

Evening Telegraph
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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1866.

THE 'LEDGER' CANARD.

Official Denial from the President.
The following despatches have been handed
to us for publication:—

To Hon. Robert Johnson, Private Secretary
to the President, Washington, D. C.:—
PHILADELPHIA, October 11.—Is the state-
ment true of the President's desiring the
Attorney-General's opinion as to the constitu-
tionality of not recognizing the present
Congress? WILLIAM W. HARDING,
Publisher of the Philadelphia Inquirer.

[COPY.]

Telegram from the President.
To William W. Harding, publisher of the
Philadelphia Inquirer:—

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, Octo-
ber 11, 1866.—Your despatch of this morn-
ing has been received. There is no truth
whatever in the statement referred to.

ROBERT JOHNSON,
Private Secretary to the President.

The Sensational Washington Despatch.
The startling special despatch from Wash-
ington published in yesterday morning's
Ledger, and reported from it to prominent
papers in other parts of the country (and
which THE EVENING TELEGRAPH was the
first paper to authoritatively contradict), to
the effect that President Johnson had pro-
posed certain questions to the Attorney-
General, covering the validity of the legis-
lative branch of the Government, and look-
ing towards an open conflict between him-
self and Congress, produced a deep and wide-
spread excitement, causing a rise in gold,
unsettling stocks, carrying up breadstuffs,
and deranging business generally. The true
cause for this excitement is to be found in
the anxious and apprehensive state of the
public mind consequent upon the reprehen-
sible language used by the President
towards Congress on many occasions, calling
it an "assumed" Congress, "a body hanging
on the verge of the Government," and other
terms of similar import, as well as the threats
of just such a course of conduct as that indi-
cated in the despatch in question, so persistently
made by the extreme class of Demo-
cratic journals, and by such incendiary fanatics
as Montgomery Blair, in his political
stump speeches during the present campaign.
Owing to these causes, the public mind was
prepared to accept such a report as that
published yesterday almost whenever and
wherever made, upon any show what-
ever of truthful authority. The particu-
lar and circumstantial character of the
despatch was well calculated to impose on
the public, and would probably have done so
had it first made its appearance in a
journal of insignificant character. The
people were so well prepared to believe
it, that the medium of communication entered
but slightly into the account. This, however,
does not relieve the journal in question from
a very grave responsibility in the premises.
Its circulation and support is very largely
among the masses of the people—the poorer
classes, even, upon whom the first and most
crushing effects of a rise in prices must fall.
The direct tendency of its publication was
to make every necessary of life more costly—an
evil which in the aggregate weighs
heavily upon the laboring classes. The fluctua-
tions in stocks and the scrambles among
speculators in gold are of less account, as
pertaining to a class of society more able to
sustain losses or to pay high prices. But the
addition of gratuitous burdens to the load
already carried by the laboring classes, is a
gross wrong. The whole circumstances of the
case seem to point to speculative influ-
ences as at the bottom of the canard.
It only shows the recklessness with which
the anxieties and apprehensions of the
public are played upon by designing men for
the purposes of gain. And it is a very
serious reflection, and one which should in-
duce thoughtfulness among men of all politi-
cal parties, that the public mind should
have been brought into such a condition as
to so readily assume the truthfulness of a report
so directly pointing to executive usurpation
and consequent civil war. It shows that we
have already travelled too far in that direc-
tion, and are too accustomed to canvass the
probabilities of so direful a catastrophe.

General Butler is a very able lawyer, and
will bring to the consideration of the import-

ant questions which may come up in Con-
gress a mind familiar with public affairs, and
fully imbued with the most progressive prin-
ciples of the day.

