

Evening Telegraph

Published every afternoon (Sundays excepted) at No. 108 E. Third street. Price, Three Cents Per Copy (Double Sheet), or Eighteen Cents Per Week, payable to the Carrier, and mailed to Subscribers out of the city at Nine Dollars Per Annum; One Dollar and Fifty Cents for Two Months, invariably in advance for the period ordered.

THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 1866.

The Reply of Senator Scovel and the Grounds of Our Accusation.

The following despatch has come to us from Hon. JAMES M. SCOVEL, to which we cheerfully give a place in our columns:--

NEWTON, April 5.—In answer to your editorial I unhesitatingly say that I never received a letter from President JOHNSON, in which he offered me any position under the Government if I would defeat the election of a radical Senator from New Jersey. Do me justice by publishing this.

JAMES M. SCOVEL.

As Mr. SCOVEL has frankly denied the accusation made by us a few days since, simple justice to ourselves demands that we give the authority on which we based our assertion. On Saturday, that gentleman, in company with Mr. R. BARCLAY LEEDS, of Atlantic City, visited our city. In crossing the river, Mr. SCOVEL said to his companion that he had received from the President just such a letter as we announced on the afternoon of that day. He did not actually produce the manuscript, but positively and emphatically declared its receipt to Mr. LEEDS. After leaving Mr. SCOVEL, that gentleman repeated the conversation he had had with Dr. HORNER, of Philadelphia, and in his company visited our newspaper offices, and stated the facts. It was from the lips of Dr. HORNER that we received our information; we took it down in writing, read it to the Doctor, and he, in the presence of two other editors, acknowledged all the facts correctly reported. He has since expressed his willingness to make his affidavit to their truth, and informs us that while Mr. LEEDS denies having seen the letter, he still acknowledges that SCOVEL asserted that he had it in his possession.

And now Mr. SCOVEL denies that he ever was in receipt of such a document—or virtually confesses that his statement to Mr. LEEDS was a fabrication, a falsehood. The question is now one of veracity. Are we to believe Mr. SCOVEL, when he, without any apparent object for falsifying, acknowledged its receipt; or are we to accept as truth his late assertion that such a letter was never in his possession? It is a matter of small consequence which of his statements was true, but there can be no doubt but that one of them was false. In this light the question naturally arises, has the moral attitude of the Senator improved? Does he remove any of the odium which he has, by his own action, attached to his name? He has evidently contradicted himself, and whether he received such a letter or not is a matter for him to settle with his own conscience. He has without warrant introduced the name of the President, and by so doing passed the limits of courtesy as well as truth.

While we asked Mr. SCOVEL if he had received that letter, and repeated his own assertion that he had, yet at the same time we doubted whether the President of the United States would have been willing to write such an epistle or make such a promise. We designed not to accuse the President of penning such a communication, but to charge Mr. SCOVEL with boasting its receipt. We have given our proofs. We have quoted the names of the gentlemen who are responsible for the fact of Mr. SCOVEL's assertion. Their address can be procured from us at any time. Mr. SCOVEL has seen fit to deny the receipt of any letter from Mr. JOHNSON, and we are bound to believe his word; and with his denial must close the question, so far as we are concerned.

The Fenian Cause.

We have not hesitated to express the opinion that the Fenian movement is a snare and a delusion. But we have never said that it was used by sharpers to rob the Irish in this country, and to enrich themselves by dividing the spoils. It has remained for certain Irishmen, claiming to be faithful partisans of the cause, to make that charge against the various rival leaders of it in the United States, and they have made it, too, so boldly and publicly, and with such positiveness of assertion, that all who are not Fenians may be excused if they shall, from this time forth, regard the whole enterprise with much more distrust than formerly.

A number of persons, who represent themselves as a delegation recently sent over from Erin, under the auspices of the great Head Centre STEPHENS, to require the champions of Fenianism here "to give an account of their stewardship," declared the purpose of their mission at a recent meeting in New York, on Wednesday week. On that occasion a resolution was adopted, that none except those who had left Ireland within the last six months should be allowed to participate in the proceedings, and that all those present who were "in the pay of O'MAHONY, ROBERTS, and SWEENEY," should retire from the room. This caused a grand row, of course, during which there was a great deal of loud talking and violent gesticulation.

