Evening Telegraph

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 1866.

The Importance of Primary Meetings. THE season for our primary meetings being at hand, the occasion is a favorable one for a few reflections concerning the importance of these gatherings, as constituting an inseparable portion of our present system of political machinery. We do not seem able in this country to get along without parties. Th y appear to be essential to the actualization of ideas. But whether our system of party machinery is the best that might be devised, is open to serious doubt. Still, so long as all parties seem inclined to adopt it, the part of wisdom is to get out of it the best results possible.

The caucus or party convention interposes its action between the voter and his choice of officers. The theory of these primary meetings is one thing; the practice is quite another. The theory is that nominations are made by the general voice of the members of a party; the practice is that the primary meetings are attended and controlled by a very small number of persons, and they generally of a character least fit for the important functions they exercise. But when nominations are once made, then the whole force of party organization and discipline is brought to bear to secure the'r ratification at the polls. Nor is there any longer a practical choice left to the voter. He must take either the nominee of his own party or that of the opposite party, or he must throw his vo e away. If his own party have nominated an unworthy man personally, he must either support him, or, by supporting his opponent, must contribute to the success of what he regards as disas rous principles. It is thus that in every election, and by both parties, unworthy men are foisted into office.

It is true that sometimes the action of a party caucus is so glaringly obnoxious to the members of the party at large that they refuse to ratify it, but far more frequently a bad man is allowed to pass unscathed rather than hazard the supremacy of the organization.

Still more, wherever, as in a great majority of cases, either party has a decided preponderance over its opponent, then a nomination becomes equivalent to an election, and the supposed choice exercised by the mass of the voters becomes a mere fiction. The real election is made in the primary meetings, the public and formal election is but a mere ratification of a choice already made. It thus oiten happens that a mere handful of active political tricksters really dictate offices to tens of thousands of honest and intelligent people.

The great vice of our system of political machinery is that these important primary meetings are left almost wholly to the professional politicians. The great masses of the people do not attend them. The sober, the reflecting, the prudent men-the very ones that ought to be present-are rarely there; and the roughs, the bummers, the tide-waiters, the fellows who live off of the plunder of political camps, have it all their own way. They do not always nominate bad men. Indeed, it is wonderful that hey so often nominate good ones. The tone of public sentiment makes liself felt clear down to this "lower deep" of politics, and the party mill grinds out some good grists. But the general result is to put the control of party machinery into the hands of a low style of men-men to whom no prudent merchant, or shipper, or other business man would intrust his pecuniary interests. Another re. sult is that to too great an extent the best class of men we have, those who would most highly adorn public station, and most worthily all public offices, are crowded off of the political arena. There are notable exceptions, it is true, but the general statement is indisputable.

The remedy for all these things is to be found with the people themselves. It does no good to rail at the political parties. The doors are open at the primary meetings for all citizens to attend. This they should do. and exercise a direct and positive influence upon the nominations. It is quite as much of a duty as voting upon election day.

The manner, too, of holding these primary meetings could be improved. Instead of doing the entire work during a few hours in an evening, it would be better to follow a custom in vogue in many parts of the West. and devote an entire day to the primary meetings, conducting them with all the formality of regular, lawful elections. In this way a much more general expression of the public sentiment of parties would be obtained, and a much higher style or nominations secured. But so long as the better class of citizens abandon the entire machinery of parties to the professional politicians, we shall be obliged to endure evils which all must see and deplore.

