the power Whieh it gave into the hands of one man.
Upon eloser inspection there will appear other erils, so radical in their nature that they will inf all probability nullify the end intended
by the designer of the bill. Let us look at its provisions.
posel of the contract, without any restraint or provis'on. He can award the job to any of
his freends if he is so lnclined. He can give
it to any other than the lowest bidder . He It to any ather than the lowest bidder. He
need not publish for proposals. There is no
guarantee againast puriallits. guarantee agaiast pirtiality, favoritism, or
fraud. We have conflence in Mayor Mcwe would be oppcse 1 togiving tato hls hands
such absolute power. The most virtuous public officer should have some check on his
movements, and in the provisions of the bill
we find none whaterer, we fnd none whatever, ex ept the limitation
that the sum paid pnnaaliy shall not exceed 2. It provides for the continanance of the
200, contract in the same hands for the term of
five years, yet at the same time gives the ap-
pointment to an official whose term of offce will expire in less than three years from the
date of the award. In other words, it saddles upon another administration, which will be
Mr. MCMCOARL's successor, an incumbent ot his appointment, and one into whose hands
the immense sum of nearly $\$ 100,000$ must public patronave, either in our NNational or
State politics, does the term of office of the appointee extend beyond that of the superior
who gave him his position. But here in our muncicipal affairs is a precedent established tion and receive its perggatives under a new
regine, which had nothing to do with the regime, which had nothing to do with the
selection, and with the success or feelings of which he is in no wise identifled.
3. It gives to the Mayor the sligular power
ot "absolutely annulling the contret ot "atsolutely annulling the contract or con-
tracts" whenever, in his opition, upon hislown cracts" whenever, in his opiaion, upon higlown
information or that of the Chief Inspector or Joint Committee, there has been any failure on the part of the contractors to perform all
the requirements." That is to say, should the present Mayor, or his successor, (and we with so honest and upright an officer,) afcer
having given out the job, find another applicant who is more consonant with his personal wishes all that is necessary, in order to get rid of the
incumbent, is to And a back alley which in not cleansed, and send hwe a written notice announcing the annulling of his contract and
the forfeitare of his "two good securities." We opine that the fortunate receiver of the award will have some slight difflenlty in
securing "two good necurities" who will be willing to place thoir bonds in such a pre
carious depository as that provided by the ordinance. The sction of one man can for-
telt them feit them, and that one man may be pecuniarily interested in favor of such a course
We imagine the worst, for, sad as it may be,
we are compelled to we are compeliled to acknowledge that the things can be, and that even mayors are no necessarily incorruptible.
4. While the comparatively meagre sum of $\$ 05,000$ is all that is allowed to the contractor,
yet of even this he is not sure. In fuct, while yet of even this he is not sure. In fact, while
he bargains for 805,000 he will only have at his disposal the sum of 887,000 per annum, as the second section provides tor the retention of one-twelth of the sum for the purpose of
going oror the ground cleaned by the con going ovor the ground cleaned by the con-
tractor, and beeing that it is well swept and garnished. In fact, the whole wording of the ordinance seems designed to place the aspirant for the award in such a position that he
will be unjustly imposed upon, sad, if posil will be unjustly imposed upon, and, if posesi-
ble, plaeed in such a position that he will be ble, plaeed in such a position that he will be
compelled to decline the contract. We should
think from the provisions of the law that it was fintended to opprate like Draco's code, and full dead becsuns of its atringency. We
should tmagino that it wns not should maggine that it was not the wish o
the deeinger of the measure that aniy con-
tract abould