One of the speakers, who belonged to the deputation to overhaul the financial accounts of the Fenian leaders on this side of the water, complained that the said leaders had not yet sent to Ireland a ship, or a rifle, or a dollar to purchase a rifle, all of which must be rather stunning intelligence to the thousands of hard-laboring and quite poor Irishmen and

Irishwomen in America, who have for a year past been making very liberal contributions of money to aid a cause which they are now told has not, thus far, had the benefit of one cent of hundreds of thousands of dollars they have squeezed from their little incomes and savings, and poured into the coffers of O'MAHONY, ROBERTS, and SWEENEY. Another member of the same inquisitorial delegation, fresh from the sod, is reported to have pitched into the fatless stewards in the following more vigorous than indistinct language. He said:--

"Men are making promises and telling such lies to the people in this country as I never heard of in my life. I am sick of them, and I am sorry to say that my country has too much reason to be sick of them, and that they deserve the abomination of our people. The world is sick of them, and if they escape justice they may hide their faces evermore and thank their lucky stars if they succeed in doing so. They talk of our country, and they have not been enough there for one regiment. The war was some revolvers bought, which were afterwards retailed to our poor people at a profit. This was a nice way to arm a people. All this sham is now pretty well exploded, except among some fools on whose backs you can ride till the day of judgment."

Well, now, if all that is here stated be true, then a good many honest people have been very shamefully swindled, to say nothing of the cause that enlisted their affections and their means, and which should, at least, have been too sacred to every true Irish heart to be disgraced by the dishonesty of speculating mercenaries in any part of the world.

But the hope of Irishmen for the independence of Ireland seems doomed to be forever cursed by a few false-hearted upstarts and pretenders, who use the world's sympathy with the wrongs and sorrows of their native land either to fill their empty pockets with the gold coined literally from the sweat-drops of honest Irish labor and given freely by honest Irish patriotism, or to advance themselves, politically and pecuniarily, in foreign lands. Whether O'MAHONY, ROBERTS, or SWEENEY ever entertained a serious intention of going to Ireland, and taking any part in her proposed war for emancipation, we are not prepared to affirm. But there are certain young Irishmen in this city gifted with more tongue than brains, and more zeal for their own advancement in this country than manly and sincere solicitude for the liberties of Ireland, who may be heard almost any night splitting their lungs at Fenian meetings. What they get for that cheap service from the Head Centres here is not yet revealed to the public; but they manage to have their names printed in the newspapers, and a brief abstract of their twaddle reported in their columns.

In short, the truth probably is, that Fenianism here is a grand humbug in so far as the leaders of it are concerned, and will result in nothing but a huge embezzlement of funds contributed by the honest friends of Ireland to assist her people in a generous yet desperate effort to relieve themselves from political oppression.

That enterprise never was either well founded or well conducted, and when this last attempt to revive it was first made, we saw that bitter dissension among the Fenians here, and a selfish struggle for the leadership, would cause the whole thing to end in disappointment. Events have confirmed that prevision, and our duty is to warn all true Irishmen in America to beware of being longer deceived by false promises.

The Fenians on the Move.

THE NEW YORK papers bring us the startling intelligence that the war for Irish independence has been inaugurated, and that a fleet has started for the purpose of taking possession of some spot of earth belonging to the domain of Great Britain; but whether it is one of the Bermudas, a sand bank off Newfoundland, or the Emerald Isle itself, has not as yet been publicly announced. It is to be hoped that the leaders of the movement have some sort of an idea as to what they are doing, for no outsider can possibly catch an idea in the midst of the present complications. It is understood that B. DORAN KILLIAN has removed his kid-gloves, and is "the head and front of this offending." It is suggested that the servant-girls and hod-carriers, who have been for some time past contributing of their slender means to bring about an Irish revolution, are growing somewhat impatient in regard to the unexplained delays, and that the present "pomp and circumstance of war" is intended to supply a pressing want. In order to allay the agitation and keep the current of funds ebbing and flowing, a martial expedition became an essential necessity, and DORAN has started on an excursion—perhaps in pursuit of the Golden Fleece. At any rate the start has been made, and the Fenians may now be said to be in a state of belligerency, and if they meet a foe accidentally they will use all prudence in the discharge of their duty. The Robertses are not in the ring, and are somewhat in the dark as to the meaning of this sudden movement. There is something of a jar or discord in the ranks of the brave. To use a somewhat expressive phrase, the two sections do not homologue. They lack homogeneity, and have divided in their common attempt to free Ireland from British rule. The unexplained absence of Head Centre STEPHENS has given the movement pause, and may in the end act disastrously. To-morrow may give us further particulars of what is at present merely sub rosa.