The Almshouse Lectared a Nuisance. THE Sanitary Committee of the Board of Health visited the Almshouse yesterday, and their report of its condition is such as to fully justify their action in declaring the Insane Department a nuisance, and ordering, as the guardians of the public health, that as a nuisance it be abolished. The report of the visitors, made by them to the Board, gives details of horrors which it seems almost incredible to believe. According to their statement, the Black Hole of Calcutta has a rival the other side of the Schuylkill, and our mu- | while.

nicipality, while pretending to support and protect the poor creatures thrown upon her charity, is really exposing them to almost certain death. Lest we be thought to exaggerate, we will quote the exact words of the report :-

"Entering the yards of the Insane Department, we found them full of living below, in a helpless and almost hopeless condition of mind. These vards are complete hollow squares, on side formed by the insane building and the other three built up with high walls, badly ventilated, and the atmosphere grossly impure. From the well, placed in the centre of the men's vard, a herrid effluvium is sent forth, loa ing the atmosphere with volumes of sulphure ted and carburetted bydrogen gas. The same state of things prevails in the women's yard. In the next place we made a visit to their sleeping apartments. These we found to be crowded beon the floor with mattresses so close together as leave scarcely room for the night watchman to pass without treading on the sleepers. other inmates were crowded into dark unventilated calls, in one or which we found seven beds, with no outside venillation. carned that there are from six to seven hundred feeble-minded and crazed people crowded into this limited asylum, your committee are unable to express any surprise at the appearance of a postulence among them. It is no wonder that the choices has attacked them; it only needed the touch of the poison to start the disease and death around. They have had up to this time about forty cases, the most of which have proved fatal. Your committee de-clare this department of the institution to be a nu'sance, prejudicial to the health of its in-

The almost unlimited power conferred by the law on the Board of Health enables it to exercise powers which are not allotted to any other body of men; and in their capacity of watchmen over the lives of our cl izens, it is their duty not only to declare the institution a nuisance, but also to have that nuisance abolished. "Delenda est Cathargo" is the only law which should be brought into play. It is a crying disgrace to the great city of Philadelphia, that such a statemen; of the way it cares for those who are thrown by nature helpless upon its hands should go abroad. The disgrace does not lie in its being known, but in its existing. As the report states, there have already been forty fatal cases in the pestilential den into which we have thrust the pauper idiots; and unless prompt measures be taken, the epidemic will spread, like tire on the rairies, among the wards, and from the wards of the Hospital to the wards of the city. It a sense of what is due to common humanity does not prompt the City Councils to attend to the recommendation of the Board, a sense of selfish consideration should urge hem to obey its dictates. Unless we protect the residents of the Aimshouse, we ourselves are liable to be attacked. and in protecting them we protect ourselves.

What is now needed, what is now imperatively demanded, is that we follow the recommendation of the Board, and cause a new Almshouse to be at once erected further out of our city. In the course of a very few years, what is now the bare and marshy meadow of the property over the river will be the site of houses and factories, of mechanics' homes and railroad depots. The intersection of four powerful roads directly opposite the Almshouse marks this locality as the destined situation for those vast warehouses in which goods can be stored.

The presence of the pauper asylum will tend to retard this advancement, while, it it be removed, the advance in value of the public property will be such as to probably cover all the expense of erecing the new building. In order, however, that this advance be secured, it is necessary that some means of communieation be established between that part of West Philadelphia and the east bank. A bridge anywhere along the front of the Almshouse property would cause, beyond all question, such a rise in its value that the entire cost of the structure would be covered, and sufficient left to pay for the new Almshouse. The old one seems to us to be well fitted for a depot or warehouse, and could probably be disposed of at a fair price for such a purpose. It is a mistake for the city to allow the vast lots belonging to her to lie year after year unimproved. If prompt steps were taken, a mighty revolution could be wrought and the disgrace of thrusting paupers in the pen described by the Board of Health wiped out. However that may be, it is certain that, unless our City Fathers act promptly in the matter, the Board will, and we earnestly hope they may have nerve to compel the total removal of the nuisance. 'I he seeds of cholera and disease generated there will spread over our fair city, and self-interest, if not a sense of Christian charity, demands that the vile wrong now being perpetrated on the insane be at once corrected.

The Attempt to Make Party Capital Out ot General Grant.