The Sobering Effect of the Elections Last
Tuesday.
THAT the elections of last Tuesday had an
excellent effect upon the minds of the
Democracy is already evident from the offic-
ious, injured-innocence kind of an air with
which they deny the story set afloat yester-
day in the gold-gambling canard from Wash-
ington, in regard to the President's questions
covering the status of Congress. Although
these questions indicated a line of policy
almost identical with that repeatedly urged
upon the President by the Democratic
leaders—and even now endorsed by a sort
of semi-official organ of his in this city—they
now make haste to deny that such a thing
was ever thought of, and have really discovered
after all. Thus the New York World of
to-day discusses the status of Congress in a
very sound and sensible style. It says that
the President, it is true, regards the exclu-
sion of the representatives from the late Rebel
States as unconstitutional, but that by no
means follows from this that the constitu-
tional authority of Congress to perform ordi-
nary legislation is impaired. Congress may
pass unconstitutional acts at any session,
without impairing its authority as a legisla-
tive body. The remedy is in an appeal to
the courts.

Expected Meteoric Shower in November
Interesting Scientific Speculations.
WASHINGTON, October 10.—Professor Pergo-
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making arrangements to take scientific obser-
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Professors Olmsted, Teining, and Newton have
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CURWEN STODDART & BROTHERS,
Nos. 450, 452, and 454 N. SECOND ST.,
11 1/2 ft ABOVE WILLOW.

MCCURDY & DUNKLE,
No. 140 North EIGHTH Street,
HAVE OPENED
A CASE OF NEW STYLE PLAIDS, at 60 cents
per yard.
PLAIDS at \$1.00, \$1.25, and \$1.50; very hand-
some at \$2.00.
COLORED SILKS, from \$1.50 to \$4.00 per yard.
BLACK SILKS at all prices.
BROWN POPLINS, best quality, \$2.00.
SHAWLS, BLANKETS, BALMORALS, MUS-
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Nos. 450, 452, and 454 N. SECOND ST.,
11 1/2 ft ABOVE WILLOW.

MCCURDY & DUNKLE,
No. 140 North EIGHTH Street,
HAVE OPENED
A CASE OF NEW STYLE PLAIDS, at 60 cents
per yard.
PLAIDS at \$1.00, \$1.25, and \$1.50; very hand-
some at \$2.00.
COLORED SILKS, from \$1.50 to \$4.00 per yard.
BLACK SILKS at all prices.
BROWN POPLINS, best quality, \$2.00.
SHAWLS, BLANKETS, BALMORALS, MUS-
LINS, SHEETINGS, HOSIERY, and GLOVES,
in great variety, at prices below competition.
\$13 w2m

Expected Meteoric Shower in November
Interesting Scientific Speculations.
WASHINGTON, October 10.—Professor Pergo-
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making arrangements to take scientific obser-
vations on the expected meteoric display in
November next. The subject of meteors and
shooting stars has engaged the attention of emi-
nent astronomers within the last century to a
greater extent than ever before; among them
Professors Olmsted, Teining, and Newton have
written valuable papers in connection with it.
The appearance of shooting stars is quite
common, but in the months of August and No-
vember of each year they are seen in greater
numbers, generally about the 10th of August
and the 12th of November. The great meteoric
shower of 1799 seems to have drawn the atten-
tion of astronomers more particularly to this
subject, and from that time to the recurrence of
the meteoric showers in 1833, and up to the
present day they have been endeavoring to
trace the different phases and characteristics of
the phenomenon to known laws, and to estab-
lish the exact anniversary of its appearance.
Thus far the more brilliant of these meteoric
showers have occurred at intervals of thirty-
three years; that of 1833 was especially dis-
tinguished by the immense number of moving
meteors to be seen at once, and for the remark-
able size and splendor of many of them. Among
the myriads of blazing meteors visible on that
occasion, one was seen at several places on the
continent. It was recognized by several ob-
servers by its extraordinary size and brilliancy,
as well as by the length of time its train re-
mained visible, which was about ten minutes.
The luminous train seemed to follow the meteor
in a serpentine course, and finally disappeared
in a vast nebulous cloud, many times larger
than the moon, and which continued to move
onward with a velocity greater than the clouds.
The meteoric display of 1799 and 1833 were
characterized by the fact that the meteor,
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a loud noise, penetrated beneath it several feet.
The periodicity of these starry showers is not
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in fixing the radiant point—that point in which
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