THE TWENTY-SEVENTH WARD.—The bill introduced into the Legislature by Mr. JAMES N. MARKS, of our city, to create that portion of the Twenty-fourth Ward lying south of Market street into a distinct ward, to be known as the Twenty-seventh, has passed the House, and will undoubtedly become a law. It is a just improvement, and one much needed. The Twenty-fourth Ward is absolutely a giant in territorial size. It contains

more inhabitants than any two wards of our city, and the exercise of the privilege of suffrage saddles upon the officers holding elections great and unnecessary trouble and expense. The overgrowth has already compelled a virtual separation. What is to be the Twenty-seventh has already its distinct assessor, election judge, and other purely local officers. Why, then, should it not be separated in law as it is in fact? The people are all in favor of it, and it is the Representative from the Twenty-fourth who is the father of the bill. Mr. MARKS deserves thanks for the introduction of the law, and its passage will, while adding another ward to our city limits, save much trouble, and legalize what is already in existence.

THE ELECTION OF GENERAL BURNSIDE.

—It would seem as if no good news ever comes singly. The spring elections have all gone most emphatically for our party. The glorious, and we may say unexpected result in Connecticut, the good news from Cincinnati, and finally the joyful intelligence from Rhode Island, make complete the circle of victories. In all quarters have our enemies been routed, and the election of General BURNSIDE, although fully expected, is no small triumph for the Union party. To have a gentleman so often tried in the cause of Union, and never once found untrue, at the head of a Commonwealth, cannot but be a welcome addition to the list of party leaders. From the vote we should judge that the battle was won before it had been fought. The very name of the veteran caused confusion and despair in the ranks of the opponents. May we of Pennsylvania triumph as completely with our gallant soldier leader. The terror of our enemies, inspired by the selection of General GRAY, is as great as the Democracy of Rhode Island experienced. All that is necessary is that we follow up the first blow, and by constant and persistent efforts succeed in securing a victory which will rival the triumph of BURNSIDE in our little sister Commonwealth.

Letter from the Hon. John H. Reagan.

The New Orleans Crescent of the 29th ultimo publishes the following letter from General Reagan, who is now in Texas. The letter, besides having some features of general interest to the reader, affords an example of industry, in a gentleman who has occupied high public stations, that others would do well to imitate. FORT HOOPER, NEAR PALMISTON, TEXAS, March 12 1866.—My Dear Friend—I received your letter of the 10th instant, and was very glad to hear from you, and hope to see you in Texas before long. On my return home, I determined that it would comport most with my self respect, and with what was due to my friends, for me to avoid all participation in public affairs, and I do not care to engage in the practice of my profession for the present. I have, and have quietly settled myself down to farming. I found my farm in bad condition, though I am now getting it into good state, and have sown and improved it much since the first of January. I have one white man and seven freedmen at work, have planted, and are about to plant, corn and shuberry, and most of my vegetable garden and Irish potatoes, and bedded out my sweet potatoes, and planted thirty-five acres of corn, and have as much more to be sown. I have sown down twelve or fifteen acres in small grain, and shall plant about thirty-five acres in cotton. I am contented and happy, and if our country should be changed at this, or in the necessary superintendence of the freedmen, I work on the farm constantly with my own hands, and can do as much work with apparently as little fatigue as any of them. I make fence, grub, and pile and burn brush, plough, etc., and am as thoroughly bronzed as any laborer, and because of this, and because of the fact that I am free of mind I enjoy in the absence of the cares and perplexities of official and public life, or the great interest I take and the enjoyment I experience in my work, and in the cultivation and improvement of my land, and in the necessary superintendence of the freedmen, I work on the farm constantly with my own hands, and can do as much work with apparently as little fatigue as any of them. 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