A PERSISTENT attempt has been made to attach great significance to the presence of General GRANT during the late interview between the President and a Committee of the Convention recently head in this city. Partisan journals, with that easy logic so characteristic of them, have jumped to conclusions which would identify the General wita the political divisions of the hour. We are sure that all these manœuvres must be exceedingly distasteful to their illustrious object. We have seen nothing to indicate that General GRANT desires to appear before the people at all as a politician. He undoubtedly cherishes political opinions, and on proper occasions would not hesitate to express them; but, as the highest military officer of the nation, he cultivates a just sense of propriety which forbids his mingling in the turmoils of mere partisanship. We are not surprised, therefore, at the authorized announcement that his recent presence in the White House on the occasion referred to had no political significance whatever, he having been summoned there on matters of business by the President. We hope now that General GRAAT will be allowed to rest in peace for a

Answer of the Hon. James M. Scovel. To the Editor of The Evening Telegraph:-

CAMDEN, N. J., August 24.-Your editorial of vesterday seems to require an answer at my hands, and perhaps I ought to congratulate mysel; that you now express such sindly and friendly sentimen a on my behalt, and seem to exhibit so I well as interest in my political welfare. The mistake you make is in considering me a returned Produgal, when, really, I have never been away from home,

You speak truly when you say you have taken a prominent part to bring ng what you call my "mistake" before the public. Fermit me to say that you also brought many other things before the public in regard to my connection with the Senatorial contest which had no foundation in race whatever. Doubtle-s you were misinformed. But that contest belongs to the past. You desire some expression of my positical opinions on the questions of the day. To this request I encerfully respond, while tempted modest y to inquire " .. ho made you a judge in (Republican) brasi?"

I wrote the letter to as Excellency Governor Ward, in repard to the amendments, because no public measure for many years has so fully commeanded my in nd and heart and conscience as the amendments to the Constitution, constitutionally proposed by the recent Congress.

The defeat of this measure, so far as I can see, can only lead to future misery, injust co, and oppresmon. I hold to-day, more firmly than ever, the same opinions expressed by me in the New Jersov Senate, on the 27th of F. bruary last. I then said :-

"It becomes us to meet these questions without passion, but with the courage which is often in omest prusence. The supreme hour for the nation If we are just and tear not, we can teach the in a so caper for the power they columnarily obser-dened, that 'conquering may prove as ford y and complete a thing in lifting upward as in crushing

tow ' if the conflict which is to decide whother the peace we have won by the sword is wern having, and has come to stay: it that conflict must come now, for with Gold's actor and man's lidesty we will never never be recreant to that trust, sanctified to us and to the world by the valor of the dead, and dear to us at by the sacrifles made by the living. We cannot, we will sacrifices made by the living. We cannot, we will not, we dare not omit to do that which the safety of the Umon requires. The statesman is never regardless of consequences. But the man who is 'rue to homeelf and just to others accepts all consequences then tehow the discharge of public day mysch, I belong neather to the party of Casar nor to that of Bruus. America will never be cursed with a dicator, and assassination does not tarive succe the carse of the Roman senate we are englosed in a conflict of ideas not ler and more far reaching than the cash of bayenets.

the clash of bay, note.

If suggress ones not give us Manhand Suffrage, we will have an Amendment to the Constitution probability representation except upon the basis of those who are envited to var. The deep throbbing of the popular heart cannot be bankled in its purp so If I eo not live to see it my en litreu will live to see the any when no man star to defined a political right on account of his country on. decrease of his complexion. A democracy and an aristocracy of sentiment and manners, I can under stand But a Democracy of Laws which connect the able-hodied to bear arms and pay taxes, but probable the able-hodied to bear arms and pay taxes, but probable the able-minded from having either vote or vocasia the patietes which control them, is a moustrasity in legislation, a talselood in politics, and a sandy foundation for a Republic "

I trust, Mr Editor, that you will consider this expression of opinion as emirely satisfactory. Governor Ward, I think, fully understands my position.

I propose at the extra se-ston, it such session is called, to do my duty as a Republica a upon ad questions which may arese, first satisfying my own conscience, then gratinying my constituents and triends. 1 am yours, very sincere'y.

JANES M. SCOVEL. P 8,-It is no longer regarded in this District as a poritive du qualification in a candidate to: Congress that he has some brains and no money.

- We are happy to lay before our readers the letter we give above, which has been handed to us by Senator Scover, and our happiness is not alloyed even by the slightly discourteous reference to ourselves. We have never set ourse'ves up to be "a judge in (Republican) Israel." We have simply done what we esteemed our duty in connection with a transaction which was of public importance, and therefore a fit sublect for comment on the part of the public press. We are not aware that in any of our articles on Mr. Scoven's conduct we have gone beyond the strict bounds of propriety. We have merely assailed his public course. His private life has been held sacred, and if his character has been impugned by us, it is merely because his acts as a public servant laid him open to attack. If we have said anything which had no foundation in fact, we have been ever ready to make ample correction, and our editorial columns have been no less than four times opened to Mr. Scover, to give his views modified by us. That we desire to act perfectly fair is evidenced by our laying before our readers the above letter, with its reflections on ourselves.

Mr. Scovel is mistaken when he says "he never has been away from home." He did leave his political homestead, and has now, atter living with political rioters and feeding on the husks of sophistry, come back once more to his friends, and we welcome him back with sincere joy, "because we have received him safe and sound." When he voted with twelve Democrats and against twelve Republicans, he certain'y was not on the side which he now advocates. But we are willing to let bygones, be bygones and commence "all over again." He has changed his crime into an error, and as an error tet it be forgotten.

From the posteript to the letter, we infer that Mr. Scoven desires the Republican nomination for Congress in the Camden District. In that matter we have nething to say. If Mr. Scovet, acts in the future in such a manner as to secure the confidence of his constituents, and if his constituents see fit to make him an M. C. instead of a State Senator, that is a matter of purely local interest, and one in watch no one has a right to interfere. If he can succeed, well and good; if he falls, he has to one but himself

to thank. We feel confident that he intends to do his duty in the future, and act "as a Republican" in every sense of the word. So far as we are concerned we are ready to trust him. but if he disappoints the party again, "it were better for him if a millstone were tied about his neck and he cast into the midst of the political sea."

The North Atlantic Telegraph Project.—A letter from Copenhagen contains the following:— Notwithstanding the success in laying the transailantic cable be ween Ireland and America, the project of unting the Western Continent with Europe by the Faro Isles and Greenland has not been abandoned. One of the directors of the English company which has obtained the concession is at present in this city to settle the final details with this Government."

SPECIAL NOTICES.

NATIONAL UNION CONVENTIONS.

ELECTION FOR DELEGATES.

BEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE COMMITTER, [August 21, 1868.

The NATIONAL UNION JOHNSON CLUBS OF THE SEVERAL WARDS to the city of Philade phia, will meet on TUESDAY EVENING, August 23 between the hours of 7 and 9 o'clock F. M., and hold an election for De egates, as follows :-

Fach club will e'ect THREE DELEGATES TO A CITY CONVENTION to nominate CITY and COUNTY OFFICERS, including candidates for JUDGES OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, TWO DELEGATES TO A CONGRES IONAL CONVENTION, TWO DELEGATES TO A REPRESENTATIVE CONVEN-TION, and TWO DELEGATES TO A SENATORIAM CONVENTION for the FIRST SENATORIAL DIS-

In the Wards which are embraced in a Surveyor's District in which a candidate is to be elected the Clubs of said Wards will elect TWO DELEGATES TO A SURVEYORS' CONVENTION: and in cases where only a part of a Ward is embraced in a Congressional or Representative 1 istrict, there will be chosen ONE DELYGATE to represent the traction of the Ward included in said District.

The Delegates to the City Convention herein provided for will meet on THURSDAY, the 39th day of August, at 12 o'clock, at such places as may be provided by this committee, and of which que notice will be give

J. R. FLANIGEN, Chairman. S. SEYDER LEIDY, Secretary,

THE UNION STATE CENTRAL COMmittee of Penes Ivania, to the Patriots of the south, greeting: "Philadelphia, August 16, 1866, — he into inte (ent.a) committee of Penns Ivania send greeting to their brave Union broth is of the south. f their meeting in this city on 3 onday, the 3d day of September rext history turnishes no parallel to the patriotism, courage and fidelity of those men who, from the beginning of the kebelilon to the end, tought the good fight and kep the faith.

be question to be decided is whether loyalty is to be be question to be decided is whether loyalty is to be prescribed and punished in the persons of patriots like there or freason rewarded and homored in the persons of the ground of the guilty authors and agents of the Rebellion. Shall the loyal masses or the baffled and selected traiting over the country? In these great issues all are stally concerned, and our couthern compatrio is have intelly concerned, and our couthern compatrio is have intelly concerned, and our couthern compatrio is have intelly concerned, and our couthern compatrious have intelly concerned, and the term of the principle of the property within the sacred shadows of independent of the first of the principle of the first of the principle of t inch frie nis
On behalf of the loyal men of the Commonwealth of
Peters vivalia, this Committee hereby grateuly ex, end
a cortial we come to these partiets and mends from the
course states. All who come will the received with open arms and was mearts.

The Union men of the entire Commonwealth are cordials and entrestly mytid to come here and honor is eccusion with their presence and to cardial to co for openior upon the present and future of our in-

co fer ogether upon the present and the control of rived country.

It is also suggested and recommended that our friends from other Fra es send delegations here on this important occasion not to sit in Convention, but to cheer and co operate with these tried champions of liberty from the South.

By order of the Committee.

FR JORDAN. Chairman.

THE CONVENTION OF SOUTHERN UNIONISTS THE CONVENTION OF SOUTHERN UNIONISTS National Vall has been se ured for the sittings of the envention of Southern Unionists, to assemble in this city of the 3d of September. The National Union that of this of y novice delegates as they arrive to call at heir Rection No. 1165 (HES University of the Council of the Council

AT A MEETING OF THE UNION Republican association of the aventy fourth ward, held in Thesday Leveling, the Ziel instant, at the lin I of the Manitua Hook and Ladder Company, Forthells for ", near Brid, e the following gentlemen were elected officers or the ensuing year: tieth stree, near Brisse the following gentlemen te elected officers or the entaing year:— . PIR ISON President W. Wiltberger and Samuel C. Huey, Vice-Presi-

Erastus Poulson, Treasurer.

Existus Poulson. Treasurer.

5. F. tokes secretary,
he oflowing presmole and resolution were unantmously adolted an ordered to be published:—
Whereas Am'rew Johnson Presiden of the United
States, has made open issue with the Union party of the
nation which elevated him to the position which he And whereas His present conduct in removing roun of ce all who oppose what he is pleased to call "My Pollry" is making the breach wider every day; there-Resolved, That we, the Urion citizens of the Twenty

Resolved, That we, the Urion citizens of the Twenty-fourth Ward, in order hat there may be no dissessions in our ronks during the coming political campaign, declare: That all who support the President in his polition restoring Rebels and Rebellions States to all civil set pointical privileges, as though those had been no Hebellion, ad who endorse the proceedings of the Convention held in his city on the 14th instruct to be outside of the Union party, and in league with Copporteals and Rebel sympathizers.

S. MUEL C. HUEY, Vice President.

B. F. STOKES, Secretary B. F. STOKES, Secretary

FOR CORONER 1866,

WILLIAM TAYLOR. Subject to the Rules of the Union Convention, (8 29 8p

FOR RECEIVER OF TAXES.

F. T. WALTON, THIRTEENTH WARD.

Subject to the Union Republican Convention. 18 1611:

FOR RECEIVER OF TAXES RICHARD PELTZ, FIRST WARD.

Subject to the deci-lon of the UNION CONVENTION. FOR RECORDER OF DEEDS, WILL to the decision of the Convention of the Union party.

PARDEE SCIENTIFIC COURSE

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE.

In addition to the general Course of Instruction in this Department, designed to lay a substantial basis of knowledge and scholarly culture, students can pursue those branches which are essentially practical and technical viz.:ENGINEERING-Civil Topographical and Mechanical MINING and METALLURGY; ARCHITEC ENGINEER MANING and METALLUEGY; ARCHITECTURE, and the application of Chemistry to AGRICULTURE, and the ARTS.

There is also afforded an opportunity for special study of TRADE and COMMERCE; or MODERN LANGUAGES and PHILOLOGY, and of the HISTORY and INSTITUTIONS of our county.

For Cheulars apply to President CATTELL, or to Prof. R. B. YOUNGMAN, Cierk of the Faculty.

Easton Pennsylvania, April 4, 1866.

THE PENNSYLVANIA FIRE INSUR ANCE COMPANY

August 23, 1866.

The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Pennsylvania Fire Insurance Company will be held at their office on MONDAY, the 3d day of september, at 10 o'clock A. M., when an e'e tion will be held for ninsurance. Birectors to serve for the ensuing year 8 22 10t WILLIAM G. CROWELL, Secretary.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT Notice is hereby given to holders of Certificates of Daposit of Temporary Loan, other than those issued for clearing-house purposes that the Treasu y Department is prepared to redeem the same on presentation at the various offices from which they were issued, with accrued interest thereon at the time of presentation, between tops date and August 26, and that after the latter date interest will cease on such certificates.

8 15 10t rp

Recretary of the Treasury. Notice is hereby given to holders of Certificates

NOTICE.-APPLICATION HAS been made for the renewal of the following CITY BONDS AND CERTIFICATES OF STOCK, drawn to the subscsiber's order, and stelen from his fire-proof, June 3, 1888, viz.:—

City 6 per cent (new), Nos. 12 462 12 43, 12 461, 12 462, 12 4

SPECIAL NOTICES.

MUJAVIRO.-WE COPY THE FOLLOWhis meritorious notice of this most delloious per ume nom Forney s Prosu-

MUJAVIPO. - This delicious new perfume for the handkerchiet, is without a rival for delicacy, durability, and richness. In fact, ot all persumes the tragrant Mujaviro (of Russian origin) may be called the quintes sence. For sale by all the principal druggists, [7 14 6m4p

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FOR SALE. - MODERN DWELLING, Northwest conners Twe fit and Wallace streets. In complete order. Possession, with deed. 824 50 C. M. S. Lestill, No. 727 SASSOM Street.

FOR SALE, -HANDSOME MODERN Brick Dwellings in the vicinity of Fortieth and the streets West Philadelphia. 8 54 60 C. M. S. L. SLUE, no 727 SANSO Street.

86.000.000

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Referring to our advertisement of July, having sold the first ha'f million of these desirable Bonds, we have this day advanced the price to EIG STY-FIVE CENTS, at which price they stand unrivalled as the cheapes first-class security in the market.

ANY FURTHER INQUIRIES WILL BE AN-SWERED AT OUR OFFICE.

JAY COOKE & C).

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No. 12 North THIRD St. M ENNERCHOR ORCHESTRA.

The active members are hereby notified that the resu ar weekly meetings for practice will be resumed on THURST & EVENTING, sestember 6 1865, at 8 o'c ook, at the Manneroner Hall No 345 DIL: WYN Street. Punctua attendance is requested Aunteurs desiring to join are corelately invited to attend, or call upon the undersigned. william Wolsieffer, Conductor, 821242831s466t*) No. 217 VinE street.

PILLIARDS .- A MATCH GAME OF 1000 D Foints Carom, between Mr VI'TOR ESTEPHE and Mr. C BURD, will e played THIS (Friday: EVEN-)NG, at Epicys Saloon, TWELFIH and CHESNUT Streets, commencing at 8 P. M.

GRAND ACTION SEVEN-OCTAVE TIE V CIPIANO PORVE, made by one of the best makers three months ago; elegantly carved, overstrung base, our round corners, etc.

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Will return to the city and resume Orders received as usual at

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INSTRUCTION.

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L. FATRBANKS, A. M., President. T. E. MERCHANT, Secretary 8 23 31* INSTITUTE FOR YOUNG LADIES.

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